Sunday, 7th, February 1982

The Department of External Affairs, Australia
Antarctic Division,
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia...

Dear Sirs,

My interest in Antarctic affairs began in the early 1930's, and over the years I have collected a fair amount of information and material on the subject.

I am presently doing a survey on the 'Aurora Australis', the book produced by the members of Ernest Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition, 1907-1909. I am trying locate all existing copies, the names of the original and subsequent owners, how, when, and from whom they acquired their copies. The wording of any inscriptions or notes, by Shackleton, other members of the Expedition, or others. The covers for the book were made from Venesta board, which was taken from the Expedition's packing cases. The outsides of the cover boards were cleaned and finished, but the insides were left in their natural state. So sometimes, words, or parts of words, of the original packing case markings appear on the insides of the cover boards. These are of interest, because they provide good identification marks for individual copies. The information we have at present about the amount of material printed, and the number of copies bound is rather conflicting, hopefully, this survey will eventually give us more accurate information. To the best of our present knowledge no copies of the book were sold by the Expedition, but each member of the Expedition received a copy, and evidence exists that a number were given to benefactors of the Expedition.

There are a number of copies in Australia, and those that I know of are: Sir Douglas Mawson's, is in the Mawson Institute for Antarctic Research, University of Adelaide. There is another copy in the Griffith Taylor Collection, Department of Geography, University of New England, Armidale, N.S.W., presented by Mrs. G. Taylor, who before her marriage was Doris Priestley, sister of Raymond Priestley, a member of the Expedition. Also, Prof. Sir T.W.E. David, who was Chief of the Scientific Staff of the Expedition. I have reason to believe that his copy is in the Archives or the Library of the University of Sydney. I am presently awaiting a confirmation on this.

Another Australian who was a member of the Expedition was Bertram Armytage. He was born in 1869, and died in 1943. He appears to have had some experience with horses, because he was put in charge of the Expedition's Manchurian Ponies. I have no information as to where he was born in Australia, or where he died. He was in Britain after the Expedition, but whether he returned to Australia in his later years, I don't know.

Another member of the Expedition was Bernard C. Day, a motor expert, who before he joined the Expedition was employed by The Arrol-Johnston (motor car) Co., of Britain. After the Expedition he returned to Britain, and then joined Scott's 'Terra Nova' Expedition, 1910-1913, but only stayed the first winter, returning to New Zealand on the 'Terra Nova' in 1912. The only information I have about Mr. Day is that he was born in 1884, but I don't know where, or when and where he died. I have reason to believe that Mr. Day settled down in Australia, after Scott's Expedition. He is mentioned as being in Bathurst, N.S.W. in 1916, in 'Mawson in the Antarctic', page 128, Mawson's biography, by his wife Paquita. Other information I have is that the Antarctic Division of the External Affairs Department, Melbourne, presented the papers of Bernard C. Day, mostly 1907-09 & 1910-13, to the MSS Archives of the Scott Polar Research Institute, in Cambridge, United Kingdom, in 1964. I would be interested in knowing
how, when and from whom these papers were acquired, and if there is any information about Day's copy of the 'Australis'. Another bit of information that I have is that: a microfilm copy of Day's Diary was in the possession of Dr. J.S. Cumpston, who was a member of the Department of External Affairs, for many years. This is mentioned as footnote reference #54, Chapter 13, in 'South to the Pole', by Leslie B. Quartermain, Oxford University Press, London 1967. I assume this is his 'Terra Nova' Diary, as Chapter 13 is about Scott's Last Expedition. Again, it would be interesting to know how, when and from whom the copy was acquired.

Any information you can provide about the above, and on the Aurora Australis, would be sincerely appreciated.

I am,

yours sincerely,

[Signature]

John Millard ...
Mr John Millard,
18-26 Broadway Avenue,
Toronto,
Ontario M4P 1T4
CANADA

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 7 February 1982 to the Department of Foreign Affairs has been referred to me for reply.

With reference to "Aurora Australis" we believe that copies are held by the following individuals and organizations:

Antarctic Division, Kingston, Tasmania.
State Library of Tasmania, Hobart.
Mawson Institute for Antarctic Research, Adelaide.
University of Sydney.
Mitchell Library, Sydney.
National Library of Australia, Canberra.
University of New England, New South Wales.
Antarctic Division, Christchurch, New Zealand.
Canterbury Museum, New Zealand.
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand (2 copies)
Mrs I.D. McMahon, 1/33 Kennealy St., Surrey Hills, Victoria.
Mr Tony Sattler, 99 Mort St., Balmain, N.S.W.
Dr Noel Dan, Concord Hospital, N.S.W.

We also know that one copy was sold by auction in Melbourne about two years ago, but of the location of this or any other copies we are unable to help.
Tuesday,
30th March 1982

Mr. A.W. Jackson
Department of Science & Technology,
Antarctic Division,
Channel Highway,
Kingston, Tasmania, 7150, Australia...

YOUR REF: 80/360

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Many thanks for your letter of the 18th March, you have given me a fair amount of new information. Some of the items on your list I know about, and some of them are new.

I note that the Antarctic Division heads your list, and as I wish to have as much information about each copy of the 'Australis' as I can acquire, I would be pleased if you would send me the details on the copy in your Division. I have enclosed an information outline, which gives in more detail the type of information that I am seeking.

State Library of Tasmania. Making an enquiry for details.
Mawson Institute for Antarctic Research. They have Mawson's copy.
University of Sydney. Recent enquiry says they do not have a copy.
Mitchell Library. They have had a copy since 1912, purchased from a bookseller. I would assume by Mitchell himself.
National Library of Australia. It's been on my list for an enquiry, so I will get a letter off to them.
University of New England. Yes. In the Griffith Taylor Collection, Department of Geography. Presented by Mrs. Taylor.
Antarctic Division, New Zealand. Recent enquiry says they do not have a copy.
Alexander Turnbull Library. 1st copy in the original Turnbull Collection, original owner not known at present. 2nd copy originally given to Sir Joseph James Kinsey, and bequeathed to the Library in 1936, as a part of a collection of his papers.

Mrs. McMahon & Mr. Sattler. Making an enquiry for details.
Dr. Noel Dan. I have been in touch with Dr. Dan, and have the details of his copy. It is, I have no doubt, the copy sold at auction in Melbourne, that you mentioned. It was a sale conducted by Kenneth C. Hince in 1979.

The information that I have about the papers of Bernard C. Day. They were donated to the MSS Archives of the Scott Polar Research Institute, and it is listed in the Polar Record, Sept 1964, Page 360, as being presented by the Antarctic Division, Department of External Affairs, Melbourne. I have been in touch with Dr. J.S. Cumpston, but he doesn't have any information about Day's papers, and was rather vague about the Diary, and his micro-film copy. More recently I sent an enquiry to Dr. P.G. Law, the first Director of ANARE, to see if he can give me some information. I am waiting for his reply.

Your continued assistance in this survey is sincerely appreciated.

I am, with thanks,

yours sincerely,

John Millard
Dear Mr. Millard,

I write with reference to your recent letter seeking further information on the book 'Aurora Australis'.

The Antarctic Division's copy is contained in the rare book collection of our library, which is composed mainly of the book collection of Captain J. K. Davis. We acquired 'Aurora Australis', and the other volumes, from a personal friend of Davis after his death. This person is, or was, resident in New South Wales. He is the person referred to, but not named, on page xi of Davis' biography 'High Latitude', published in 1962.

The copy is in good condition, although the leather spine has deteriorated and detached from the boards. Stencilled inside the front board is the word BUTTER. The only other inscriptions are those made by the library, and consist of a catalogue number assigned by us, and a library stamp.

I regret that we are still unable to help with information on the papers of Bernard Day. The early records and files of the Antarctic Division are no longer held by us as they have been either sent to the national archives or have been destroyed.

I trust that the little I have been able to find for you has assisted your research. Please let me know if I can help in any other way.

Yours sincerely,

A. W. Jackson
(For Director)
May thanks for your letter dated the 15th April, but postmarked the 13th May & received here on the 20th May.

I am quite intrigued by the fact that Capt. Davis had something to do with your copy of the 'Australis'. It's not to clear to me if Capt. Davis held this copy and gave it to his friend, or if the friend acquired it from another source? Also, can this friend be named or is there a restriction? The thing that intrigues me is the fact that Capt. Davis had something to do with 3 other copies besides this one, all in Australia. His personal copy is in the State Library of Tasmania, which he donated to the Library 26th December 1961. On what is normally known as the half title page there is an inscription, "To Captain Davis from the Artist, printers - Kira Gra Ernest, E.M. Joyce Nov. 3rd 69". Sometime after the first relief of the main base, in 1913, of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911-13, which was led by Dr. Douglas Mawson, with Davis as 2nd-in-Command, and Capt. of the Expedition ship 'Aurora', Davis gave another copy of the 'A' to a fellow member of the Expedition. On the letterhead of the Expedition, which is tipped into the book there is an inscription, "Herbert D. Murphy for his Antarctic Library with the grateful thanks of the donor for the assistance given to him during a bus period in history for the above Expedition. John K. Davis, Commanding the "Aurora"."

Finally, the copy donated by Mrs. Griffith Taylor to the Griffith Taylor Collection, at the University of New England, was given to her by Capt. Davis. There are no inscriptions, signatures or notes in this copy. There is, however, a display card which accompanies the book, which reads, "LINKING THREE EXPEDITIONS This copy of the "Aurora Australis" was one of about 100 actually printed and illustrated and bound in the Cape Royds Hut in 1908. It was given to Mrs. Griffith Taylor by Captain J. K. Davis - the Captain of the 'Aurora' on Mawson's 1913 Expedition. It contains articles by Mawson and Priestley. G.T.". I assume that Prof. Taylor made up this display card in 1960 when he donated some of his papers to the Department of Geography. Unfortunately, there is no date as to when Mrs. Taylor received the book from Capt. Davis. I have assumed that it was sometime during World War I, but I could be wrong. Some recent information received from the Latrobe Library, of the State Library of Victoria, they found in a search of Capt. Davis's Papers 17 loose sheets from the 'Australis'. For someone who was not a member of the Shore Party, Capt. Davis appears to have had more copies of the book anyone else, outside of Ernest Shackleton, that I have so far been able to discover. It would be very interesting to know how and from whom Capt. Davis acquired all this material. Perhaps, it might be in his papers at the Latrobe Library. I will have to check it out.

Can you give me a date as to when your copy was acquired? The article "An Ancient Manuscript" has two different versions. I have enclosed photocopies of the first leaf of each version. Format "A" is the usual one, and "B" is the variant. Please let me know which one is in your copy. In the article, "Trials of a Messman", there is an illustration entitled "Struggle? For the Broom", for which there should be a covering/title sheet. This, also, appears to have two versions, and photocopies are enclosed. Format "A" appears to be the usual one, and whether "B" was ever used I haven't been able to determine, so far. Again which one is in your copy? I have also enclosed a sketch plan of the inside covers, which is not to scale, please indicate the position of the word 'BUTTER', and return it to me.

Your interest and assistance in this survey is sincerely appreciated.

I am, with thanks, yours sincerely,

John Millard