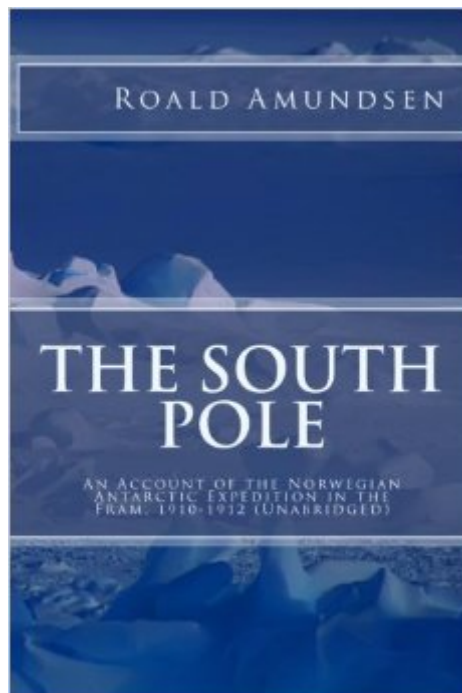


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The South Pole: An Account Of The Norwegian Antarctic Expedition In The Fram, 1910-1912 Unabridged



Synopsis

The South Pole by Roald Amundsen tells the story of the author's trek to the South Pole. Roald Amundsen led the first expedition to reach the South Pole, on December 14, 1911. His account, entitled "The South Pole: An Account of the Norwegian Antarctic Expedition in the Fram, 1910-1912," tells how the team endured frostbite, snow blindness, and other horrors to reach their destination. Roald Amundsen planted the Norwegian flag on the South Pole on December 14, 1911, a full month before Robert Falcon Scott arrived on the same spot. Amundsen's The South Pole is a riveting first-hand account of a truly heroic expedition. The journey to the South Pole remains Roald Amundsen's masterpiece, the culmination of the classical age of Polar exploration and, perhaps, the greatest snow journey ever made.

Book Information

Paperback: 334 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; Unabridged edition (October 11, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1449551092

ISBN-13: 978-1449551094

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #523,105 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in [Books > History > Europe > Scandinavia > Norway](#) #176 in [Books > History > Arctic & Antarctica](#) #585 in [Books > History > World > Expeditions & Discoveries](#)

Customer Reviews

Recent years have seen a re-examination of the Golden Age of Antarctic Exploration. Roland Huntford in his excellent books "The Last Place on Earth" and "Shackleton" helped to debunk the myth of the glorious failure (Scott the Martyr) as an example to follow. The greatest tale of this age was surrounded by no great tales of hardship, no honeyed or sanitised versions of the deed. In this book we hear in the words of the greatest exponent of the art of polar travel, the story of that rarest of plans - the perfectly executed coup. For a coup it was. When Amundsen turned from the North Pole to the South after the question of "the great nail" had been settled by Cook & Peary, his decision was treated in many sectors (most notably an unbalanced and jingoistic British Press) as underhanded and double dealing. Amundsen's account of the reasoning behind it makes clear that

any deceit was necessary to ensure no forestalling of his plans by others - not only Scott. To ensure the future of his extended plan (the drift across the Arctic which was eventually carried out in the "Maud") he knew the Press Barons would need an exclusive and juicy story. The South Pole would give him this currency. The book is written in an honest and clean style - an extension of the Man and his nature. The hardships faced are almost disguised by the simple tale of their telling. To strike up an unknown glacier and forge his way over virgin ground on the way to the polar plateau and the Pole itself displays fortitude and grit we can only marvel at in today's world. But his description of the task is hidden behind a work-a-day narrative. To truly appreciate the splendour of the achievement is difficult in our modern era.

What a shame. The actual contents of this book by explorer Roald Amundsen was 5 stars. Incredible action, great descriptions of their ship the Fram, provisions, their food....everything was great. I really got into the book and was enjoying it very much when I got to an OCR software mistake, misprints, misspelling and words together. Many mistakes throughout the book. Also one large paragraph so bad I could not make it out. General books says in the book they are using OCR software to help print the book and avoid proof reading to keep costs low. Do yourself a favor and buy Amundsen's account part 1 or 2 NOT in an OCR software edition book. Pay the extra 2 dollars or more for an error free book. It's so frustrating reading something so enjoyable and having to stop for mistakes and sort things out. A major distraction for me. Now the good parts. Amundsen had a sense of humor and loved his sled dogs. However his people party were most important and if a dog was not able to keep up and pull the sled he would have the animal killed and if needed the other dogs would feed on it. Animal lovers will say this is horrible but Amundsen was a realist who survived -70F temperatures and got all his men back. Poor explorer Scott lost his life and 4 others after reaching the pole after Amundsen. Amundsen's 95% effort was to reach the South Pole first and 5% scientific exploration. He did all he planned in a most efficient method using dogs to pull sleds and clothing more in tune what the native people of the far north would wear. The man had his act together and did not try to do all things like Scott's expedition did. Scott used ponies, snow tractors and dogs. Most all failed him and his 5 man polar group manhandled/pulled their sleds to the pole and partially back by themselves.

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