

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**ALEXANDER TURNER**

**Diary, 1883**

**Reel M1131**

**National Records of Scotland  
HM General Register House  
2 Princes Street  
Edinburgh Scotland EH1 3YY**

**National Library of Australia  
State Library of New South Wales**

**Filmed: 1979**

## ALEXANDER TURNER

### Reel M1131

Diary of Alexander Turner, a passenger on the *Eastern Monarch*, on a voyage from Glasgow to Townsville, Queensland, 20 July – c. 17 November 1883.

The diary refers to the ship's departure from Glasgow, a clash between the captain and one of the crew, the weather, concerts, the sailors' Dead Horse ceremony, the sighting of other ships, the capture of an albatross, storms, a cricket match, injuries to passengers, the dangers of shifting cargoes, the sighting of the Tasmanian coast and later Stradbroke Island and the Queensland coast, porpoises, deaths of children on board the ship, and the arrival at Townsville (23 Oct. 1883).

Owing to an epidemic of measles on the *Eastern Monarch*, the passengers were kept in quarantine for nearly a month. The later entries refer to Turner's washing-up duties, the monotony of porridge and treacle, fears of a typhoid epidemic, quarantine on Magnetic Island, Aborigines on Magnetic Island, meals, snakes, and the eventual landing at Townsville.

At the end of the diary is a table showing the daily longitude and latitude during the voyage.

Although the authorship of the diary is attributed to Alexander Turner on the first page, at the end it is signed 'Andrew Turner' and there is a photograph with the caption 'Andrew Turner of Oxton, Lauder, Berwickshire'.

At the time of filming, the diary was held at the Scottish Record Office (GD1/806). The name of the Scottish Record Office was changed to the National Archives of Scotland in 1999. In 2011 it merged with the General Register Office for Scotland to form National Records of Scotland.