

BONHAMS LONDON

Fine discovery

BY DAVE SELBY

No dog can be considered ordinary, and Joe was even less so. His life was short but full of adventure.

Joe was born in the Antarctic in 1898 on Carsten Borchgrevink's Southern Cross expedition and taken on by physicist Louis Bernacchi, who put him to work as a sled dog. Bernacchi took Joe back to Australia in 1900, but the inseparable pair were soon on their way to Antarctica again when the naturalised Australian joined Scott's first South Pole expedition aboard *Discovery*. As the only member of the team with previous Antarctic experience, Bernacchi's contribution was key. Joe's was heroic.

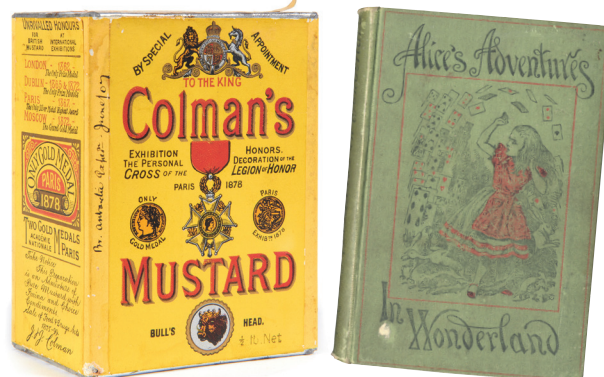
The young husky was one of a team that hauled sleds on what became the record-breaking farthest journey south (82° 17'S). On the return, as food for the dogs ran short, Joe's strength failed and he was put down on 8 January 1903.

Visitors to Hobart, Tasmania, will have seen the bronze statue (pictured

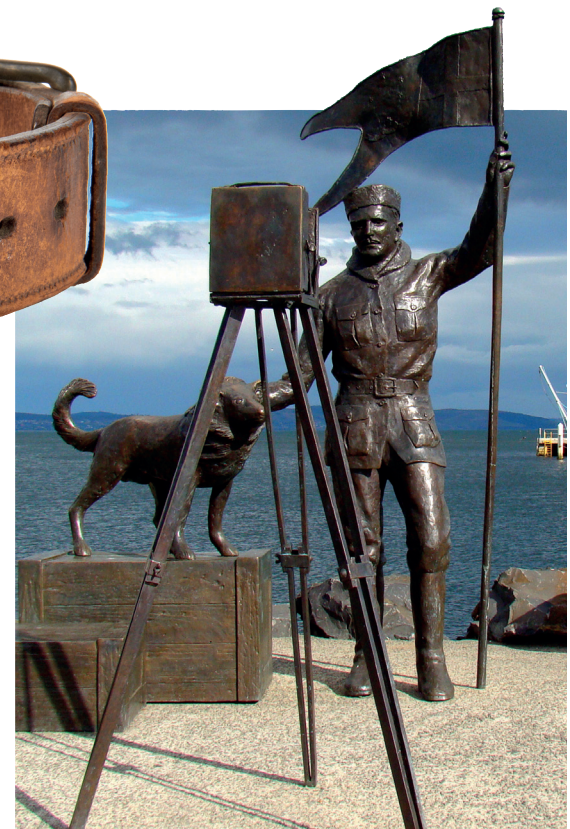


right) that commemorates the pioneering polar explorer's bond with his loyal husky. Another touching tangible memento is Joe's collar, which was one of the top sellers in Bonhams' most recent polar auction, commanding £8,750.

In the same sale, copies of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* also provided a connection to the heroic age of polar



Above: Joe's studded collar. **Right:** bronze statue of Bernacchi and Joe. **Below:** classic book found on the *Discovery* fetched top sum



BJØRN CHRISTIAN TØRRISSEN

exploration. The two works, from the non-officer library on the mess-deck aboard Scott's *Discovery*, sold for £2,250. Meanwhile, an unopened Colman's mustard tin fetched £350, despite being more than 100 years past its sell-by date; a relic of relish from Shackleton's 1907-09 Nimrod expedition.

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COMING UP BONHAMS

Beating the Blitz

This 19th century figurine survived the Zeppelins of the First World War, but during the Second World War Blitz he was removed from the store frontage of nautical instrument maker Joseph Hughes. Just as well, as the shop was destroyed. The carved wooden figure, standing 42in (107cm) tall and holding a real brass sextant, is part of Bonhams' 24 April London marine sale, where it's expected to fetch £20,000-£25,000. This is a fine example of the storefront promotional figures, which started to appear on nautical retailers in the first quarter of the 18th century.



COMING UP CHARLES MILLER LTD

Flying the flag

This historically significant, 15-star US Navy jack saw action on Lake Ontario as US Navy ships battled the Brits in the Anglo-American War of 1812, which, as history records, ended in a famous draw.

The jack (a flag to be flown on the prow of American naval vessels) is a 1795 design, featuring a star for each of the original 13 states and an additional two for Vermont and Kentucky (the 15-star design was used by the United States from 1795 to 1818, when another five stars were added). Further enhancing the flag's value is its ownership by Captain Thomas Brown, who served under Commodore Chauncey. To be sold with an oil portrait of Brown, the lot is expected to fetch £18,000-£25,000 at Charles Miller Ltd's next London marine sale on 1 May.

