

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

2 April 1984

Dear John,

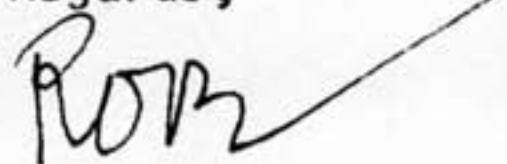
I'm enclosing a copy of a letter I received from Bowdoin College. Having an arctic collection I thought they might have a copy of the Aurora but as you can see they don't.

In my new copy of American Book Prices Current I found the following:

A copy of the A.A. sold at auction for 1890 pounds on September 20 (either 1982 or 83; I don't have it here with me) "with front endpaper autographed by Shackleton, Marston, Murray, Mackay and Wild and with related autograph material." It was sold by Christie's & Edmiston's Ltd, 164-66 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4TG. Apparently that sale was consigned by a Mr & Mrs D. S. Bowser (lot #336) a name that rings no bell with me.

I hope this is helpful. How is it going?

Regards,



Robert B. Stephenson

JOHN MILLARD

18-86 BROADWAY AVENUE

TORONTO, ONTARIO

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Friday,
18th, May 1984 ...

Dear Rob,

Many thanks for yours of the 2nd April 1984. I have sent off a letter to Christie's & Edmiston's to see if they would be willing to forward inquiries to their consigners and the successful bidder, hopefully they will, and both will be responsive. I have two or three other copies in the same situation, including the one sold by Parke-Bernet Galleries, N.Y., 21st October 1969, that I mentioned to you in my letter of the 13th November 1983. I don't know if the 'AB' published my query, or not, as a local Library deleted their subscription, so I haven't been able to look at it recently. If they did no one paid attention to it, as I haven't had any responses to it. American Libraries decided not to use it, because they had previously run one for me, and preferred to use something that is of interest to many of their readers, rather than just one or two. While I understand their viewpoint, it was a bit of a disappointment, because I think with their large readership, perhaps, one or two might recognize it and been able to help me.

Since I began this survey in December 1981, I have sent two requests for an inquiry in the New York Times Book Review, but so far I haven't had much success. They do acknowledge these requests, and say that they receive a large number of them, so it does take time before they can use them, although they don't promise to do so. I also sent a similar request to the Sunday Times, London, for their letter column, but they have a policy against using such requests in their column. I have been thinking about the possibility of running a display advertisement in the TIMES, the book page, perhaps one inch by two columns, requesting information about the 'AA', because I think there could be copies in private holdings, by individuals who do not often look at specialists publications like The Polar Record, Geographical Journal, Times Literary Supplement, A.M.B.R., etc. It wouldn't be cheap, I know, but hopefully it would be productive. To date, I have only located 16 copies in Britain, and I think that there should be more than that.

In the first issue of 'Fram', the Journal of Polar Studies, I was quite taken with Stephen Catlett's description of the Library of the American Philosophical Society, in Philadelphia, so I sent a query to see if by chance they have a copy of the 'A', perhaps one of the fellows gave them a copy, who knows.

In earlier letters I think I have mentioned my efforts to see if two New Zealand friends of Shackleton's ever received copies of the 'A', these were Edward Saunders and George Buckley, and on this I have been fairly successful. Saunders was a journalist, who Shackleton employed to help him with his book on the Expedition, "Heart of the Antarctic", and later worked on his other book "South". George Buckley was a Sheep Farmer, who became quite enthusiastic about the Expedition, and did all he could be helpful. I discovered that both of them had copies of the 'A', whether they received them directly from Shackleton, I can't be sure, because neither copy has an inscription from Shackleton to them individually.

With some help from the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, I had some information on Saunders, and finally acquired the names and ages of his children at the time of his death in 1922. I was about to send this to the Library, to see if they could help me locate one or two of them, when I received a letter from the present owner of Saunders' copy of the 'A'. It seems that some time ago he had mentioned to one of the Librarians that his copy was available to any one doing research on the 'A'. Evidently, the Librarian retired, and this information became mislaid. Recently, it turned up, and the Library got in touch with him, hence his letter. In his letter he mentions how he acquired it, etc, and requested that his ownership and location be kept confidential. Then said that he was loaning his copy to the Library, for my use, as long as I required it.

A couple of weeks later I received a letter from the Library with a complete description, after comparing it with the two copies that the Library has. This copy is like no other that I have heard about, as it is only about half complete. There are a total of 57 leaves, including five blank leaves(both sides), two in front and three in back. While the leaves are punched for the usual binding, such is not the case for this copy. Sections of leaves have been oversewn to form signatures, and they are glued along the spine, with a 'drawn-on solid' brown suede leather cover, and with a gold blocked centre front AURORA AUSTRALIS. I assume that Suander's received this from Shackleton, but as there is no inscription, we do not have any real proof that this is true. Further, with all the missing material, if Saunders did receive it from Shackleton, it was probably at a very late date, even as late as after the return of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1914-17, very simply the missing material was no longer available. I don't of any other way to explain it. Whether, we will be able to resolve^{it} to our complete satisfaction, it's had to say, but you never know in this business, as stranger things have happened. Although it is incomplete, I am adding it to my total number of copies located.

Information on Buckley is equally interesting. From "Who was Who, 1929-1940", I learned that he was born in New Zealand in 1866, married in 1890, had a son and two daughters, and died in November 1937, in London. Was a Lt. Col. in the British Army, and was intereted in ocean yacht racing. From a copy of his will I discovered his son's name, Richard Mclean Buckley, who was also his major heir. Later, I checked the Index to Obituaries in The Times, and discovered a tribute to Richard, from a friend, after his death in April 1960. Like his father, he was a Lt. Col in the British Army, and also a keen ocean yacht sailor. At the suggestion of a good friend he helped to organize The Royal Ocean Racing Club, and served as it's first secretary. Working from this I sent a quiry to one of late⁴secretary's, and as a response to this I received an informative and most helpful letter from Richard's widow Helen Buckley.

It seems that George Buckley did receive a copy of the 'A', plus a copy of Shackleton's book "Heart of the Antarctic", which was inscribed to him. Later Buckley gave the 'A' to a friend, who in turn gave it to Buckley's granddaughter, Daphne, after grandfather's death in 1937. Daphne is the only child of Richard, by his first wife, as Mrs Buckley refers to Daphne as her stepdaughter. It seems that Daphne held on to the books for a number of years, but in the early 1970's decided she needed the cash that they represented, and reluctantly consigned them to auction at Sotheby's. The letter says in 1974, and the successful bidder was Gaston's Alpine Books, in Middlesex. On checking my records of auction sales, I couldn't find one for 1974, but there was a sale at Sotheby's on the 12th June 1972, at which Gaston's was the successful bidder. So I assume that this is the right date. On checking the photo-copies of the Sotheby's catalogue descriptions, that I acquire from the British Library, I found that Shackleton's and George Marston's signatures are in this particlur copy of the 'AA', although it is not mentioned in the B.A.R. Or A. B.P.C., listings. Further, some time ago, when I first made up my records of the copies sold at auction, I wrote to Gaston's for the details on this copy they acquired from this sale, unfortunately I never heard from them. As Mrs Buckley suggests in her letter, they may no longer be in business. I'll keep looking, as I have said before, you never know in business. At the moment, like the two in the first part of this letter, it is known, but I havn't been able to confirm it or locate it.

Last Summer I received a note from David Harrowfield, The Antarctic Centre, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, N.Z., that their late Director, Dr Roger Duff, had seen a copy of the 'AA', in Britain, while on a visit there in 1974. I sent an inquiry to the name and address that David gave me, but I never received a reply. In January of this year I sent a follow-up inquiry, and received a positive response. The present owner received it from a friend of hers, who had a great interest in Shackleton, but she didn't say how this friend acquired it. There is a short letter mounted in this copy from Shackleton to a Mr. Honey, which is dated 14th October 1912, who appears to be the original owner.

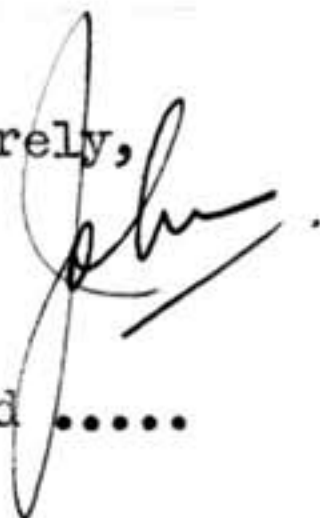
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There is also a letter to the present owners friend, loosely inserted in the book from J.B. Adams, a member of Shackleton's Expedition, which has a post-mark London, 4th, May 1945. I don't have all the details on this copy, as I have^{6/7} had an opportunity to acknowledge it and asked a few extra questions.

This copy brings the total number of copies located to an even 50, world wide. I am quite sure there are other copies about, if I could only find the means of locating them. As I have mentioned before, I am open for suggestions and ideas in this regard.

I am,

yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Millard', written over a large, loopy flourish that extends downwards and to the left.

John Millard