

(Download) Pilgrims on the Ice: Robert Falcon Scott's First Antarctic Expedition

Pilgrims on the Ice: Robert Falcon Scott's First Antarctic Expedition

T. H. Baughman

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T. H. Baughman : Pilgrims on the Ice: Robert Falcon Scott's First Antarctic Expedition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pilgrims on the Ice: Robert Falcon Scott's First Antarctic Expedition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good points: The book is very well researched By Herman Melville I have read about 15 books on South Polar exploration and so I am familiar with Scott's first attempt at the Pole, but I

have never come across a book devoted solely to Scott's "Discovery" expedition of 1901-1904. Though it has some flaws, this work is worth reading, especially for those with previous knowledge of the Heroic Age of polar conquest. Good points: The book is very well researched, relying heavily on journal accounts written by the participants but also demonstrating a command of other scholarly research into Scott and Shackleton, in particular. Baughman goes to some pains to point out what he finds wanting in Huntford's scathing treatments of Scott, but is himself critical of Scott a number of times, showing, for example, that Scott's decision to send Shackleton home early was probably based not on jealousy, as Huntford argues, but on a sense that Shackleton was simply not "plucky" enough for sledging in extreme conditions. Though the author shows the difference between what Scott said about Shackleton in his journal and what Scott said in public--emphasizing Shackleton's fragility and failure to meet the physical and mental challenges of the trip south--Baughman leaves it to the reader to understand that Scott was being unfair to Shackleton and colored his public pronouncements to fit the image of Shackleton that Scott had decided was the "real" man: unreliable and weak, unfit to lead men south. Bad points: There are only two small, very unhelpful maps. No photographs at all, though a number of photos exist (and can be found on the website of the Scott Polar Research Institute). The author laments at one point that illustrations and photos were too expensive. Also, the writing is at times unwieldy: there are poor transitions and poor paragraph organization (sorry; I'm an English teacher). Finally, there are some baffling editing issues. The book consistently uses the word "sight" when "site" is meant. The story is gripping enough to overcome these problems, and if you have an interest in this subject, it is well worth reading.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fresh and reasoned assessment
By Susan R. Matthews
This book presents a fresh and reasoned assessment of Scott's first Antarctic expedition in its historical context. Engagingly written and well researched, its perspective casts an interesting light on aspects of Scott's first Antarctic expedition that have been passed over in general works on Scott in favor of the drama of the second expedition. The first expedition had ample drama of its own, and the author's take on such personalities as Clements Markham, Shackleton, and Scott himself is different enough from "standard received" to merit reading. I was particularly interested in the author's description of the interplay between Scott's orders as he received them and perceived them and subsequent criticism of the expedition for its failure to maximize the results obtained for the resources invested. All in all, readable, informative, interesting, and well worth a read. You will find the point of view rather different from that so persuasively presented by Roland Huntford in his recently re-released "Scott and Amundsen," but partisanship -- if so strong a term may be used -- intrudes only occasionally, and then only in instances in which the author feels unfair misrepresentation may have done violence to the historical record. I enjoyed this book!

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Scott and Shackleton's First Antarctic Expedition
By Grill lover
Dr. Baughman continues to build on his reputation as America's preeminent polar historian in this book: *Pilgrims on Ice* (his first book on early Antarctic exploration was *Before the Heroes Came*). This book focuses on Robert Scott and the Discovery Expedition 1901 to 1904. By reading Dr. Baughman's work - one can see that this initial expedition laid the groundwork for the British expeditions of the following 21 years. In fact, the major players all played a part in this initial expedition. This voyage was Shackleton's first expedition to the South (serving as Scott's third officer). And I enjoyed the new insights Baughman provided into the young Shackleton, as well as the human details on expedition leader Scott and the rest of band. In its 250-odd pages of text, this becomes the first exhaustive account of the Discovery expedition 1901 to 1904 by a late 20th century polar historian. Baughman's extensive use of original documents in British and European archives brings fresh insight and more details on this heroic group than ever before available. I recommend this for lovers of travel, adventure, and biography.

Robert Falcon Scott's 1901-1904 expedition to the Antarctic was a landmark event in the history of Antarctic exploration, creating a sensation comparable to the Arctic efforts of the American Robert E. Peary. Scott's initial expedition was also the first step toward the dramatic race to the South Pole in 1912, which resulted in the tragic deaths of Scott and his companions. Since then Scott's reputation has vacillated between two extremes: Was he a martyred hero, the beau ideal of a brave and selfless explorer, or a bumbling fool whose mistakes killed him and his entire party?

By 1900, the great Victorian explorers had opened up vast areas of the Globe. As one of the world's few remaining uncharted tracts, Antarctica fired contemporaries' imaginations. To lead its Antarctic expedition of 1901, the Royal Geographical Society of London chose Robert Scott, a naval officer who was to die a decade later attempting to reach the South Pole. T. H. Baughman, Chair of History at Benedictine College, makes it clear that, in the 19th-century tradition, adventure rather than science was the overriding motivation for the 1901 expedition. With academic thoroughness he follows the venture's funding, the construction of a custom-built ship, and the vessel's slow journey south. For two years its crew explored new latitudes, enduring with basic equipment some of the most extreme weather on earth. Scurvy was a problem, clothing was primitive, and candles were insufficient for the long Antarctic winters. The enterprise was typical of the qualities that won the British Empire, a combination of amateurish blundering and stiff-upper-lip determination. Filled with human drama, the book offers a fascinating picture of Victorian social mores, the class distinctions between officers and men highlighted with telling (often food-related)

vignettes. Besides its geographical discoveries, the expedition was important in providing experience for several of the later Antarctic explorers, including Shackleton and Scott himself. Since the discovery of extraordinary photographs taken on Shackleton's ill-fated expedition (see Caroline Alexander's *The Endurance*), interest in early polar exploration has surged. *Pilgrims On The Ice* is a major addition to the field. --John Stevenson 0;A long-needed, detailed assessment of Scott's first Antarctic venture. . . . This is essential reading: vivid, exciting;even well-read Antarctic aficionados will hasten to turn the pages to learn how Scott manages to free his ship from the ice and take it home in one piece.1;2; "Choice"0;Here is a book full of interest which synthesises a remarkable variety of written records. It is a marvelous read and greatly increases our respect for a venture combining the strengths and weaknesses of both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.1;2;David E. Sugden, "English Historical "0;Baughman presents the story concisely and clearly. He has worked extensively in the primary sources and brings out new evidence about the expedition and its participants. . . . "Pilgrims on the Ice" is a solid contribution to the history of Antarctic discovery.1;2;E. Jeffrey Stann, "The American Neptune: A Quarterly Journal of Maritime History and Arts""A long-needed, detailed assessment of Scott's first Antarctic venture. . . . This is essential reading: vivid, exciting-even well-read Antarctic aficionados will hasten to turn the pages to learn how Scott manages to free his ship from the ice and take it home in one piece."-Choice"Here is a book full of interest which synthesises a remarkable variety of written records. It is a marvelous read and greatly increases our respect for a venture combining the strengths and weaknesses of both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries."-David E. Sugden, English Historical "Baughman presents the story concisely and clearly. He has worked extensively in the primary sources and brings out new evidence about the expedition and its participants. . . . Pilgrims on the Ice is a solid contribution to the history of Antarctic discovery."-E. Jeffrey Stann, The American Neptune: A Quarterly Journal of Maritime History and ArtsFrom the Back CoverRobert Falcon Scott's 1901-4 expedition to the Antarctic was a landmark event in the history of Antarctic exploration and created a sensation comparable to the Arctic efforts of the American Robert E. Peary. Scott's initial expedition was also the first step toward the dramatic race to the South Pole in 1912 that resulted in the tragic deaths of Scott and his companions. Since then Scott's reputation has vacillated between two extremes: Was he a martyred hero, the beau ideal of a brave and selfless explorer, or a bumbling fool whose mistakes killed him and his entire party? In this work, Antarctic historian T. H. Baughman goes beyond the personality of Scott to remove the first expedition from the shadow of the second, to study objectively its purpose, its composition, and its real accomplishments.