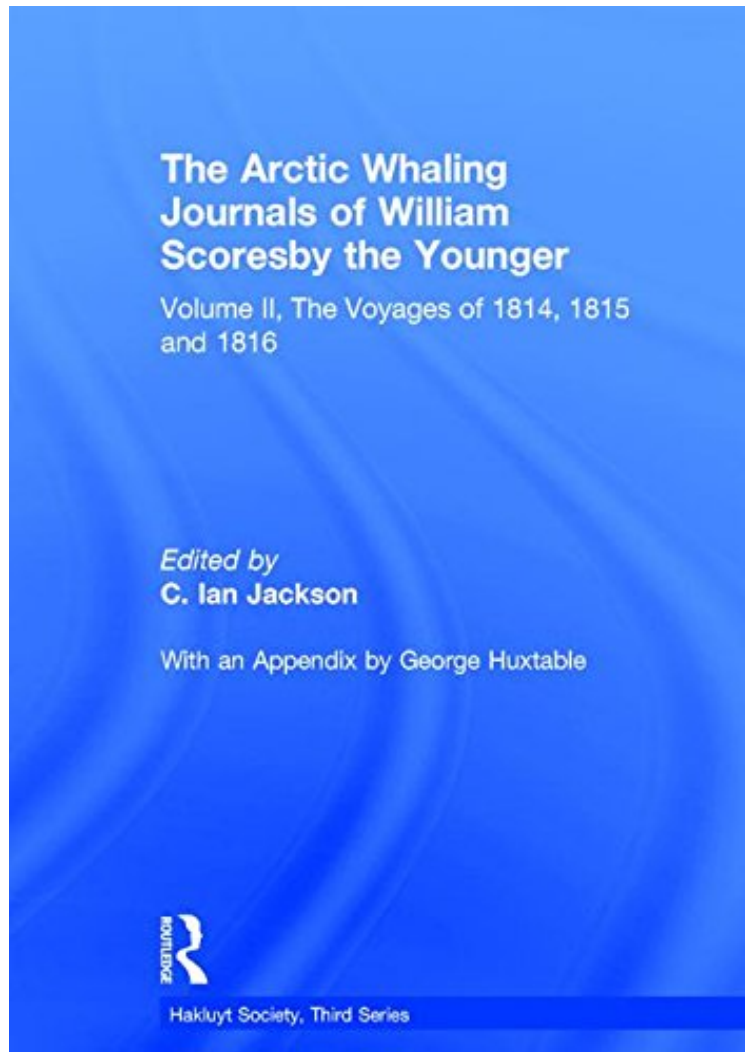


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## **The Arctic Whaling Journals of William Scoresby the Younger/ Volume II / The Voyages of 1814, 1815 and 1816 (Hakluyt Society, Third Series)**

*William Scoresby*

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## Voyages of 1814, 1815 and 1816 (Hakluyt Society, Third Series):

This second volume of William Scoresby's journals contains the unpublished accounts of his three voyages in the *Esk* in 1814-16. As before, these lengthy journals combine scientific records and social and religious comment as well as detailed descriptions of navigation and whaling. They also continue to demonstrate the competence and confidence of Scoresby which were evident from the moment he assumed command of the *Resolution* in 1811. However, each of the journals also shows the dangers inherent in what might otherwise seem to be routine annual sailings to the Greenland Sea in latitudes 78 to 80 N. The dangers were not merely those of besetment and damage by the ice where the bowhead whales had to be sought, nor of the persistent fog and frequent gales characteristic of these icy seas; human error and even stupidity could be equally disastrous. In 1814, the *Esk* was caught in the tidal current of the Sumburgh Rst and nearly wrecked before she even reached Shetland on her outward voyage. The journal for 1815 also contains a graphic description of the destruction by fire of the Hull whaler *Clapham*, regarded by Scoresby as 'the finest ship that ever engaged in the [whale] fishing trade.' For high drama, and Scoresby's crisis management and seamanship, however, the 1816 journal is outstanding. When part of the *Esk*'s hull was torn off by ice in latitude 78 N on 29 June, various methods of repair were tried without success, including a drastic attempt to invert the empty ship in the sea at the ice-edge. Scoresby's ability to return the *Esk* safely to Whitby on 26 July, with only the floorboards of the hold keeping the leakage to a manageable rate, still seems as incredible now as it was to the crews of the other whaling ships who had eagerly anticipated plundering an abandoned ship in the Arctic. In addition to the journals and the editor's introduction, this volume also contains a unique 'second view' of the 1814 voyage: the journal kept by a young supernumerar

About the Author Ian Jackson was born in Keighly in 1935 and has geography degrees from London and McGill Universities. He was one of four wintering members of the Canadian International Geophysical Year expedition to northern Ellesmere Island in 1957-8 and his account of that year, *Does Anyone Read Lake Hazen?*, was published by the Canadian Circumpolar Institute Press in 2002. He taught at the London School of Economics from 1959 to 1969, and then occupied a series of environmental and policy planning positions in the Canadian Government in Ottawa. From 1978 to 1981 he was a member of the United Nations Secretariat in Geneva and New York and then Executive Director of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society at its head-quarters in New Haven, Connecticut. He has been a member of The Hakluyt Society since the 1960s, and has served on its Council. He is an Associate Fellow of Timothy Dwight College, Yale University, and his volume in 2000 for the Champlain Society (Toronto) entitled *Letters from the 49th Parallel, 1857-1873* was based on material in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale. Volume I of the Scoresby journals appeared in 2003, Volume II in 2008.