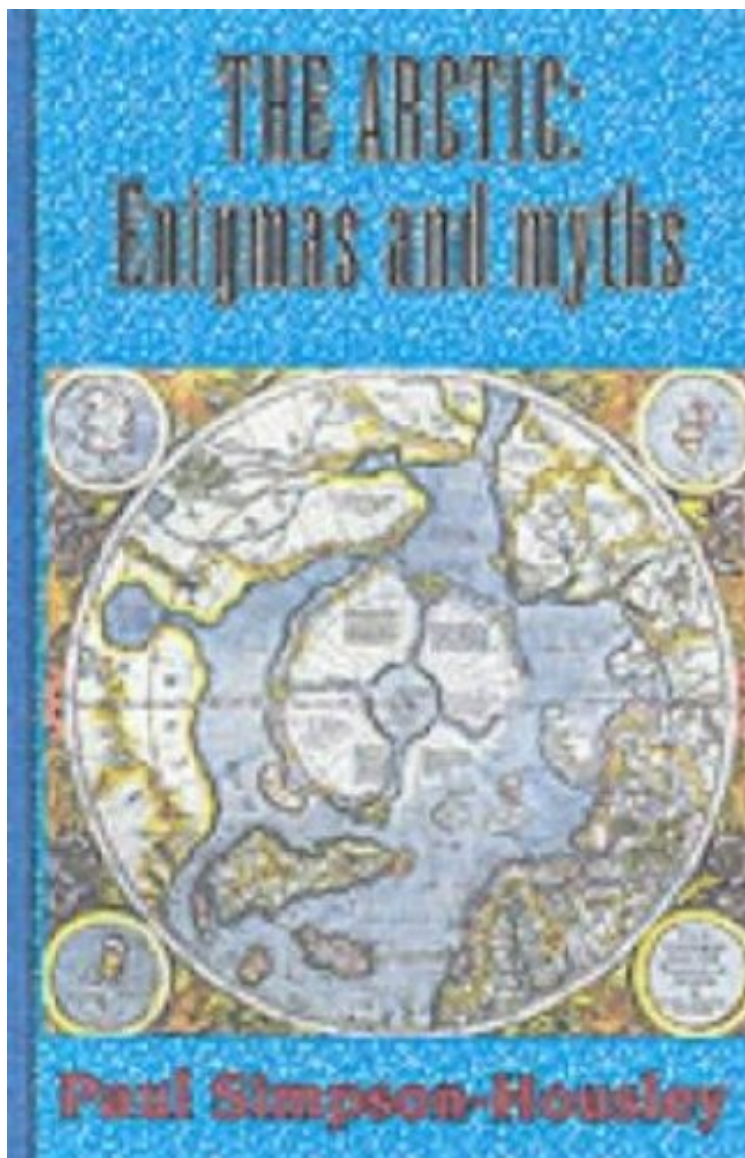


[E-BOOK] The Arctic: Enigmas and Myths

## The Arctic: Enigmas and Myths

*Simpson-Housley, Paul Simpson-Housley*  
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**Simpson-Housley, Paul Simpson-Housley : The Arctic: Enigmas and Myths** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Arctic: Enigmas and Myths:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting though too trusting review of Arctic Chimeras By James J. Bloom I bought this book to help in my research for a forthcoming book on geographical fantasies (Sailing the Sea of Dreams, to be published in 2012). "The Arctic" is a handy summary of some quite spurious visits to polar regions

and a few that claimed to sight or reach new lands conjectured to be on Canada's northeastern coast. But the author isn't skeptical enough in my humble opinion. I had already read about these alleged events, and was curious to see what the author had to say about their credibility. I found the book to be a useful review of the ancient and medieval voyage literature, but its conclusions were a bit naive. For example, take Tom Severin's attempt to replicate St. Brendan's supposed voyage to Newfoundland or Labrador in the sixth century AD. "The Arctic" acknowledges the religious allegorical purpose of the original Irish account, a manuscript written or edited two centuries after the supposed theology-inspired cruise of Brendan. However, the book completely trusts Severin's linking of things he observed with the weird visits recorded by the ancient chronicle. Other critics of Severin's book and modern voyage in a curragh (open wood-framed animal hide boat the size of a lifeboat on a cruise ship) have questioned the facile equation of Brendan's mirages or biblical allegories with things Severin saw. Buy this book if you want a brief (144-pages) resume of the myths and legends about arctic exploration, but if you want a critical account you will have to look elsewhere.