

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A

ANTARCTICA**Lot 1144**

1144 C A **AUSTRALIAN:** 1911 Mawson Expedition cover with 'LOOSE SHIP'S LETTER/POSTED IN/ANTARCTICA/[penguin]/SY AURORA/AAE' cachet overstruck with 'AUSTRALASIAN ANTARCTIC/EXPEDITION 1911/("JK Davis")/COMMANDER OF SHIP', to JJ Kinsey in New Zealand with Tasmanian 1d & Hobart cds of 11MAR13.

"Aurora" returned to Antarctica in December 1912 to collect *Douglas Mawson* & his party. However, *Mawson* with *Xavier Mertz* & *Belgrave Ninnis* had set off in the same month on the *Far Eastern Expedition*. 300 miles out, *Ninnis* fell to his death in a crevasse, taking with him most of the group's food. The others turned back, supplementing their meagre rations with meat from their dogs. When *Mertz* also died, *Mawson* used a pocket-saw to cut his sled in half & dragged it the final 100 miles. The return trek took 55 days. He arrived to see the "Aurora" departing for Hobart! A rescue team of 6 left behind to search for the trio nursed *Mawson* back to health. They were picked up on the "Aurora's" return on 12/12/1913! By then, the radio operator had "lost his marbles". *John King Davis* was captain of the "Aurora" and *Mawson's* second-in-command.

2,500^T

1146 ** A - 1959 Pictorials 5d to 2/3d SG 2-5 x100 sets mostly in blocks, unmounted. Retail \$1500. **(500)**

500