

Heart of the Great Alone

D. Hempleman-Adams

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D. Hempleman-Adams : Heart of the Great Alone before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Heart of the Great Alone:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous photos make the bookBy L. A. WalkerIn January 2012, I stumbled upon the most marvellous collection of photographs from the early era of Antarctic exploration online. These silver bromide photos were shown at their best glowing on screen and absolutely took my breath away with their beauty as photographs and also as a record of what it was like to be there. It took me a while to find this book, which contains many of these wonderful photos - a paperback version was sold at the exhibition - and I was rewarded with so much more. It is so well written and informative, even to those of us who think we know these stories by heart.The title of this book is from the book written later by one of these photographers, Herbert Ponting and is so apt for introducing us to this frozen wilderness. It is well captured both in the photos and also by David Hempleman-Adams in his text.I recommend this book to anyone interested in the Antarctic adventures of one hundred years ago, written by a man who has been there himself. With the generous help of the Royal Collection of photos and mementos, he has fleshed out a most interesting book. But also I recommend it for those wonderful photos at the heart of the book to anyone with a love of beauty.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful, historic photosBy Herman MelvilleThis is a nice, large book with excellent reproductions of famous photos taken on the Scott and Shackleton Antarctic expeditions. Several of the photos are enlarged so that you can really see details, for instance, the crestfallen and doomed look on Scott's face in the famous photo of the Polar party after discovering that Amundsen has beaten them. There are numerous photos in this collection that I have never before seen, and I have read nearly 20 books on

South Polar voyages. Moreover, there are photos of the Union Jacks that Scott and Shackleton carried with them, the telegram that Shackleton sent to the King of England after achieving the Furthest South, copies of the South Polar Times, and other interesting memorabilia. Most poignantly, perhaps, there are reproductions of two sketches done by Dr. Wilson of the black flags that Amundsen's party erected to encircle the pole and to show Scott they had beaten him. The only drawback to this excellent book is the text, some of which is written by a modern explorer who cannot stop intruding himself into the story, and other articles that do not contribute much. Buy this book for the photos, not the text. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Incredible Photos Taken and Preserved Under Horrible Conditions By T. Ambrose The selection of Antarctic photos, and over-sized reproductions, is marvelous. One can't help but marvel at the quality of the photographs, taken with rather primitive technology and somehow preserved under incredible conditions. For anyone interested in the expeditions and their photographers, a wonderful volume.

A treasure trove of photographs some never before reproduced in book form from the two greatest Antarctic expeditions. Among the greatest achievements in the history of photography, those of the early polar explorers surely stand out, for the beauty of their images and the almost impossible conditions they encountered. And none of these are more remarkable than the photographs recorded by the official chroniclers of two epic Antarctic expeditions that of Robert Falcon Scott, departed in 1910, which tragically resulted in his death; and, four years later, that of Ernest Shackleton, whose heroic sea journey from Elephant Island to South Georgia has become the stuff of legend. Their photographers Herbert George Ponting and Frank Hurley transported bulky cameras and glass plate negatives across the forbidding polar landscape to record some of the earliest images of this dramatic environment. That the photographs survived to be presented on their return to King George V is miraculous, and they have remained ever since in the Royal Collection. The Heart of the Great Alone reproduces the best of these marvelous images, some of which have never appeared in book form before--ships encased in ice floes, ice cliffs and ravines, campsites and dog sleds, and the incomparable beauty of Antarctic flora and fauna. Together they form an invaluable record of an environment that global warming has forever changed. With a superb narrative drawing on Ponting's and Hurley's writings and other unique archival material from the Royal Collection, and with extended captions for each image, this book is a unique addition to the literature of polar exploration.

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