



One of the six new Norwegian tourist stamps, three of them depicts watercraft.



## Captain John Ross Arctic Ordeal

**VICTORY** (wooden side paddle-wheeler)  
Isle of Man #1221, #1222, #1224 (2007) 28p, 31p, 75p

**1826 – Captain John Ross; Liverpool, Great Britain; 85 tons; Dim. ? Also rigged for sailing.**

In 1829, a coke-fuelled Manx paddle steamer became the first steam-powered vessel to be used in polar exploration. In a planned 15-month expedition lasting four and a half years, her crew located the Magnetic North Pole and recorded an epic of endurance, three and a half

The first steamer to service (Isle of Man) designed in load and unload harbour at and half ebb She was a wooden side Mr. Cosnahan, Liverpool, and **VICTORY**.

She was Douglas to two months, offered shares did not find any When the Felix Booth for a new



Canada's Arctic waters in search of the elusive North West Passage to the Pacific, after the British Admiralty declined support, the **VICTORY** was bought in 1828 by Ross. She was the first steam driven ship in an Arctic expedition.

The **VICTORY** was acquired because her shallow draught would enable her to operate close inshore in unchartered waters. Her hull was reinforced to withstand the crushing pressure of ice. Meanwhile, to enable the **VICTORY** to operate as a sailing ship if required, her iron paddle wheels were made fully retractable from the water and her funnel could be lowered on to the deck.

She was refitted in Scotland for a voyage to the Arctic, her sides were raised 5.5 feet, which increased her tonnage to 150 tons, and a new high pressure boiler was ordered by John Ericsson and placed in the ship increasing her power to 30hp.

**VICTORY** was the be built exclusively between Douglas and Liverpool, 1826 to be able to within the tidal Douglas at half flood tides. built in Liverpool as paddle-wheeler for a Manxman living in completed as the

only used on the Liverpool service for before Cosnahan in the syndicate, but support. English gin distiller supported John Ross Arctic expedition to

*(Captain John Ross, continued on page 66)*