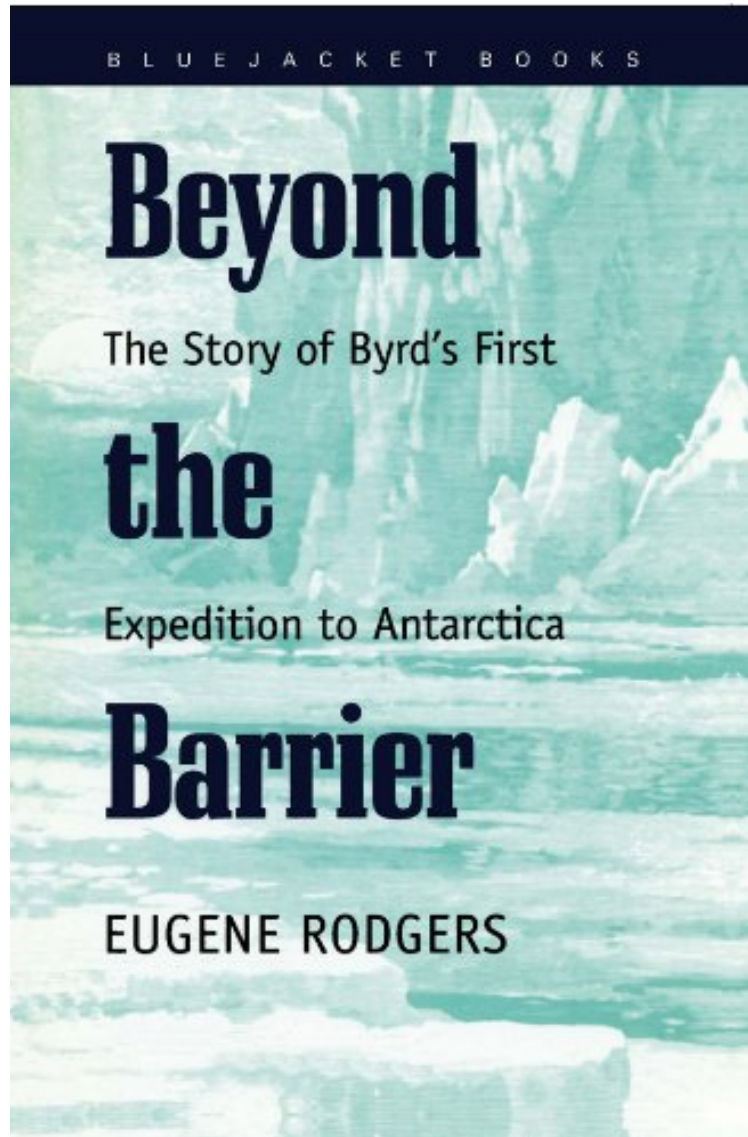


Beyond the Barrier: The Story of Byrd's First Expedition to Antarctica (Bluejacket Books)

Eugene Rodgers

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Eugene Rodgers : Beyond the Barrier: The Story of Byrd's First Expedition to Antarctica (Bluejacket Books) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond the Barrier: The Story of Byrd's First Expedition to Antarctica (Bluejacket Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Carol Kit was a gift0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy MarieExcellent book.

When this book originally appeared in 1990, it was hailed as an important new work because of the author's access to Adm. Richard E. Byrd's just-released private papers. Previous books on the legendary polar explorer had to rely on sources subject to the admiral's vigilant censorship or the control of his heirs and friends. With this study Eugene Rodgers provides a scrupulously honest and objective account of Byrd's 1929 expedition to Antarctica. Without discrediting the expedition's success or Byrd's leadership, Rodgers shows that the admiral was not the saintly hero he and the press depicted. Nor was the expedition without its problems. Interviews with surviving members of the expedition together with a wealth of other new material indicate that Byrd, contrary to his claims, was not a good navigator--his pilots usually had to find their way by dead reckoning--and that he was not on the actual flight that discovered Marie Byrd Land. The book further reveals a crisis over drunkenness among the men (including Byrd), the admiral's fear of mutiny, and his rewriting of news stories from the pole to embellish his own image.

From School Library Journal For those who thrill to the courage and foolhardiness of exploits on the ice caps, there is a new adventure waiting. Rodgers had access to recently opened private papers and utilizes these sources to bring immediacy and insight to his subject. Admiral Byrd is revealed as a much more complex character than the saint who wooed the nation for support for his explorations. Not all the Byrd inconsistencies are resolved, but the story is nevertheless fascinating. Collections that admit only one arctic adventure should have Roland Huntford's *Scott and Amundsen* (Atheneum, 1984; o.p.), but this is a good addition. --Cathy Chauvette, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The "plaster saint" image of American polar explorer Richard E. Byrd, one of the great icons of the hero-worshipping 1920s, has been chipped away at in such books as Finn Ronne's *Antarctica, My Destiny* (LJ 12/15/79) and David Roberts's *Great Exploration Hoaxes* (LJ 11/1/82). Now it has been shattered by free-lance author and Antarctica veteran Rodgers. Byrd was a man who "measured against other leaders . . . comes out well," but who failed to live up to the image of perfection that he himself created. Byrd's demythologization shouldn't distract readers from the well-researched account of his 1928-31 Antarctic expedition, a notable achievement recounted in serviceable if uninspired prose. For readers of detailed accounts of polar exploration. - J.F. Husband, Framingham State Coll. Lib., Mass. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.