ABSTRACT. Further progress is reported concerning the preservation of Belgica, currently a wreck in Norwegian waters.

Since the latest note on the Belgica project (Loy 2008), some new investigations have been made concerning the wreck of the ship (Fig. 1).

A mission to the wreck took place on 14 and 15 February 2009, the purpose of which was to produce a promotion film by a diving team, and to permit salvage and transport companies to estimate the feasibility and systems of raising the wreck. The methods and progress of the removal of the components (iron items, sand, ammunition) still on board the wreck were discussed. Samples of the seawater near the wreck were taken and analysed.

Fig. 1. Photograph of the wreck with fishing nets alongside. Photo by N. Mouchart.

In conclusion it can be reported that the good teamwork established between Norway and Belgium continues with a splendid target: the preservation of the historic vessel of A. de Gerlache de Gomery.

Reference


Additional documents and survey on the Franklin sites of Beechey Island, Nunavut, Canada: addendum

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In addition to the visits to Beechey Island referenced in my recent article (Hansen 2010), M’Dougall also describes his visit to Beechey Island (in Resolute with De Bray) from Tuesday 18 August 1852 (mistakenly given as 11 August) to Sunday, 15 August (M’Dougall 1857: 78–87). He gives his version of the inscriptions of the three Franklin expedition headboards. While he follows the mistaken placement order as in Osborn and The Illustrated London News of 4 October 1851 (Osborn 1865: 90; The Illustrated London News 1851b), comparison of the inscriptions with both Kane (Kane 1854: 163) and the photo of the Torrington headboard in Powell (Powell 2006: 330, Fig. 10) now lead me to conclude that M’Dougall’s rather than Kane’s version of the Franklin headboards inscriptions are probably the most accurate of the contemporary accounts.

The account of Sutherland 1852 (Hansen 2010: 194–195) also has a foldout map at the front of volume 2 that includes a detail of Beechey Island (Sutherland 1852: vol. 2 front map). It is similar to that in The Illustrated London News of 20