

**Transcription of a document from John King Davis at the  
State Library of Tasmania with its copy of the  
*Aurora Australis* (Copy 24)**

In upper right corner: 492 [or 442] St Kilda Road, Melbourne SE May 24th  
1961

With J. K. Davis's compliments to his Hon advisory Committee Mrs K.  
Parker and Miss Morris  
"Aurora Australis"

A book written printed and bound at the 'Winter Quarters' of the British  
Antarctic Expedition 1907/9 under Lieut E. H. Shackleton R.N.R.

Signed by the members of the wintering party.

Both Mawson and I served our Antarctic apprenticeship with this  
Expedition, Mawson as physicist with the shore party [I] as mate of the  
Nimrod.

Recently while in Canberra I consulted the Commonwealth Parliamentary  
Librarian regarding the disposal of a copy of the "Aurora Australis" telling  
him that I wished to present it to some public institution that would value  
and preserve it.

Mr White suggested that when the new Public Library was opened in Hobart  
if they did not possess a copy I might offer it to them.

This proposal attracted me, because it was from Hobart fifty years ago the  
Australasian Antarctic Expedition under Dr Douglas Mawson sailed in the  
Aurora. Returning to Hobart on March 12th 1912 after landing Dr Mawson  
and Frank Wild on the coastline. On our [return?] while steaming up the  
Derwent we passed the "Fram" at anchor off Sandy Bay, she had arrived the  
previous day with Amundsen returning from his successful attainment of the  
South Pole.

Apart from the fine memorial to Sir John Franklin in the centre of the city;  
Hobart was the port of departure of many of the pioneer Antarctic Exploring  
Expeditions including among them those of Biscoe, Ross, d'Urville,  
Borchgrevink, Amundsen and Mawson who must have been well known in  
Tasmania in their day. The officers and men of the Aurora were shown  
much kindness and hospitality while in Hobart and it seemed to me that in  
presenting the volume to some institution in Hobart it would mark the

appreciation of the members of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911/14 under the leadership of [Dr then?] Sir Douglas Mawson as well that of the donor for such kindness.

Further such an [??] might encourage the collection of other volumes and records of earlier expeditions from Hobart to the "Great South Land."