

***Translating a legend :***  
***Lt. Shirase and the 1910-12 Japanese Antarctic Expedition.***  
***The other historic dash for the South Pole.***

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Very little is known outside Japan about Lt. Shirase's Antarctic Expedition which sailed from Tokyo Bay at the end of 1910. For the last 15 years I have been working on a translation of the official account, which was published in Japanese in 1913.

Following a brief overview of the route and achievements of the expedition, this paper will focus on some of the linguistic and cultural difficulties encountered when translating early 20<sup>th</sup> century Japanese; discuss various historical and personal factors which contributed to the lack of information about the expedition; and describe some of the additional published and unpublished materials that turned up in the course of research, with illustrations.