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Sir Ranulph Fiennes Bernadette Hince
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2000 #File Name: B0178N6NUW | File size: 50.Mb

Sir Ranulph Fiennes Bernadette Hince : The Antarctic Dictionary : A Complete Guide to Antarctic English(Hardback) - 2000 Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Antarctic Dictionary : A Complete Guide to Antarctic English(Hardback) - 2000 Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cool companion to Antarctic adventureBy Scribblers2How bizarre -- a dictionary of Antarctic English! Yet what a great find. I began reading this dictionary one roasting hot summer heatwave in Australia, and it was more refreshing than air-conditioning. Reading about 'cold currents', 'ice-fog' and snow sledging journeys with dogs into the Antarctic interior had me mentally dwelling in that land of eternal snow and howling blizzards.What gives this book such interest is that the definition of each term is accompanied by illustrative quotes from a vast range of source material, including many of the early Antarctic explorers' diaries and journals.Since that summer, I've re-acquainted with the dictionary during a cruise to Antarctica and found it a very handy guide. To be able to name and describe what you are looking at, from icebergs (brash ice, bergy bits, growlers) to seals (weddells, crabeaters, lions), from whales (minke, humpback, orca) to the wind (Roaring Forties, Furious Fifties, the fumigator, katabatic), helps you understand more and therefore gain even more from the extraordinary experience.Technically, the dictionary covers the "literature of the English-speaking presences in Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic from earliest writings until modern times", and the author claims 20,000 quotations from published sources (UK, USA, Australia, NZ and South Africa). Beautifully laid out, and painstakingly researched, the dictionary is clearly a reliable and authoritative work by CSIRO Publishing.Many of the words are borrowings from north polar

regions, brought by Norwegian, Russian or Canadian whalers (mukluks, pemmican). However, many were coined in Antarctica to describe the unfamiliar fauna and terrain. As Sir Ranulph Fiennes writes in his Foreword: "I have had the privilege of trekking across Antarctica and like others before me, found myself in an environment so alien to human experience, so overwhelmingly different, that even the riches of the English language were often inadequate to describe it." It sounds strange to enjoy reading a dictionary but this is not heavy going at all. Unexpected humour (tourists are warned to avoid inflicting 'Kodak poisoning' on the wildlife ('the imaginary affliction of a subject of frenzied photographing'), strange and beautiful concepts ("snow bow": 'a rainbow reflecting the sun's light in snow rather than rain', cited in Moseley (1879) "One evening, where there was a very slight fall of snow at the time that there was a brilliant sunset, a snow bow was seen arching high up in the sky. It did not show regularly arranged prismatic colours, but only a uniform bright pinkish yellow hazy light."), and examples of extraordinary courage and perseverance by so many explorers add warmth and colour to this text that describes so icy and white a world. Highly recommended for anyone visiting Antarctica, as a tourist or a 'frozen chosen' ('those who work in Antarctica'), or if you are enduring an extreme summer heatwave and just need to chill out. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent. By M. Fowler If you are any kind of Antarctica buff, you owe it to yourself to get this book. Just reading the histories of some of the word usages is fascinating in and of itself, and a few of the words, well ... men under stress have to have a sense of humor to help them survive, and this dictionary documents that very well. My only complaint is that the type was a little small, but other than that, excellent. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Antarctic Dictionary You Will Want to READ By Hazel Edwards `Snotsicle' you can probably guess, but ever heard of `Kodak-poisoning', `Big-eye' or `The frozen chosen'? Neither had I, before reading `The Antarctic Dictionary'. Reading about Antarctica is cooling, especially during a hot Australian summer. Take a slow browse especially through the recently dated, well sourced quotations which are very readable. Some are expeditioners' diary extracts. Kodak or Fiji poisoning is the imaginary affliction of being the subject of frenzied photographing. Penguins and icebergs get it a lot. `Big-eye' is insomnia, attributed to the length of daylight in Antarctic summers. The `frozen chosen' is US derived, for those who work in Antarctica. Otherwise they're known as Antarcticans or maybe Casey-ites or Mawson-ites if that is their work station. Antarctica has a mystique, even if it isn't on the Qantas map. Until I read lexicographer Bernadette Hince's introduction, I hadn't thought about Antarctica's lack of local native speakers. Unlike the Arctic human inhabitants, Antarctic penguins and seals didn't speak much, a challenge for any dictionary-creator. So it makes sense that many of the 15,000 quotations from 1,000 sources were attempts to label new ice-scapes, birds (shags), food (chompers) equipment (larc and quad), weather (the fumigator), shelter (melon hut) or states of mind in Antarctica. Early sealers and whalers were Scandinavian and northern words like pemmican (a dried meat) were adapted to `pem'. Before this dictionary, no-one had ever made a study of the English of Antarctica. As explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes points out in the foreword, the dictionary contains `..the language of scientists, engineers, technicians and doctors of the nations that have established permanent bases in Antarctica.' Resourcefulness is evident. 'teabag' (Aust) is an Antarctic word, attributed to Mawson in 1912 and to another 1909 Australian expedition. The `A' factor is a humorous term for the unreasonableness of things due to severe weather or extreme isolation. A 'moop' is a man out of phase due to changing patterns of light (like a high latitude version of jet-lag) Being `toasted' means feeling anti-social and needing to be left alone. Polar ennui is explained. All references are masculine, no mention of a 'woop', (woman out of phase) although ice-widow, whose partner winters in Antarctica, is documented. 'Bottom of the world' is supported by a reference to: 'There are some things women don't do, 'Harry Darlington told his bride. 'They don't become Pope or President -or go down to the Antarctic.' A reasonable statement in 1947. Just a few weeks after their wedding, her husband was going away to the bottom of the world for a full year. (Barbara Land: The New Explorers: Women in Antarctica. 1981) So, who will buy this dictionary? Students. Expeditioners. Antarctica has become so `cool' that 14,000 tourists visited last summer. And, as a temporary `frozen chosen', I'll understand when I am called a Jafo (Just another.... observer.) by mid-winter-ites.

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