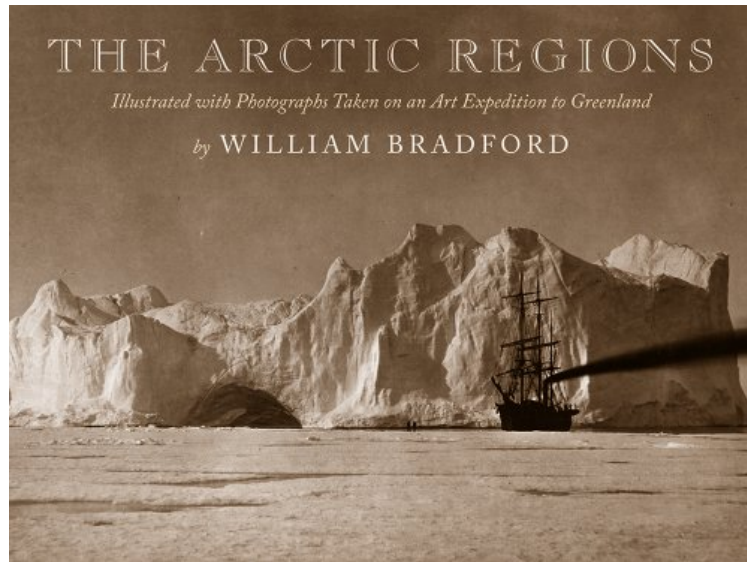


The Arctic Regions: Illustrated with Photographs Taken on an Art Expedition to Greenland

William Bradford

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William Bradford : The Arctic Regions: Illustrated with Photographs Taken on an Art Expedition to Greenland before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Arctic Regions: Illustrated with Photographs Taken on an Art Expedition to Greenland:

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. DisappointedBy Pascal PenseesI do know the breathtaking quality of the original Bradford images, which, in my opinion, is sadly lost in the repro quality here. Tipped in photographs, on high quality (rag) paper, would, in my opinion, have been the correct way to proceed to give full justice to the original Bradford plates sepia tones.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A rarity now available to the publicBy Russell A. PotterFull disclosure: I wrote the introduction to this book, and participated in some of its preparation. What I'm addressing here is the overall point of the project, reprinting a very significant Arctic photography and travel book, an extraordinary volume only available in a few rare book collections; the few copies sold have gone for more than \$100,000.00. This edition actually reproduces many of the photos in a larger size than the original. Could it have been finer had it been printed on rag paper, with individual prints tipped in? Sure, but then it would have cost hundreds of dollars a copy, and this remarkable book would still be unavailable to most readers.

A landmark in the annals of American photography and polar adventure, William Bradford's book *The Arctic Regions* was first published for subscribers in 1873. No more than three hundred copies of the leather-bound elephant folio are known to have been printed. The book has been a prized possession of major American and European museums, libraries, and collectors ever since. With an introduction written by the noted polar historian Russell A. Potter, *The Arctic Regions* is now available for the first time to the trade. As the pace of global climate change quickens and the magnificent Arctic icecap dwindles, its publication could not be more timely or important. This volume, artist William Bradford explained, is the result of an expedition to the Arctic regions, made solely for the purposes of art, in the

summer of 1869. Bradford had brought with him the eminent Arctic explorer and author Dr. Isaac Israel Hayes, and he had engaged the 450-ton steamer Panther to sail from St. John's, Newfoundland. On July 3rd they departed, carrying a party of adventurers whose story is partially illustrated by the photographic views contained in this volume. Bradford became one of the first American painters to pursue the dream of painting the Arctic regions firsthand. He had made several previous voyages, but none this ambitious or far-reaching. His purpose was always to study nature under its terrible aspects, to acquire material for later use in his artwork and after that in lectures illustrated with stereopticon views. On this voyage Bradford brought along two photographers from Boston, John L. Dunmore and George P. Critcherson. They were the first photographic professionals to document so northerly a voyage. Their images added the crucial aura of truth to Bradford's work. While other artists had depicted the northern regions, none had made photography so central a part of the artistic process. Today, the science-infused and art-driven narrative of *The Arctic Regions* offers a prophetic prelude to current news of the Earth's climate situation: these regions, first photographed under Bradford's direction, may yet vanish in our lifetime, never to be seen again.

About the Author William Bradford (1823-1892) was born and brought up in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Bradford began his professional art career painting ship portraits. In 1861, he obtained financial backing for a journey to sketch and photograph the coast of Labrador. On this and subsequent voyages, he became fascinated with the special qualities of atmospheric light in northern regions. In 1869, Bradford made a notable expedition to the Arctic on the Panther leading to the original publication of *The Arctic Regions*.