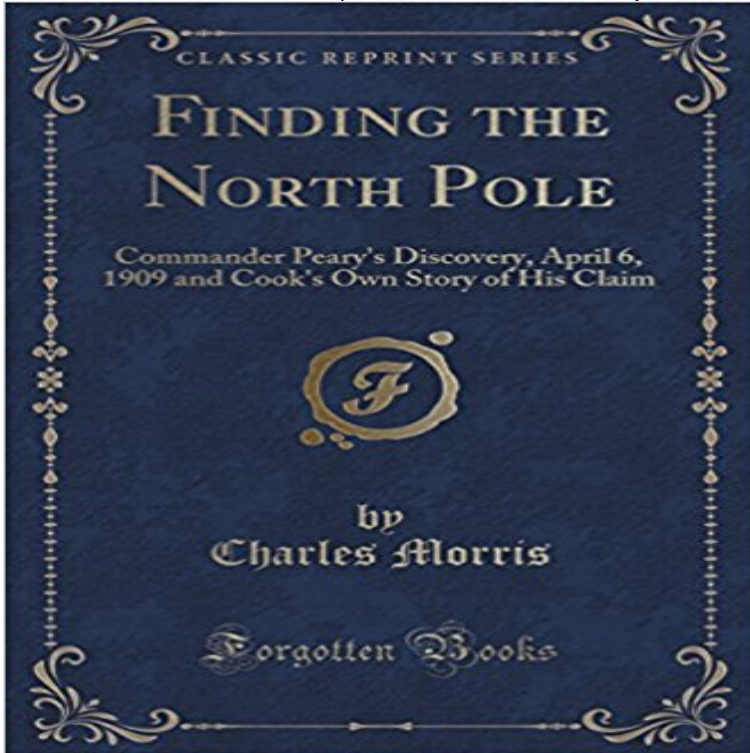


Finding the North Pole: Commander Pearys Discovery, April 6, 1909 and Cooks Own Story of His Claim (Classic Reprint)



Excerpt from Finding the North Pole: Commander Pearys Discovery, April 6, 1909 and Cooks Own Story of His Claim

The early editions of this book were published immediately after the return of Commander Peary and Dr. Cook with their claims of discovery of the North Pole. In going through the work to prepare this revision we must say modestly but with a considerable degree of pride that there has been practically nothing to change, and only a very little to add in order to bring the thrilling story entirely up to date. In his Introduction to this book Admiral Melville, who is one of the foremost living explorers and authorities on Arctic matters, immediately and clearly expressed his skepticism about the validity of Dr. Cooks claim upon the North Pole in these words: Those who have most keenly felt the extremities of the Arctic, and who are best acquainted with the history of mens baffled attempts to set foot upon the earths axis, can only gasp in wonder at the achievement as recorded in Dr. Cooks own story of his discovery of the North Pole. Having, then, occasionally noted that news is often later modified before it becomes history, and particularly scientific history, I have decided to await the examination of Dr. Cooks own evidence, and naturally with intense interest. Dr. Cooks story was accepted by the whole world, and for weeks he was a great popular hero. Leading scientists supported his claims and he was given an honorary degree by the University of

Copenhagen, where he first met with scientific men after his return from the frozen North. The King of Denmark paid him extraordinary attentions and President Taft sent him a congratulatory cablegram. His lectures were attended by thousands, and his fame seemed destined to be immortal. Yet we did not at any time vouch for the truth of his story in this book, but gave it principally in his own words as he issued it to the world, and we shared the sentiments of Admiral Melville where he said in concluding his Introduction, Dr. Cooks report of his expedition must stand or fall on its own merits. After the Danish tribunal examined his alleged evidence it appeared that Dr. Cook had not given sufficient evidence that he had reached the North Pole, and he was generally denounced as an impostor. About the PublisherForgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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