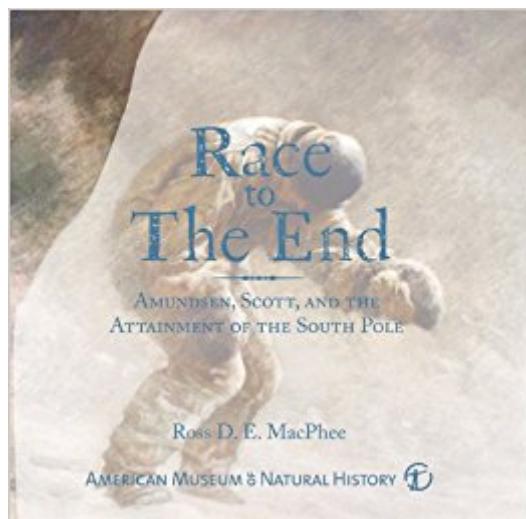


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Race To The End: Amundsen, Scott, And The Attainment Of The South Pole



Synopsis

In connection with the world-famous American Museum of Natural History: the gripping true story of the race to the South Pole. A beautifully told, impeccably researched, and stunningly illustrated account of the arduous quest for social advancement, scientific knowledge, recognition, and pride. A century ago, England's Robert Falcon Scott and Norway's Roald Amundsen; two explorers with vastly different visions; set out separately for the South Pole. The race between these ideal antagonists • resulted in grand heroism, bitter tragedy, and the birth and perpetuation of myths that have lingered for generations. Race to the End takes readers along on each team's trek to Antarctica, and farther to the South Pole; a journey through Earth's harshest, most unforgiving terrain. MacPhee's piercing insight and keen storytelling illuminates not only the natural, biological, and scientific detail, but also the human and emotional motivation. He helps answer the philosophical question asked of every person who undertakes a dangerous and epic exploration: why did he do it? These highly illustrated pages feature diary entries; letters from members of the exploration; drawings, paintings, and photographs of the landscape, living quarters, equipment, and methods of transport; as well as never-before-published images of the last items discovered with Scott and his four mates who perished upon their return from the pole mere miles from the warmth and safety of their base camp.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

MacPhee is the curator of an exhibit running May 2010–January 2011 at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City about the geographic and scientific exploration of Antarctica; his volume chronicles the continent's two most celebrated pioneers. Drawing from and synthesizing

the literature about Roald Amundsen and Robert Scott and their epic treks to the South Pole a century ago, MacPhee wends his text around a profusion of imagery that should excite both the novice and veteran reader of polar exploration. Photographs from both leaders' expeditions and present-day studio poses of artifacts enrich MacPhee's factual rendering of events and, in the case of Scott, his restrained comments on the reasons for Scott's and his men's expiration on their return from the pole. If many of Scott's decisions were questionable, few then and only the churlish since question the heroism that attaches to his fate. An attractive package, this title will answer immediate requests and might provoke deeper interest in MacPhee's classic sources, such as Amundsen's *South Pole* (1912) and Apsley Cherry-Garrard's *Worst Journey in the World* (1937). --Gilbert Taylor

To accompany his American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) exhibit, *Race to the end of the Earth*, open May 29 through January 2, 2011, MacPhee (curator, Division of Vertebrate Zoology, AMNH; *Primates and Their Relatives in Phylogenetic Perspective*) presents Robert Falcon Scott (for the UK) and Norwegian Roald Amundsen's act to claim first arrival at the South Pole for his nation. Each explorer's story has been told often before, dissected, and minutely examined owing to the tragedy that befell Scott and his crew on their return trip from the Pole, which Amundsen had reached first. What makes this volume special are the scores of pictures that bring both Scott's and Amundsen's stories to life, including heretofore unseen images of Scott's last camp, an important contribution to polar literature, as well as excellent reproduction of diaries, the British Antarctic Expedition's newspaper, the *South Polar Times*, and images of all the important individuals whose fate is inextricably tied to this quest. *Race* also includes fabulous panoramas taken from a February 22, 1913, edition of *The Sphere*, which commemorated Scott's expedition. Gatefolds showing the two expedition routes to the pole are included.

VERDICT: Such a cool book; the juxtaposition of these two polar expeditions in photographic detail makes *Race* a welcome addition to Antarctic literature and a must for adventure, polar, and exploration collections. Highly recommended. -- Library Journal

A FANTASTIC BOOK-! Well researched ... Very insightful -- many images of the items actually used by Amundsen & Scott. As a die-hard fan of this dual journey - this race -- to the furthest place South on this planet taken by the Norwegians (Amundsen) & the British (Scott) and their men is most illuminating. For Amundsen, his 4 men and a bunch of dogs pulling sleds, it was largely an uneventful cross-country ski trip to and from the South Pole. For Scott and the large contingent of

men he needed to stock the food depots along the way ... that ultimately became Scott and 4 men to the Pole ... (for which they got there almost a month post-Amundsen) ... it was, as one of his men would later write, 'THE WORST JOURNEY IN THE WORLD' ... and it was. Scott, Wilson, Oates, Bowers & Evans all perished on the way back to their base ... in fact, of the supply points they laid ahead of time, the biggest of them known as 'ONE TON DEPOT,' was only 11 miles away as the remaining Scott, Wilson & Bowers lay dying of scurvy, exposure and starvation. Yet, the Norwegians -- were well-fed the whole of the exploration. Why-? Planning. Preparation. The Brits who made it to the Pole by largely man-hauling, but for various reasons, besides weather -- due to Scott's ill-planning ... all died. In short -- DO READ THIS BOOK. You won't be sorry.

I have been reading various books of polar explorations since childhood. Having recently read South Pole by Amundsen, and The Worst Journey in the World by Cherry-Garrard, I was quite impressed by the objective view this author projected. It is very difficult to imagine what circumstances both explorers had to contend with as well as securing the financing of exploration, it is hard to transcend today's environment and go back to 1910-1912. The photos included provided a view of how cumbersome some of the instruments, wears were compared to today's technology. It was a wonderfully written account of both explorations. I am partial to Amundsen's approach, planning, very thorough and comprehensive, and I am sure that contributed to his winning the competition and more importantly, bringing every member back to the safety of civilization in the end. Well documented book.

Fascinating. I purchased Race To The End and The Endurance at the same time (birthday present to myself!), and found the differences of leadership styles, and overall knowledge of Arctic exploration with Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton, fascinating. I loved both books so much and had an Atlas out the second time I read them so I could visualize somewhat the actual treks.

BUY THIS BOOK. This is one of the best produced books I have ever seen. In addition to the pages of reading and photo's there are a number of EXCELLENT FOLD OUT MAPS at the end of the book. This is the only book you will ever need on this subject.

Many books have been written over the years about Scott and Amundsen's race to the pole. Yet, like so many of us who are intrigued by this incredible story you somehow never get tired of reading more. In this particular account, the author has done a nice job of comparing the two explorers as to

their crews, preparations, planning, interaction with others and personal thoughts and remembrances. In addition he has included many pictures of personnel and artifacts not seen before. The author also gives some good insight into the personalities of the two men. They were so very different in their thoughts, ideas, preparations and dealings with their men. What has always stood out in the past with me is the great knowledge of Amundsen about arctic travel. Once again, this account shows that that knowledge gave him a great edge over Scott. Yet, the personal insight given by the author into Scotts emotions and final thoughts cannot help but make you admire both men. If you love the story of these two men, I highly recommend this book as I am sure it will give you additional insight into this great adventure.

This is an outstanding book for the pictures alone, and it gives a great summary of the Amundsen and Scott expeditions, along with a bit of a look at each man's personality. I'm sure other books go into much greater detail, but this level was excellent and covered the main story. The abundant black and white expedition photos are outstanding, and there are many color photos of items from the expeditions as well. My only criticism of the book was going to be that it did not have a good map of the two routes followed by the explorers, which I could not believe was not included in the book, and then I found it at the very back of the book as a fold out, along with a number of panoramic sketches and the map. There was not a list of the sketches and map in the front of the book, but there is a reference to them. This is where the map is, and it is a good map. The book is highly recommended.

There was a time when parts of the Earth were never visited by man. The book is of first rate quality. Reading is easy and many bits of interesting items are revealed concerning planning and such. Photos are fascinating. Such hardships were endured by those men looking into the camera that it is hard for us to truly understand the dedication to such a cause. Amundsen was the careful planner and it showed. Scott was less so and by comparison a little careless and he and his men paid for that. While Amundsen achieved the goal, it was curiously Scott who became most famous, even today.

Never thought I'd read so many books about ships or people stuck in the ice and freezing and starving. Some are better than others. This was an excellent book. Perfectly balanced story told well. Not too long , not too short, not boring. A pleasure to read, I'll read it again. It came in a nice cover too. So I'll keep it.

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