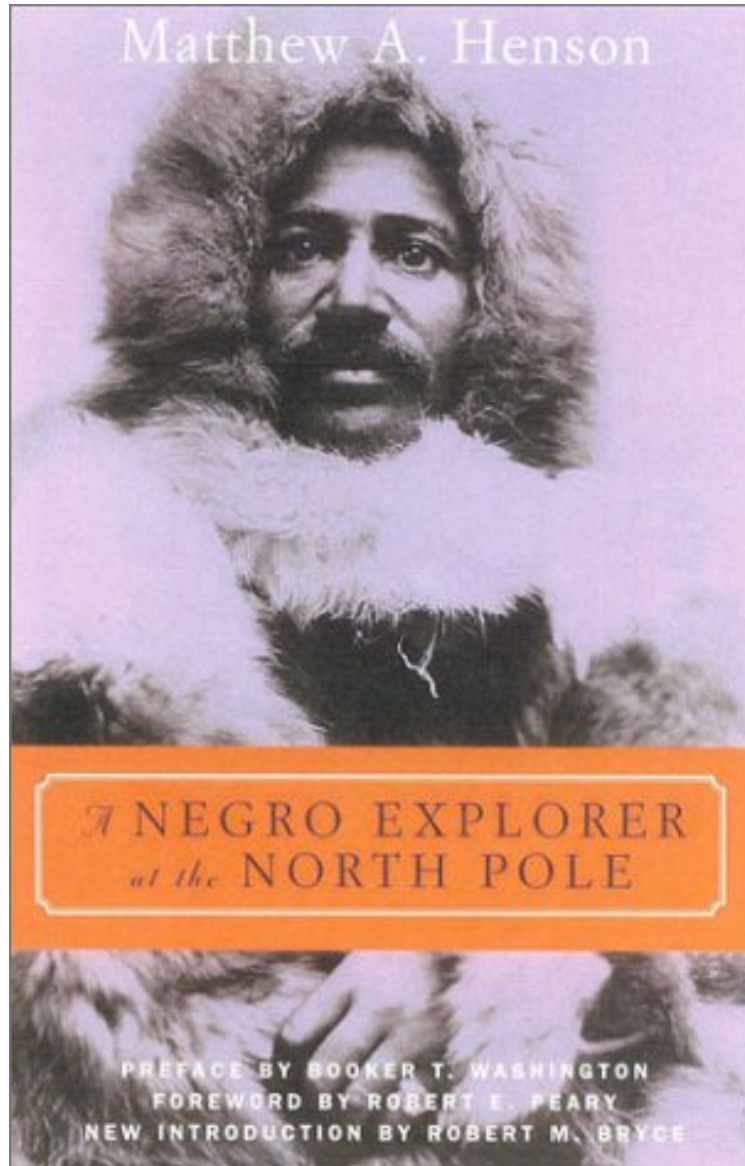


(Mobile book) A Negro Explorer at the North Pole

A Negro Explorer at the North Pole

Matthew Henson

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Arctic explorer Robert E. Peary originally hired Matthew Henson to be his valet, but Henson's intelligence and ability distinguished him and he became an invaluable addition to Peary's expeditions to the North Pole. Unlike Peary, Henson learned the Inuit language and trained himself to be an expert dog-sled driver. On the 1909 expedition when Peary claimed to have reached the Pole, it was Henson who drove the sled in which Peary, crippled and frostbitten, was a passenger. In this book, Henson tells of his years as a sailor and his subsequent meeting of Peary, which led to decades of dangerous journeys to the Arctic Sea and the shifting ice of the Pole. A close friend of many Inuit, Henson carefully records their culture and methods of survival, and gives accounts of the times that they saved his life.

From Publishers Weekly Robert Peary is remembered as the intrepid explorer who successfully reached the North Pole in 1909. Far less celebrated is his companion, Matthew Henson, a black man from Maryland. A Negro Explorer at the North Pole: The Autobiography of Matthew Henson, first published in 1912 and now re-issued, tells this unsung hero's story in his own words. Henson, who was paid only minimum wages throughout two decades of his association with Peary, was indispensable to the famous explorer's journey; he learned the language of the Eskimos, was an expert dog-sled driver and even built the sleds. But after they reached the North Pole, Peary stole the black man's photographs, barely spoke to him and refused to recognize his importance to the expedition. This edition contains rare photos of the journey and an introduction by S. Allen Counter, author of North Pole Legacy: Black, White, and Eskimo Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. An original document. . . . One of the giants of polar exploration, Henson had the graceful modesty of genuinely big men. . . . The world would know even more about him now if his commander, Peary, had been less an egotist and more generous in sharing credit for his discovery of the North Pole. (Washington Post Book World) A really valuable addition to the literature of [polar exploration].... Filled with incident, occupation, description, emotion, [and] comment. (The New York Times) Fascinating and exciting. (Commonwealth) This is an important book in any library on Arctic exploration. (The Explorers Journal) About the Author Matthew Henson (1866-1955) accompanied Robert Peary on eight hazardous Arctic expeditions. Robert M. Bryce is the author of Cook and Peary: The Polar Controversy, Resolved. He lives in Monrovia, Maryland, near Washington, DC.