

Offisiell oversettelse av Roald Amundsens brev til Haakon VII –  
”Sydpolbrevet”

Utført av Roland Huntford, januar 2012. Rettighetene © er overlatt Nasjonalbiblioteket.

15 Dec. 1911

Your Majesty

I hereby take the liberty of reporting that 5 men of the Fram Expedition – including myself – reached the vicinity of the South Pole – 89°57'36" S.Lat. by obs. – yesterday the 14 Dec. – after a successful sledge journey from our winter quarters “Framheim”. We left there on 20 October with 4 sledges, 52 dogs and supplies for 4 months. On the way, we have determined the southernmost extremity of the great "Ross Ice Barrier" – approx. 86° S.Lat. together with the junction of King Edward VII Land and Victoria Land at the same point. Victoria Land finishes here, while King Edward's Land continues in a SW'ly direction to approx. 87° S.Lat. with a mighty mountain range with peaks up to 22,000 ft. asl. I have taken the liberty of calling these contiguous mountain ranges - I hope with permission – "Queen Maud's Ranges". We found that the great inland plateau – at about 88° S.Lat. – turned into a completely flat high plain which, from 89° S.Lat, began to slope gently down again towards the other side. The altitude of the plain above sea level is approx. 10,750 ft. Today we have encircled the the geographic South Pole with a radius of 8 nautical miles, raised the Norwegian flag, and called this gently sloping plain on which we have succeeded in establishing the position of the Geographic South Pole – I hope with Your Majesty's permission – "King Haakon VII's Plateau". We start the return journey tomorrow with 2 sledges, 16 dogs and well supplied with provisions.

Your obedient servant,

Roald Amundsen