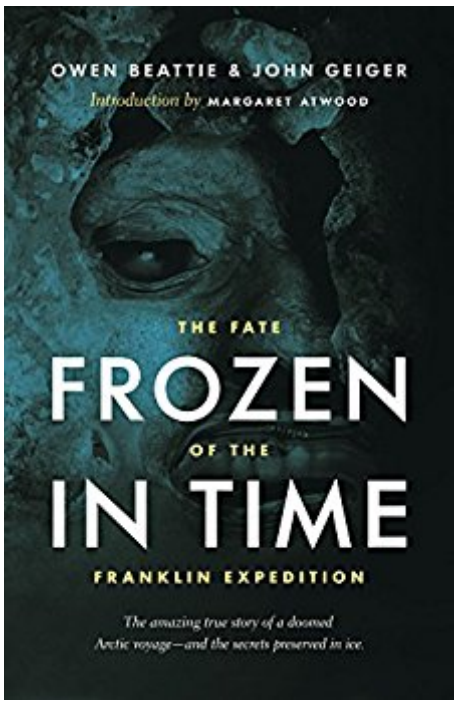
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Frozen In Time: The Fate Of The Franklin Expedition



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Synopsis

The truth about what happened on Sir John FranklinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ill-fated Arctic expedition of 1845–48 has been shrouded in mystery for 165 years. Carrying the best equipment that the science and technology, Franklin and his men set out to “penetrate the icy fastness of the north, and to circumnavigate America.Ã¢â ¬Â• The expeditionÃ¢â ¬â„¢s two ships — HMS Erebus and HMS Terror — carrying 129 officers and men, disappeared without a trace. From 1846 to 1880 more than 20 major rescue parties were involved in the search for the missing men and ships. The disappearance of the expedition and absence of any substantial written accounts of the journey have left attempts at a reconstruction of events sketchy and inconclusive. In Frozen in Time, forensic anthropologist Owen Beattie and historian John Geiger tell the dramatic story of the excavation of three sailors from the Franklin Expeditions, buried for 138 years on the lonely headland of Beechey Island. This book contains the astonishing photographic record of the excavation, together with the maps and illustrations that accompany this riveting account of FranklinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fatal adventure. The unfolding of Dr. BeattieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s unexpected findings is not only a significant document but also, in itself, a tale of high adventure.

Book Information

File Size: 5472 KB

Print Length: 290 pages

Publisher: Greystone Books; Reprint edition (August 23, 2014)

Publication Date: August 23, 2014

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00NE6QXBW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #270,984 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #22 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Arctic & Antarctica #42 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Medical eBooks > Specialties > Pathology > Forensic Medicine #52 inÃ Â Kindle

Customer Reviews

In 1845 Sir John Franklin set out with 139 men aboard two ships, Erebus and Terror, to find the Northwest Passage; one of the last true unknowns in world exploration. The expedition was besieged by ice and sickness and death. No one returned. Numerous search and rescue operations were launched in the following five years and beyond. It was the Franklin expedition that ushered in the era of polar exploration.mTraces of the ships and the men were discovered on islands in northern Canada. The cause of all these deaths was a mystery until a team of Canadian anthropologists launched a multi-year expedition in the early ninteen eighties. What they found on exhuming three bodiesmthat were buried and frozen in time is remarkable. A truly great read.

I’m a polar exploration junkie, so I’ve read an ungodly amount of books about Sir John Franklin, James Clark Ross, Charles Francis Hall, and other famous explorers. Somehow, I always come back to this one.Even an interesting event like the Franklin Expedition can fall victim to history writers who make their subject boring. This volume is not like that. It’s genuinely entertaining and informative. It packs a lot of facts at you from the beginning to (what is doubtfully) the end, but it doesn’t feel like a textbook. I just wish it was longer! Hopefully another volume will be released as developments are made in the case.You were probably introduced to this subject in some way by seeing or hearing about the Beechey Island mummies. But do you know their stories? The archaeological section of this book goes into detail about the three bodies and how analysis of their tissues has helped archaeologists understand what happened to their fellow crewmen.In all, this is one of the few historical nonfiction books I’d recommend even to people who aren’t fond of the genre. It can be gruesome, as the subject itself is gruesome, but it’s a good read.

Nothing like reading about a real historical expedition. Although the Franklin expedition ended tragically, it has not been forgotten. I loved the respect shown by the latest scientific crew, towards the three sailors who helped clear the causes of such tragedy. It proves once more that its not nature, but men itself who, in its ingenuity and wonder about technological advances, cause its own destruction.

While not perhaps a "must-have" for aficionados of the field of polar literature, this is nevertheless a

very good book and is well suited as a sort of primer to those who have only a casual interest in the subject.The book provides a brief outline of disappearance the Franklin Expedition on its quest for the Northwest Passage in the early 1800s and the aftermath of the search conducted by various international parties, government and otherwise. It then relates the events of three research expeditions undertaken by the author, a forensic anthropologist who was interested in finding and reviewing various skeletal remains originally discovered decades after the loss of the Franklin party.Eventually, he concentrates his efforts on exhuming the frozen bodies of three crewmen who had died in the Franklin Expedition's first icebound season, before they had well and truly plunged irrevocably into tragedy. These men had been buried in well-prepared graves on a small island north of Canada's Hudson Bay. Even to this day, the bodies remain fantastically preserved, and the author was able to uncover intriguing evidence that suggests that the expedition did not succumb in a heroic struggle against the large and grand forces of nature, but rather fell to altogether more pedestrian and minute agents.The exhumation and autopsy processes are well described, and the theory that later develops is explained simply enough for the layman to follow.Perhaps the biggest strength of this book is the beautifully composed color photos that show the gravesites and the actual bodies. These pictures are truly stirring and invocative.The maps are also nicely done. However, the book would have benefited from a timeline and from an additional map showing the location of various Franklin party remains and artifacts. It sometimes becomes difficult to recall who was found where and when, since as it turns out, the expedition members covered a lot of ground and some of them split up. With that exception, though, this is an interesting book and a quick but thought-provoking read.

This is a great book. History meets modern science. No one knew what ultimately happened to the Franklin expedition. What had contributed to their demise. But when crude graves were discovered, and it was learned that they were members of the Franklin expedition, modern science discovered some interesting facts. I won't say anything to spoil the book for anyone, But this was a great mix of the history of arctic exploration and using modern science to learn more about it. Most of the book is history related. Information about the search for the Northwest Passage and the Franklin expedition in particular. Then the more recent discovery of the graves and researchers discoveries from testing samples from the find. I highly recommend this book to any history or exploration fans.

The authors have pieced together an unbelievable history here. Their efforts and results remarkable. To have solved a century old mystery and to have given us a face to face view of 19th

century British sailors is nothing less than brilliant.I could not stop reading and went through it very quickly. Highly recommended!

Now this is a story... One of exploration, the cold, the deadly cold, the poisoned food, the misery and the mystery that lingers to this day. John Rae brought the facts home to England, yet he was made the bad guy (read his story working for the Hudson Bay Company). The arctic was once iced up nearly year round, Franklins ship were frozen in for over two years. Now I can look at web sites & google earth to see these same places today sandy-rocky beaches in the summer months now. And even today people find junk & goodies from the British all those many years ago. Question is, where are Franklins ships?

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