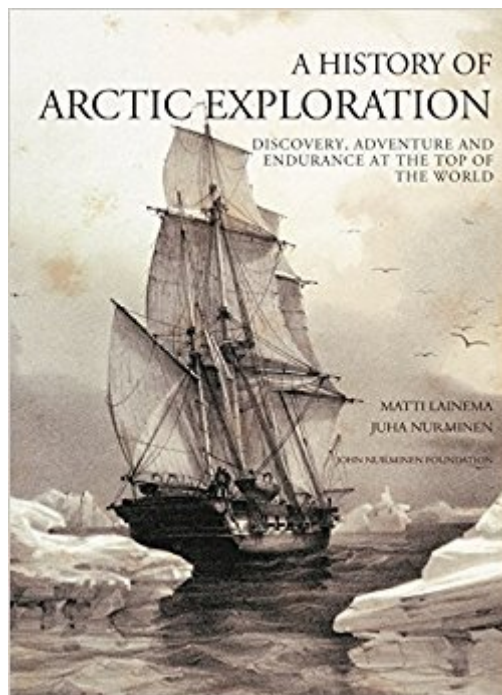




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A History Of Arctic Exploration: Discovery, Adventure And Endurance At The Top Of The World



Synopsis

As global warming melts polar ice and opens northern seaways, a book on Arctic exploration couldn't be timelier. This one fills the bill in grand style. Filled with rare illustrations, it tells stories of triumph and tragedy in the search for the fabled Northwest Passage and the race for the North Pole. Along with familiar explorers, including Captain Cook, Amundsen, and Byrd, it introduces readers to the men behind the names on the map, such as Barents and Bering, as well as unfamiliar but equally important navigators, such as Franklin, Cheluskin, and Nordenskiöld.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Juha Nurminen, is Head of the Nurminen Foundation in Helsinki, Finland. Matti Lainema has travelled in Arctic regions, and collects literature concerning expeditions.

This book is simply beautiful. The authors provide a thorough and thoughtful analysis of the history of Arctic Exploration. I am ordering the Juha's Seafaring book as well. I found the book to be refreshing while offering fresh ideas and analysis of a large body of knowledge. I found the speculation to be spot on and cross analysis of Juha's cartographic knowledge with Matti's Orienteering, I believe led them to correct presumptions. It would be wonderful if they did another volume on antarctic exploration as well. I am very pleased with this purchase. They succeeded at bringing a lot of content together and it is a pleasure to read. This would be a good compliment to "The Arctic Grail", "Farthest North", or Dava Sobel's "Longitude". This book is a great cure for those of us with the armchair arctic fever. It does good job scratching old theories and awaking new

excitement for something you thought you knew. It would be my guess that the authors both possess the D4DR gene. Writing this book could only have come from a true love of the subject matter. Bravo gentlemen! If you ever offer a Easton Press edition I would be happy to buy again. Grab it before it's gone.

This is a classic. An amazing book, packed with outstanding illustrations and maps, most of them in color. Highly recommended !

After reading most of the available expedition reports available of the different expeditions to Antarctica this book is a great summary !

Maps, maps, maps!!! I go to sleep with this book every night!! If you have a fan in your family of history, exploration, maps... you have to get them this book.

recommended for those interested in a historical perspective on arctic exploration.

This oversized book (I think it weighs about ten pounds), published by the John Nurminen Foundation has a forward by Lennart Meri, President of the Republic of Estonia (1992 - 2001). It is a serious, well-illustrated (especially with maps) history of the explorers, traders, and scientists who brought back their stories of the polar lands to those of us who live in more temperate regions. The period of Arctic exploration covers almost 2500 years, starting with the Greek, Pytheas of Massalia (Marseilles) in 320 B.C. who made a voyage to a land north of Britain that he called 'Thule.' Unfortunately, his writings have been lost and there is much speculation as to whether Pytheas voyaged to Iceland, the Shetlands, or possibly northern Norway. Pytheas described both the midnight sun and something called a 'congealed sea' which modern explorers such as Fridtjof Nansen believed to be pack ice. The authors also discuss "The Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic--The Real Conquerors of the Polar Circle." Animals found above the tree line are also mentioned: "some 600 species of insect thrive in the polar circle; some of them, like the mosquito, make an indelible impression on visitors." That's one way of putting it. The drawings of Eskimos by the early European explorers are especially interesting. One of them depicts an Eskimo with a wooden leg, made by a ship's carpenter. The Vikings have a chapter of their own, although they are criticized for their lack of map-making skills. Most of the information on their exploration of the Polar Regions survives in the Sagas and a few other written sources. We are less than half-way through

"A History of Arctic Exploration" when the Pope divided the world into two: "Spain was given the western half and Portugal the eastern" in the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494. The English, Dutch, and French, who were shut out of the rich trade with China and East India, attempted to find a route to these rich lands over the top of North America, through a 'Northwest Passage' or over the top of Asia, through a 'Northeast Passage.' The riches of the East, and the political machinations of a pope were the first true incentives for the European exploration of the far North. Later on, whalers took advantage of the riches of the Arctic and continued the exploration of this region. As the fur trade expanded ever northward, expeditions began to be made by land, opening up the way to the Arctic Coast. Maps began to show more and more detail of the lands to the west and north of Hudson Bay. Franklin's disastrous expedition gets a whole chapter to itself. The latter part of this incredibly rich book narrates the race to the North Pole, and the voyage of the 'Gjøa,' which was the first vessel to sail across the top of North America in 1906. The airplane changed the face of Arctic exploration and one by one, put to rest the rumors of polar lands such as 'Keenan Land.' Nowadays, "even the ordinary tourist can reach the Pole. In 1991 the Russian atomically powered ice-breaker 'Sojus' took tourists to the North Pole for the first time." This book is the next-best way to make that incredible journey for yourself.

He who will honour his native land - to win glory for his country! Those who lived this credo are depicted herewith. The book glosses blithely over the histories of the mythical North. The Viking, Erik the Red, the navigators Barents and Bering and the explorers: Nordenskiöld, Nansen, Amundsen, Peary, Cook, Franklin and Chelyuskin are all here. Also, stories of the indigenous people, of course. There are excellent illustrations from many sources within the covers. Arctic exploration history described at its Zenith: here in this book! Dag Stomberg
St. Andrews, Scotland

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