

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING OF RECORDS OF AUSTRALASIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

The Secretary,
Department of Education,
S Y D N E Y.

Government Printing Office,

Sydney, 28th July 1948.

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Staff

PRINTING OF THE RECORDS OF THE
AUSTRALASIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION 1911-1914.

In 1919, the then Premier, the late the Honourable W. A. Holman, approved of the constitution of a Committee to confer with Sir Douglas Mawson respecting his proposal to hand over the relics and specimens collected by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-1914 in exchange for the State undertaking the printing of the remaining Records, certain parts having already been published.

The original Committee consisted of Messrs. W. A. Gullick, Chairman, Government Printer, W. H. Ifould, Principal Librarian, C. Hedley, Acting Curator, Australian Museum.

The Committee, through death and other causes has changed in personnel and now consists of Messrs. T. H. Tennant, Chairman, Government Printer, J. W. Metcalfe, Principal Librarian, E. A. Briggs, D. Sc., Sydney University.

The Agreement between the State and Sir Douglas Mawson, made on 3rd March 1920 provided inter alia:-

1. (Clause 2) "Such printing shall be done in first class style similar to that in which the parts already published have been done at a cost not exceeding £5,000 and shall be completed within five years from the date of these presents."
2. (Clause 3) "The first issue shall be five hundred copies of which twenty-five of each part shall belong to the author of such part and other copies not exceeding one hundred and forty-two shall be presented to the persons corporate bodies and societies named or referred to in a list which has been signed by the parties hereto and is hereunto annexed subject to such alterations as the said parties may mutually agree provided the said maximum number be not exceeded. The remainder of the copies shall be the property of the State of New South Wales and shall be made available for distribution at such price and/or upon such terms as the Premier may direct and all monies received in respect of such sales shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue of the State of New South Wales."
3. (Clause 9) "All reports and records of the Expedition whether in manuscript or print including all log-books diaries photographs negatives plans and sketches and also including those parts which have already been printed and published and which are now in the possession power or control of the said Sir Douglas Mawson as aforesaid and are more particularly mentioned in the first Schedule hereto TOGETHER with all copyright and other rights appertaining thereto and connected therewith and also all the specimens relics instruments articles and things mentioned in the second Schedule hereto are hereby transferred to and vested in the Premier on behalf of the State of New South Wales absolutely to be held and disposed of as the Premier may from time to time direct subject to the provisions of this Agreement."

The records and relics referred to in the first and second Schedules are set out in the lists attached to this Report.

Subsequently, in November 1922 the administration of the Agreement was transferred to the Minister for Education.

The printing proceeded spasmodically until 1931, some six years beyond the period of five years stipulated in the Agreement, when it was suspended.

The cost of the work at date of suspension was £6,775/-/6, the amount over the £5,000 provided in the Agreement having been voted on the estimates of the Department of Education from year to year.

The work of printing was revived in 1937 under an arrangement with the Commonwealth Government which agreed to contribute the sum of £2,850 towards the cost of printing the remaining Records of the Expedition provided the New South Wales Government made available the balance of the estimated cost to complete, £4,850, the contribution of the New South Wales Government being thus £2,000.

On 14th June 1946, the Commonwealth Government agreed to provide an additional amount of £200 to cover the cost of printing Volume VII which comprised Dr. Kidson's Summary of Meteorological Data and Daily Weather Charts.

The total amount available for the completion of the work was thus £5,050 and the cost has been £5,016/17/6 since the revival in 1937 or a total cost including the amount expended to 1931 of £11,791/18/-.

As regards the Official Records, listed in Schedule 1, the Committee has not been able to wholly reconcile the items received with those listed but it can be said that in the main, the conditions of the Agreement have been fulfilled.

In respect of the relics listed in Schedule 2, a considerable proportion has been received together with some additional relics made available by Sir Douglas Mawson.

In the case of Items 89 and 90 of Schedule 2, which comprised:

Item 89 - All magnetic, Deepsea, Meteorological and other instruments and articles of equipment used in connection with the Expedition which are available or can or could be made available by Sir Douglas Mawson.

Item 90 - The entire collections of:

- (a) Geological.
- (b) Mineralogical.
- (c) Zoological.
- (d) Botanical Specimens.

a considerable number has been received but the Committee cannot say if they comprise the whole of the items.

Frequent contact has been made with Sir Douglas Mawson regarding anything outstanding and only within the past few days has he intimated as per copy of letter attached, that a number of Record Books and Papers, Photographic Negatives, a small number of Specimens and several Sketch Maps have still to be forwarded.