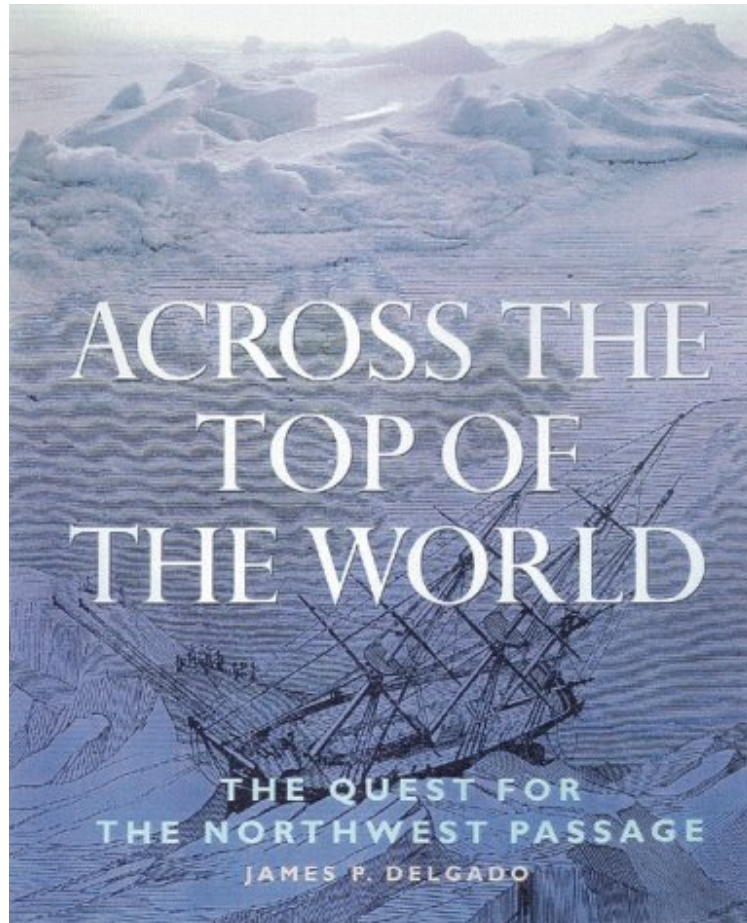


(Free) Across the Top of the World: The Quest for the Northwest Passage

Across the Top of the World: The Quest for the Northwest Passage

James P. Delgado

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James P. Delgado : Across the Top of the World: The Quest for the Northwest Passage before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Across the Top of the World: The Quest for the Northwest Passage:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Learning about the ArcticBy ConstanceBought this book to learn about the Arctic before going there on a cruise. It was recommended reading and I can see why. Great information and a good coffee table volume. I ordered a used book and I am not sure it was ever opened. It was in almost perfect condition (I'd say perfect but it was classified as a used book in good condition so who am I to judge otherwise). I am a very happy owner of this book. Anyone thinking of a trip to the Arctic would do well to read this one.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. with excellent utilization of mapsBy John G. LambertDuring my lifetime, mans endeavors at pushing back the boundaries of the unknown were attacking the sound barrier, and going into space ... culminating in landing on the moon, and equally important, the return to our diverse blue planet alive. Then ... there were the manned descents to the deepest known ocean floor .. "Challenger Deep" in "Trieste" and "Deep Challenger"

for a bold push to expand our knowledge under the sea. But, there was a time, a time spanning centuries when the curiosity of the vast unknown was not as lofty as space, nor as deep as 35,700' below the surface of the ocean. It was a shorter nautical path west ... to the Pacific, and the trade opportunities in the far east. The problem ... the newly discovered and vastly uncharted continents of the north, central and south Americas were blocking the way. There had to be a path toward the north. A pathway involving direct penetrations off the map into the dangerous uncharted cold icy unknown. James P. Delgado does a magnificent job, with excellent utilization of maps, charts, photos, paintings and drawings to lay out the historical journey of conquest; man seeking a sea passage across the often bitterly frozen and deadly north. A very good read! Great nautical history.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I was there!

By Hugh Bilson Lewis This is a well-illustrated and well-written account of past explorers' struggles to find a northern passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, through the Canadian Arctic archipelago. I wish I had read this book before going on an expedition cruise through the passage. I would have been so much better prepared to appreciate the early explorers' experiences and achievements. Well done Jim Delgado!

Across the Top of the World is a vivid retelling of one of the most enduring quests in the history of exploration and discovery--the Northwest Passage. It covers the earliest endeavors in the sixteenth century, the many ill-fated expeditions that followed, the successful crossing in 1905, and the scientific work conducted in the Northwest Passage today. The book is beautifully illustrated and gives readers a true sense of the harsh realities of the landscapes and seascapes traversed. Among the book's many highlights are the use of explorers' published accounts, the ill-fated Franklin Expedition in 1845-1847, historic and contemporary color photographs of significant artifacts, and contemporary images of the Northwest Passage from the air, land, and water.

.com After Columbus found his voyage to Asia unexpectedly blocked by the New World, one driving goal of explorers was to find a way around it. To the south, the Strait of Magellan is one of the most difficult journeys in the world; it seemed only reasonable to expect that a more comfortable alternative would lie to the north. In the event, of course, the world is not designed for human comfort, and the Northwest Passage is incredibly arduous and not particularly useful. But the search motivated Arctic exploration and adventure for hundreds of years, and inspired many gripping or tragic adventures. Arctic archeologist James Delgado relates these tales--the voyages of the Norsemen, Henry Hudson, Sir John Franklin, and others--with a rare combination of verve, historical context, and lots of illustrations. Maps, photos, and images from different eras make Across the Top of the World a fascinating book for browsing or for concentrated reading. It's an invaluable companion--reference, atlas, and history--to any other book about polar exploration and adventure.

--Mary Ellen Curtin From Publishers Weekly Like George Mallory, Sir John Franklin died at an icy extreme of the globe. The cumulative efforts of those who followed Franklin (1786-1847) into the Arctic in order to discover what became of him eventually led to the charting of the Northwest Passage, a sea route from the Atlantic to the Pacific via the coast of North America. The history of the European quest for the Passage is full of dramatic stories of men at their best and worst in harsh conditions. Delgado's workmanlike history stretches from Martin Frobisher's voyages (1576-1578) through the doomed expedition of Franklin (1845-1847) to Norwegian Roald Amundsen's successful voyage through the Passage in 1906. The saga is filled with cannibalism, lack of foresight, heroism, resourcefulness, greed and the stiff upper lips of 19th-century British naval officers weathering the rigors of Arctic winters. Delgado, executive director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, gives blow-by-blow accounts of all the major voyages, noting those commanders, such as William Parry (1790-1855), who exhibited good judgment and a respect for the Arctic natives and those who, like Frobisher, confronted both the landscape and its inhabitants with imperial contempt. Delgado clearly did thorough research in an effort to place as many pertinent facts as possible between two covers. The result is an account of the European encounter with the Arctic that is stronger on detail than on drama. But the book is a spectacular reference. Readers who wish to read further about the Arctic would do well to have Delgado's book handy as they read Parry's journals or Barry Lopez's beautiful Arctic Dreams. 80 full-color photos; 100 bw illus.; 6 maps; bibliography; index. BOMC and History Book Club alternates. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA--For centuries, explorers and business interests attempted to locate and map a northern route from the Atlantic to the Pacific through the Arctic's icy waters. Delgado provides a look at dozens of these efforts. He begins by showing the Arctic, "an archipelago of ice," as it exists today and then details the trials and tribulations of the hundreds of men who have, over time, sought passage across this fearfully forbidding wilderness. Among those included are Elizabethan Martin Frobisher, Victorian Sir John Franklin, and the final victor, Norwegian Roald Amundsen. Stories of piracy, lost ships and crews, fateful failures, and cannibalism unfold with the style and excitement of adventure fiction. Yet, the narrative is historically correct and accompanied by hundreds of illustrations. Astounding period drawings and paintings, dramatic photographs, journal entries, and songs and legends from the native Inuit culture add to the excitement of this quest. Documentation includes period maps and photos of artifacts and ship plans. Delgado completes the story of this centuries-old search with a chapter about current scientific research and recreational activity in this region. An impressive bibliography and an extensive index complement the thorough text. Young adults will find that the experiences related here are stranger

than most fiction and equally satisfying. Becky Ferrall, Stonewall Jackson High School, Manassas, VA Copyright 2000
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