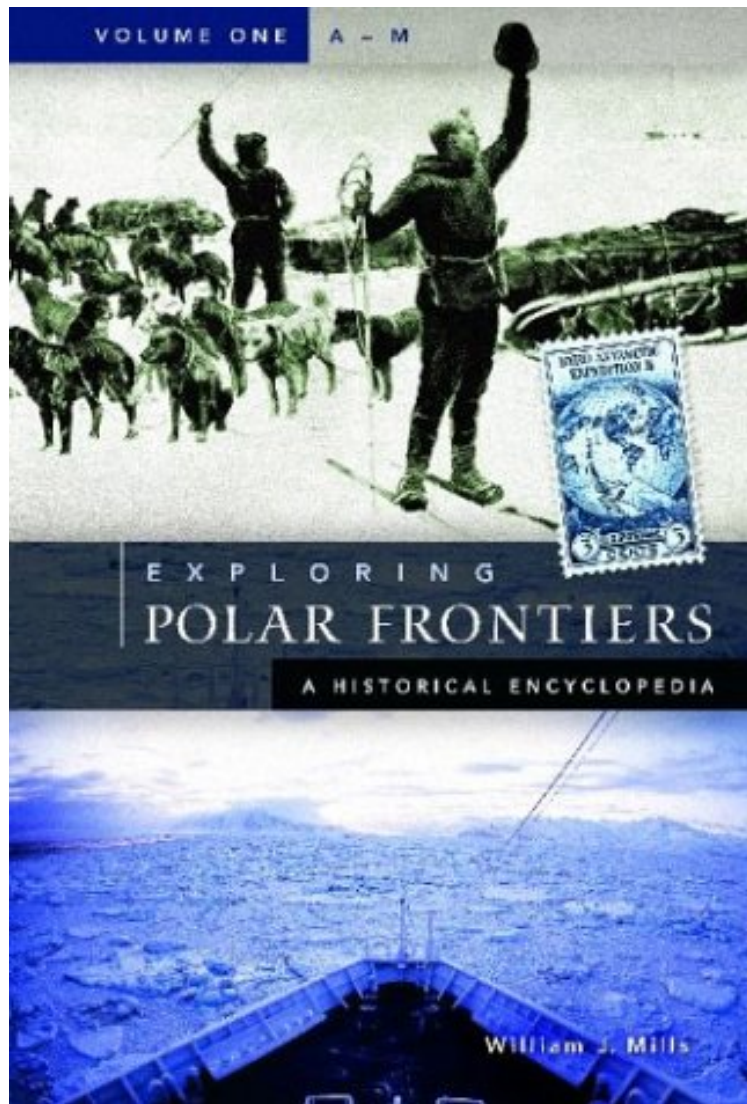


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Exploring Polar Frontiers [2 volumes]: A Historical Encyclopedia

William James Mills

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From Booklist Interest in the Arctic and the Antarctic has grown with the increased coverage of global warming and its effect on sea levels, the popularity of the Endurance saga, and the burgeoning interest in adventure travel. Recent titles such as *Antarctica: An Encyclopedia from Abbott Ice Shelf to Zooplankton* (Firefly, 2002) and *Antarctica and the Arctic: The Complete Encyclopedia* (Firefly, 2001) have provided some information about polar exploration. This excellent encyclopedia, written by the librarian at the Scott Polar Research Institute, concentrates entirely on the history of polar exploration and will be welcomed by both scholars and the general public. More than 500 entries cover people, places, expeditions, ships, countries, and subjects from 325 B.C.E. to the present, with the majority of coverage in the twentieth century. Examples of subject entries include Inuit contributions to polar exploration, Magnetic poles, Sledges and sleds, Surveying and mapping, Whaling and Antarctic exploration, and Women explorers. Entries range in length from a single paragraph to eight pages. The entries are accompanied by more than 160 illustrations, 20 maps, and 22 tables. Each entry has references and suggestions for further reading. There is a chronological polar time line that lists polar expeditions by region, a 135-word glossary of technical terms (such as the different forms of ice and types of vessels), abbreviations and acronyms, an extensive bibliography, and an index. Unfortunately, the index is structured so that the entries for explorers and ships are not where many readers will look for them. For example, Roald Amundsen (the first man to reach the South Pole) is listed under N (Norwegian explorers) but not under A (Amundsen). There is, however, an alphabetical listing of all entries in the front matter as well as lists of entries in chronological order and by broad category. Indexing aside, this is an excellent and thorough resource for anyone interested in the history of polar exploration. It is highly recommended for academic and public libraries where there is interest in the Arctic and Antarctic. RBB Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "[T]he work is wonderfully done, with each essay telling a fascinating story of Arctic and Antarctic exploration and discovery . . . The articles are very well-written and the work is an attractive two-volume set. . . . Most general reference sections will want to acquire this set. Geology, geography, and polar research special collections will find this a handy compendium." - *American Reference Books Annual* "[P]rovides over 500 well researched and fact filled articles that will appeal to anyone interested in polar exploration. Appropriate for reference where there is a strong demand, this is one of those sets that will also be welcomed in circulating collections, especially in larger libraries. In either case, both public and academic libraries will want to consider it for their shelves." - *Against the Grain* "This is an excellent and thorough resource for anyone interested in the history of polar exploration. It is highly recommended for academic and public libraries where there is interest in the Arctic and Antarctic." - *Booklist* "Mills . . . has produced a masterful encyclopedia covering Arctic and Antarctic exploration, 335 BCE to 2001. . . . Highly recommended. Academic, public, and high school libraries." - *Choice* "This is an impressive work which describes many little-known expeditions and aspects of polar exploration." - *The Northern Mariner* About the Author William James Mills was librarian and keeper of collections at the world's largest polar library, located at the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England.