

Dear John,

14 Jan 83

This is a belated response to your letter of Nov 28th. The holidays have delayed things, I'm afraid.

Your question about how I became aware of the Davis Collection: I really don't recall although I must have seen something about it in some periodical. I suspect mention was made of the catalogue as I remember writing away for it.

Doing collations for all copies is a lot of work but would be useful to have as it might point up other variants such as "An Ancient MSS". I've done them for the following: my own, Morgan Library, Scott Polar R.I., Dartmouth, New York P.L., Columbia Univ, Edinburgh, Harvard, and Louis Starr's copy. What I've done is to use the form I did for my own copy (which you have) and to note differences in pencil. Other than the "Ancient MSS", the only differences have been in the order of blank pp and sometimes illustrations. What I will do is to

go through these and determine the best way to convey the information to you. I will put that on my list of things to do. In any event you needn't send collation requests to those places or to Brown or the Huntington (I'm still hoping to go there in April or May). As you suggest I could also look at Mary Goodwin's copy if convenient to both of us. I don't have her address, by the way.

Enclosed is a copy of a Blackwell's catalogue entry for the Aurora back in 1971. I forget whether I sent you this before. Perhaps you know which copy this is. Blackwell's rare book dept. is now just outside Oxford; I'll track down the address if you don't have it.

Also enclosed is a copy of an item in Bob Finch's most recent catalogue. Perhaps you know which copy this is. I talked with Finch and he did sell the copy (I'd say

the highest price yet for a copy). He said if you wrote him he would put you in touch with the purchaser.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RBS', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert B. Stephenson

Mr John Millard  
18-86 Broadway Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M4P 1T4

15 February 1983

Dear John,

I went down to Providence last week and among other things had a look at the copy of the Aurora at the John Carter Brown Library. Enclosed is its collation using my copy as a basis. No particular surprises: It's format A, is in good condition and has no special inscriptions other than the name of a previous owner (?), as noted. One thing that I did notice for the first time is that some illustrations are tipped in in some copies and are all on one sheet of paper in others. There are two instances where there are differences in this respect between my copy and the Brown one; I suppose there are similar differences involving other copies as well. I've just never noticed it before. This is not very surprising given the conditions they were working under: I imagine when a plate was dirty or torn on the edge, they merely cut it out and pasted it onto a fresh sheet.

I can't recall whether I mentioned earlier to you a minor typo on my page 50v: There is a comma at the end of the running head rather than a period, i.e. AURORA AUSTRALIS, I haven't looked consistently for this in other copies but it might be another thing to look for in that it could be helpful in establishing whether a sheet had been printed early or later (i.e. if the typo was at some stage discovered and corrected).

I still have on my list the other collation for you which I will get to when I can. It's beginning to look like I might not get out to California after all this spring. If I do it would be in late April.

Regards,



Robert B. Stephenson



JOHN MILLARD

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TORONTO, ONTARIO  
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Wednesday,  
31st, August 1983 ...

Mr. Robert B. Stephenson  
P. O. Box 307,  
Jaffrey Center, NH., 03454..

Dear Rob,

I havn't heard from you since our telephone conversation at the end of March, at that time you planned to go to N.Y., with the prospect of meeting with Louis Starr. I asked you to send me a collation of Format 'A' of the article "An Ancient Manuscript", so that I could organize a "Provisional Standard Collation" for the 'Australis'. Also, you offered to send me a photp-copy of your photo-copy of your 'AA'. I would be pleased to take you up on that offer, I am willing to pay for the photo-copying and the postage, if you like.

Since then two copies of the 'A' have been located. The first one belonged to Capt. Aeneas Mackintosh, a member of the Expedition. Originally Mackintosh was to have been a member of the Shore Party, but during the unloading he was struck in the face by a flying block. One of his <sup>eyes</sup> was seiously injured, so it had to be removed by the Medico's. He was advised to return to New Zealand, on the 'Nimrod', for post-operative treatment, rather than stay over in the Antarctic for the Winter. Through a round about method I was able to get his daughter's name & address in Britain. I wrote to her in July 1982, she answered me in July 1983, apologizing for the delay, but didn't say why. She said, her father's copy of the 'A' was still with the family and hadn't been sold. I have since written to her again, for more details, particularly the format of "An Ancient MSS." Hopefully, she won't wait another year before she replies.

The other copy is with a gentleman who lives in Wiltshire. Evidently, the 4part BBC-TV Series on 'Shackleton' was recently shown in Britain. This re-kindled this gentlemen's interest in his copy of the 'Australis', so he wrote to the Scott Polar Research Insitute. Harry King sent him a bit of information and suggested that he contact me for additional information. I have since written to him, giving him some locations of different copies in the U. K., so he could compare his copy with those. Hopefully, he will send me the results. I also asked him for the details of his own copy.

I also, finally, got some information and the details on that copy sold last year by Bob Finch. It seems that it was acquired in an Estate sale in Scotland. Bob sold it to a fellow dealer, Jake Zeitlin, in L.A., who wanted it for a client, who was interested in it as a private press item, rather than for it's Antarctic content. Bob gave me the name of his agent in Scotland, to whom I wrote, but so far I havn't heard from him, I am rather doubtful that I will. I did hear from Jake's client, and got most of the details on it. "An Ancient MSS." is format 'B', the illustration "ll4 good & true" is one of those paste-up items.

I have a fair number of other items, at various stages, that I am trying to locate and confirm. Hopefully, some of these will begin to show some results before to long. So the present count is 48 copies, world wide. 13 in Australia, 6 in New Zealand, 14 in the U.S.A. and 15 in the United Kingdom.

I am,

yours sincerely,



22 September 1983

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of August 31st. Sorry for being slow in answering but things have been overly busy lately.

I will xerox a copy of my xerox for you as soon as I have the time, I would hope within the next 2 or 3 weeks. I will also send you one of my collation sheets for format A, probably using the one I did of the Harvard copy.

I'm glad to see that you've tracked down two more copies to bring the total to 48. You're more than half way there.

I did see Louis Starr in New York last spring; we had a nice lunch together. Nothing new to pass on relative to the Auróra. I did not get the impression that he was that familiar with the nuances of book collecting although he certainly is interested in the subject matter. And a very nice gentleman, too.

I'll try to put all this together for you soon.

Regards,



Robert B. Stephenson

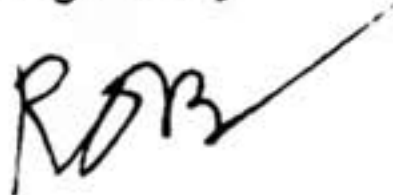
27 October 1983

Dear John,

I have sent separately the copy of my copy of the Aurora. Each page is marked with a number that corresponds with the numbers on my collation sheets, e.g. 27V, 27R, etc. Also included is a copy of my collation of the Harvard copy using my collation sheets with differences noted in handwriting. Also, a copy of the 2pp in question (format A) copies from the Harvard copy.

Any other progress?

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RBS' with a checkmark-like flourish extending from the end.

Robert B. Stephenson



JOHN MILLARD

18-86 BROADWAY AVENUE  
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Sunday,  
13th, November 1983 ...

Dear Rob,

Many thanks for your note, and for the Photo-copy of your copy of the 'A', it arrived safe and sound on the 4th of November.

While I havn't located any new copies, progress is continuing. Recently, I was able to locate a copy of the catalog for the sale at Parke-Bernet Galleries, on the 21st October 1969, lot #4146, at \$ 500.00. William B. Walker, Chief Librarian, The Thomas J. Watson Library, of The Metropolitan Musueum of Art, very kindly sent me a photo-copy of the Title page and the entry. The Copy enclosed is a re-constructed one, to get all the information on one sheet. I think this is a new one that hasn't been located.

1.) You will note the Provenance is Maggs Bros. 1950. I will be writing to John Maggs shortly about a couple of other things, so I will sound him out about this one. They have been most helpful in the past.

2.) You will also note the single signature of Ernest Shackleton. The only other copy that I know of that has a single Shackleton signature, is the one in the possession of Commander Campbell in Britain. I checked his date of acquisition, which is 1974, 5 years approx, so it's probable another copy. There is also the possibility that it might be one of those 10 copies that Shackleton reportably sold to Bumpus, the Bookseller in London, that Dora Diener of Edwards, mentioned to me sometime ago. I really don't know of anyway of checking that, of course.

I have already sent out enquiries on this to the AB Bookman and to American Libraries, 'Action Exchange'. If you have any other ideas as to where I might send inquiries please advise.

Tuesday, the 1st November 1983, our Provincial T.V. Network showed the first episode of the BBC-TV Series on Shackleton. I have enclosed photo-copies of the comments published in our local papers. I have to date seen the first two episodes, and so far they have been very good. There have been some small things that havn't rung true, but the average viewer is going to notice them, and it really doesn't affect the story line. The second episode ended with the Memorial service for Scott and his companions at ST Paul's. There's no mention of the 'AA', unfortunately.

I also have a lead on another copy that was sold at auction, in Melbourne, in 1971. I finally was able to find some one there that knew about the sale, and he suggested he might be able to put me in touch with the person who bought it.

Also, just recently I received a note from another correspondent in Britain, mentioning that the original name for the 'AA' was 'Antarctic Ice-Flowers', then gave me the following from Leslie Quartermain's 'South to the Pole', OUP 1967, page 149.

"A printing press and type had been donated and taken south, and elaborate preparations had been made for the production of the first Antarctic book. it was at first agreed that the name should be 'Antarctic Ice-Flowers', but better counsels prevailed and in September, printers Wild and Joyce proudly produced 'Aurora Australis', not a single typewritten volume to be handed round to successive readers but a 120-page book, illustrated, and bound in venestra-board from the packing-cases. A hundred copies were printed."



I was aware that the original name of the 'AA' was 'Antarctic Ice-Flowers', but I wasn't aware, in this instance, that Quartermain had made such an extensive comment, although I probably read the quotation, when I read the book just after it was published in 1967. I consulted my own copy of his book, hoping that he had made a footnote reference to it, but no such luck. I then began to look up various references. There was nothing in 'Heart of the Antarctic', nor in 'Antarctic Days', by James Murray and George Marston, where I thought there might be a comment. Also no mention in Dr Mill's biography of Shackleton. Then on page 188 of the Fisher biography there is " 'Aurora Australis', which was at first to be called 'Antarctic Ice-Flowers', is a very different volume from the 'South Polar Times'. " Fisher's is a simple comment compared to Quartermain's. I am wondering where he found his information, and, of course, what the Fisher's reference was?? I have written to Margery Fisher, with whom I have had some correspondence, to see if she can give me a clue or two. As for Quartermain's I am going to try to get in touch with his daughter, Marion Rego, who just might be able to help me with this and a couple of other things. I think it is important to locate the actual source for this original name, as there is a lot of information around about the 'AA', which is not substantiated. If you have any ideas or suggestions on this point I would indeed be happy to have them.

I have a fair number of inquiries out for which I am waiting responses, it is sometimes very slow. Some have been out for quite some time, six months or more, so I guess they might need a follow-up. The first might have gone astray, or it was received but the recipient hasn't bothered to answer. I also have some others on my list that I want to get out, so I have a fair amount of things on the go.

That is it for now. I'll keep you informed as to progress.

yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'O. J. ...', written over a diagonal line that extends from the bottom left towards the top right.