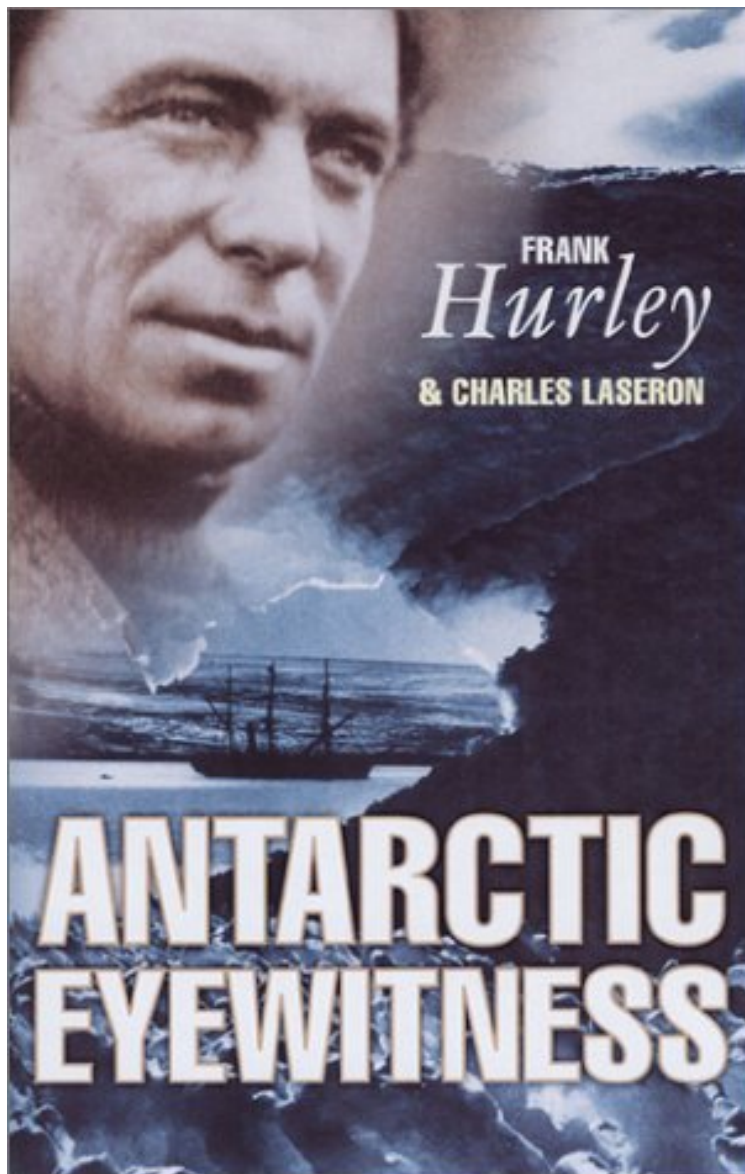


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Antarctic Eyewitness

Frank Hurley, Charles F. Laseron

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Frank Hurley, Charles F. Laseron : Antarctic Eyewitness before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Antarctic Eyewitness:

44 of 44 people found the following review helpful. Two great accounts of two great expeditions By Susan Paxton This new book combines Charles Laseron's 1947 "South With Mawson" and Frank Hurley's 1948 "Shackleton's Argonauts" in one volume, continuing the wonderful flood of reprints relating to the heroic era of Antarctic exploration. Laseron's

account of the 1912 Mawson expedition is full of human interest, and makes a useful adjunct to Mawson's own, somewhat drier account in "Home of the Blizzard." Laseron was a careful observer of his surroundings and his fellow expedition members, and his writing style is vivid and often humorous. This half of the book includes photographs by expedition photographer Frank Hurley, whose own memoirs of the Endurance voyage make up the second half of the book. Frank Hurley's "Shackleton's Argonauts" is a gripping description of the Endurance expedition, also illustrated with some of Hurley's magnificent photographs. Having served with both Sir Douglas Mawson and Sir Ernest Shackleton, Hurley compares the two men in a couple of wonderful paragraphs, concluding "Shackleton grafted science onto exploration; Mawson added exploration onto science," a very good way of summing up the differences between the leaders. Hurley also shows himself to have been an early environmentalist, and expresses in no uncertain terms his horror of the South Atlantic whaling industry and its slaughter of those great animals, commenting "I had marvelled at the devices that enabled man's ingenuity to triumph over nature's moods and most powerful creatures, but I marvelled still more that man was unable to triumph over the seemingly more potent monster of his creating; its name is greed," to which I can only add, "amen." Anyone interested in Antarctic exploration will want to add this valuable reprint to their library, and I cannot recommend it more highly.

This volume offers accounts of two of the 19th-century expeditions that took place in the so-called "heroic era" of Antarctic exploration. The first is Sir Douglas Mawson's 1911-14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition. The other is Ernest Shackleton's unsuccessful attempt to cross the Antarctic continent from 1914-16 and the extraordinary survival of his entire party after the expedition's ship, Endurance, was crushed and sunk in the pack ice. Chronicled in black-and-white images by the Australian photographer Frank Hurley, these two narratives are combined within this double volume. There is also an introduction by journalist and historian Tim Bowden.

About the Author Tim Bowden is the author of two books on Antarctica: *Antarctica and back in Sixty Days*, and the jubilee history of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE), *The Silence Calling - Australians in Antarctica 1947-97*. Charles F. Laseron was the Taxidermist and Biological Collector aboard Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition. Frank Hurley (1885-1962) ran away from home at 14 to work on the Sydney docks. He bought his first camera at 17, taught himself the technical aspects of photography and set up his own postcard business. In 1910 he persuaded Douglas Mawson to hire him as his expedition photographer. He later accompanied Shackleton on his Antarctic expedition of 1914. During WWI he took some of the war's only known colour photos, "small pieces of stark muddy misery."