

I left Sydney on board the *Stratheden*, P.O. Line, 28 July 1954, having spent there 4 years, 2 months and one day. Ann and the three children Bar, Robert [born 20 June 1951], Angela [born 23 September 1952] and Nanny were left behind, the Lagonda and my cinematographic equipment were sold, and I was bound for a Congress on High-Speed Cinematography in Paris where I was to give a paper. As I knew that I would never return again, I was sad to leave the children and depressed by my failure to pioneer scientific films in Australia.

The only success was the book. On board and in London I read proofs and wrote the Preface and the Dedication. Only in 1983, 30 years later, I learnt from Academic Press that they had printed 2008 copies, that they had sold 1514, and had given away about 100 complimentary copies. At that time 125 copies remained in stock in New York. They wrote to me that neither a reprint nor a second edition were justified, but that the copyright should be renewed, and to that I agreed.

The real pleasure I had from the book were the 35 reviews which were published in the photographic, scientific and cinematographic journals in many countries. They were all very complimentary and as they slowly reached me in London, they helped me over the sad loss of the children left behind in far distant Australia.

The return voyage on board a great liner was quite different from the outward one, four years earlier. While I worked on the proofs, there were many entertainments provided for the passengers and the meals were of a luxury standard. After Bombay there was always a magnificent curry buffet available at lunch time which I enjoyed very much. It was a leisurely trip with calls at Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Colombo reaching Tilbury on 1 September.

I must record my visit at Adelaide University to Sir Douglas Mawson (1882-1958) the famous Australian Antarctic explorer of the early 20th century. I knew of his films, taken during his expeditions and had described them in volume 'two' of the book. He received me most kindly and then went to the back of his office, where he had stored the many cans of original negative films, which he had kept so carefully, as he had thought. They were all on nitrate stock and when we opened one or two cans, we only found heaps of white powder. Sir Douglas was simply unaware of the inherent instability of the cellulose nitrate base of old films. They had been taken during the combined British, Australian and New Zealand Expedition which he directed during 1929-1931. All I could do was to advise him to transfer all to the National Film Library in Canberra which might still be able to save some cans.