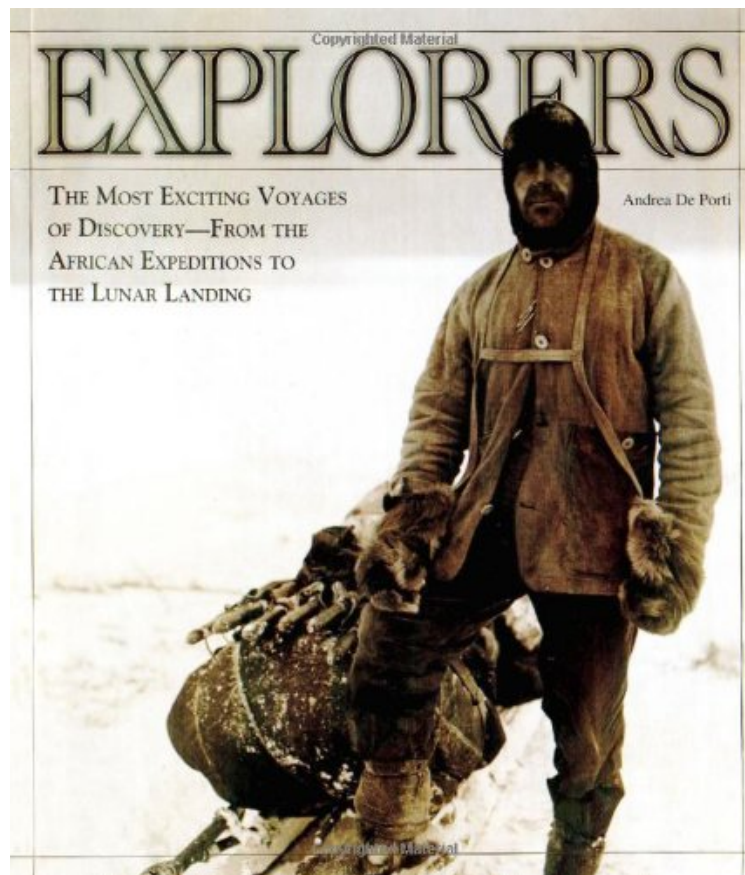


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## Explorers: The Most Exciting Voyages of Discovery -- From the African Expeditions to the Lunar Landing

Andrea Porti

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**Andrea Porti : Explorers: The Most Exciting Voyages of Discovery -- From the African Expeditions to the Lunar Landing** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Explorers: The Most Exciting Voyages of Discovery -- From the African Expeditions to the Lunar Landing:

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A superbly illustrated reference of great explorers and their expeditions since 1845. One of the most exciting periods of exploration coincided with the invention of photography. As a result, the most important expeditions over the last 160 years were captured and preserved by incredibly dramatic photographs. Explorers is a stunning history of such expeditions, presented chronologically since 1845. It features rare archival photographs, maps, prints, and drawings, reproduced on stunning gatefolds that fold out to up to 40 inches across and up to 22 inches high. Text includes a short biography of each explorer, the extraordinary stories of their expeditions, and passages from their personal journals. The explorers featured include, among many others, a total of 22: Richard Francis Burton and John Hanning Speke: sources of the Nile Henry Stanley: looking for Livingstone Isabella Bird Bishop: China Ernest Shackleton: Antarctica Roald Amundsen: the Northwest Passage and the South Pole Gertrude Bell: Iraq Maria Reiche: Nazca, Peru Thor Heyerdahl: Kon-Tiki raft across the Pacific Edmund Hillary: atop Mount Everest Neil Armstrong: first steps on the Moon. Explorers is the fascinating and uniquely illustrated history of the explorers and how their expeditions influenced the world we live in today.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . This photo- and fact-filled book, in which nearly every page is a generously illustrated double gatefold, lands on the table with an undeniable thud and details 58 expeditions from the past 150 years—from Robert Peary and Matthew Henson's trek to the North Pole in 1909 to Edmund Hillary's 1953 climb up Everest (called by Tibetans "the mother goddess of the world") to Neil Armstrong's "one small step" onto the moon in 1969. De Porti, a writer and editor for Charta and art director of Alumina, chose these stories for their "cultural and scientific significance" and combines often-unseen images (readers will find reproductions of pages from travel journals, maps and sketches among the hundreds of archival photos) with explorer biographies and travel narratives. De Porti recounts failed as well as successful expeditions, and it's the former that resonate most, notably the doomed adventure of Robert Falcon Scott, who, after reaching the South Pole, discovered Roald Amundsen had planted the Norwegian flag there barely a month prior. Scott died on the return journey. Though some explorers' intentions were more noble than others (expanding colonial interests played no small role in many expeditions), the creative way these journeys are presented will impress armchair adventurers. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist \*Starred \* De Porti points out in a preface that when Yuri Gagarin orbited the earth in Vostok I in just over 90 minutes in 1961, he was able to travel the same distance as the HMS Challenger in its three-and-a-half-year voyage around the world, which began in 1872. From the middle of the nineteenth century, as the author indicates, there are historical documents, accounts, and reports of expeditions, and photographs, and many of them are extraordinarily evocative images, despite their having been taken with primitive equipment. The story of exploration is a story told in pictures, and this book contains hundreds of rare archival photos, both color and black and white, spread over vertical and horizontal gatefolds. The 53 stories here, De Porti writes, have been selected for their historical and scientific importance and also for their "sheer fascination." Some voyages are well known—those of Charles Lindbergh, Roald Amundsen, Robert Stott, Thor Heyerdahl, and Neil Armstrong. Some explorers are little known—such as Katherine Routledge, who explored the mysterious stone statues and the ancient culture that had erected them on Easter Island; Maria Reiche, who for 40 years studied the ancient archaeological sites of South America; and Vittorio Sella, who photographed the highest peaks, towering cliffs, and glaciers in America, Asia, and Africa. Readers will be fascinated by these journeys. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved This wonderful book introduces some of the most famous explorers in a most readable form. I recommend it highly. (Peter F. Arvedson Science Books and Films) [Top 10 Literary Travel Books list] The 53 stories told here have been selected for their historical and scientific importance. (Brad Hooper Booklist 2006-09-15) Photo- and fact-filled book, in which nearly every page is a generously illustrated double gatefold... the creative way these journeys are presented will impress armchair adventurers. (Publishers Weekly Annex 2005-10-10) [Starred review:] Extraordinarily evocative images... the story of exploration is a story told in pictures, and this book contains hundreds of rare archival photos... Readers will be fascinated by these journeys. (George Cohen Booklist 2005-12-01) Fascinating stops into explorations... it's a handsome book. (Sarah Bryan Miller St Louis Post-Dispatch 2005-12-18) 53 incredible stories, this book takes readers on a marvelous voyage of discovery that spans all seven continents... History buffs and armchair adventurers alike will find this book to be an absolutely fascinating read. (Gail Hamilton CM Magazine 2005-12-09) Cleverly formatted with gatefolds (which open up to create spreads 20" by 22" and larger), the layout allows the stunning photographs to illuminate the "scientific and historical importance" of each journey. (Margaret Atwater Singer Library Journal 2005-10-01) Historic photographs, maps and brief narratives outline 150 fascinating years of discovery... It's hard to imagine how much of a mystery the world once was -- and it's nice to be reminded. (Michael J. Ybarra Wall Street Journal 2005-10-08) Vivid photography and extraordinary stories... highlights some of the most fascinating expeditions since the 1840s. (Calgary Herald 2005-10-08) Imaginatively designed book. It is richly illustrated with historic photographs, maps and pages that fold out into poster-sized formats. (USA Today 2005-12-02) Stunningly different history of the endless quest for the undiscovered... lavish photographic treatment. (Globe and Mail 2005-12-10) The visual effect is stunning. What's also interesting are the explorers selected... there are also lesser knowns... captures their adventures with stunning accuracy and detail.

(Valerie Hill Kitchener-Waterloo Record 2006-01-07)Lush, brilliantly executed and illustrated. (January Magazine)Remarkable... 55 thick, quarter-folded pages chock-full of vintage photos and maps... The intrepid souls showcased here did it the hard way. (Mike Pearson Rocky Mountain News 2005-12-03)Almost every page folds out into a four-page double gatefold for better display of maps, timelines and astonishing photos. (Austin American-Statesman 2005-12-11)Replete with photographs, maps and brief versions of the derring-do of adventurers. (Robert R. Harris New York Times 2005-12-04)