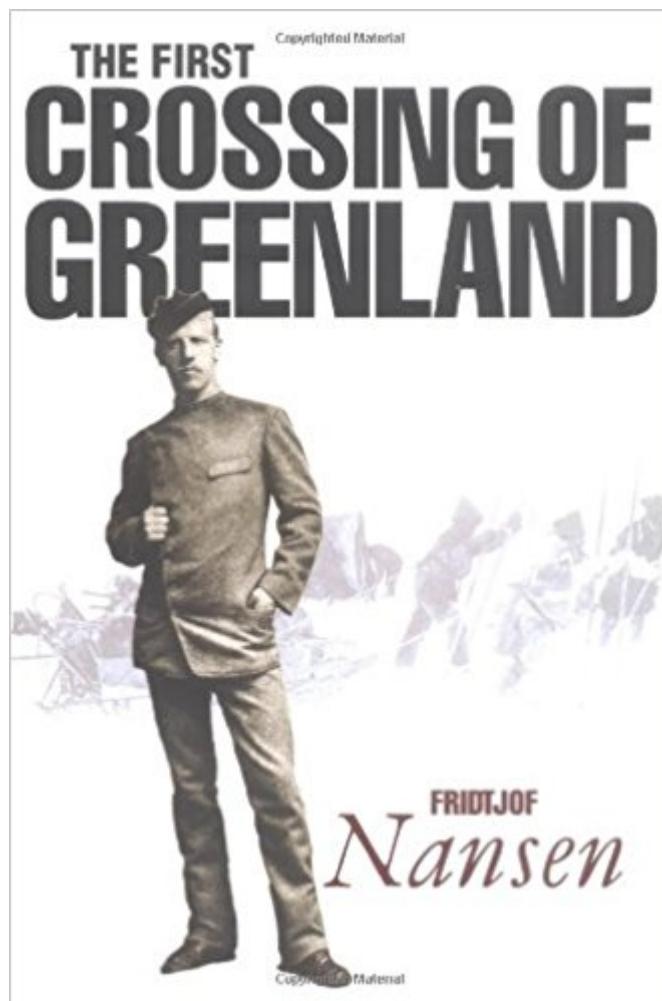


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First Crossing Of Greenland



Synopsis

Over the history of polar exploration towers one titanic father figure - Fridtjof Nansen. That a little known researcher in neurology from Bergen Museum was able to put together one of the first great journeys of exploration of our time is a tribute to the extraordinary force and magnetism of his personality. That he should show such extraordinary innovation in the use of sledges and skis, such attention to detail in areas such as diet and the make of sleeping bag is equally extraordinary. Although Nansen's success is overshadowed by the epic voyage of the Fram, his journey across Greenland in 1888 (eight attempts before him had failed) remains one of the most astonishing on record. Even the Eskimos were to regard his achievement in awe: '...now you will travel to the unknown world out there, you will possibly forget us among all the people, but we will never forget you.' On his return Nansen became a living legend - a third of the population of Oslo came out to greet him and he was awarded a sinecure for the rest of his life. His Greenland journey and the ensuing lecture tour inspired a surge in exploration across Europe. This, the first modern edition of The First Crossing of Greenland, removes the technical appendices, the historical sections on previous attempts to penetrate the ice field, and the detailed account of the Eskimos. The record of the incredible journey, however, remains intact.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"From Norway Six men came out. Four Norwegians. Two were Lapps Together with the Norwegians They landed on our East Coast...They wandered over the Inland Ice Suffering great need Scarcely did they have enough food or change of clothes...At last they came over the ice. - Eskimo folklore

Born in 1861, Fridtjof Nansen was one of the greatest figures of his age and a Norwegian national hero, particularly after the epic voyage of the Fram to the Arctic. He inspired directly other explorers such as Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton, although his achievements ranged far beyond the fields of exploration. He was one of the founders of neurology, a crucial figure in the Norwegian achievement of independence and Norway's first ambassador to London. Through his force of personality he played a crucial role in repatriating hundreds of thousands of prisoners at the end of the First World War, and, in undertaking famine relief in Russia, dealt directly with Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin. His role in the new League of Nations was vital in establishing the organization's international credibility. He died in 1930.

Nansen...a real man. What an adventure! You need to read this and Farthest North...

Great!

A classic worth the readNansen was not an Amundsen but yet he lead the way

Fridtjof Nansen in this book did more to bring skiing to the larger world than any other individual. Until his Greenland crossing on skis, few outside of Norway, or Scandinavia at the most, had heard of skiing, although of course it had existed there for centuries. The early chapter of the book on skis and "skilobing" (skiing) is a marvelous account of the sport, and particularly of Sondre Norheim and the Telemarkers who revolutionized it as recreation. Nansen writes the book in what can only be called a charming tone. He makes the crossing of the icecap seem easy, and indeed, most of the harrowing detail of the expedition relates to the efforts of the party after being dropped off at sea on the east coast of Greenland, through the ice floes with great difficulty, to an eventual landing and a hard climb up to the central ice plateau. There is also considerable detail given about the way of life of the Eskimo and Danish inhabitants of the Greenland west coast, where Nansen and his party overwintered after the crossing. A classic of "cold exploration" and a lively style and good read after more than a century.

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