

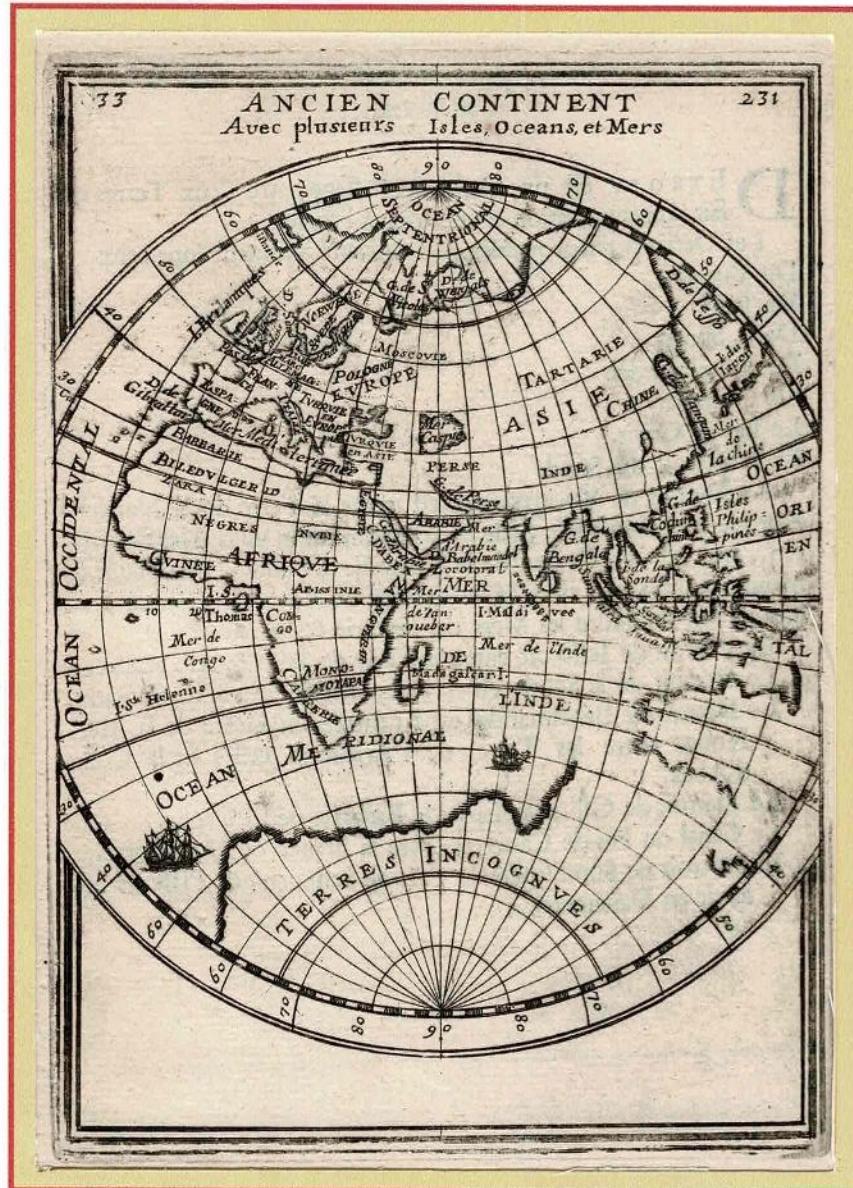
# Soviet Antarctic Expedition Transcontinental Flights 1961-1967

Soviet Antarctic Explorers, through the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute [AARI], had been discussing developing air routes to Antarctica since September 1955, but the logistics were challenging. The aim was to test the possibility of using heavy turboprop aircraft to establish reliable air connections for the rapid deployment of members of the Soviet Antarctic Expeditions and to test heavy lift aircraft with large cargo capacity. These flights, between 33,000 & 49,000km depending on the route - are among the longest documented.

This 2-frame Exhibit details AARI involvement in the development of air routes and transport options with the two experimental flights and lessons learned with resulting changes to aircraft and routes from the first experimental flight in 1961 to the last in January 1967 after which commercial flights rather than Aeroflot contracted flights were used. Mail carried and souvenir covers are used to demonstrate the story. Flown covers are of exceptional rarity with very few examples known – shown with double border & explanation.

The exhibit has Three Sections:

- First Experimental Flight 1961-1962 Moscow – Antarctica - Moscow
- Second Experimental Flight 1963-1964 Moscow – Antarctica – Moscow
- Flight Leningrad – Perth – Leningrad with Ship support 1965-1967



## "Du Globe Terrestre"

*"Ancien Continent"* Fig LXXXVI p 231  
by Alain M Malletm Paris edition 1683

Antarctica is "Terres Incognues"

Circa 1657. Earliest map showing  
Moscow and Antarctica

State of Knowledge as seen by incomplete  
mapping of Australian Continent

## References:

*The Moscow-Mirnyy-Moscow Flights of 1961 and 1962*, ПОЧТА #24 P6-19, A R Marshall

*Moscow-Mirnyy-Moscow Flights 1963-1964*,  
ПОЧТА #32 P38-44, A R Marshall

*Soviet Antarctic Expeditions 1961-1963; 1962-1964, 1965-1967* A V Nudelman,  
[Translated from Russian]

*Russian Studies in Antarctica* Volumes 1, 2, 3.  
Published St Petersburg 2000

*Moments of Terror, Chapter 10 "Red Wings"*  
David Burke 1994

*Summary of Soviet Activities in Antarctica*.  
CIA January 1963 [released 21/6/2010]