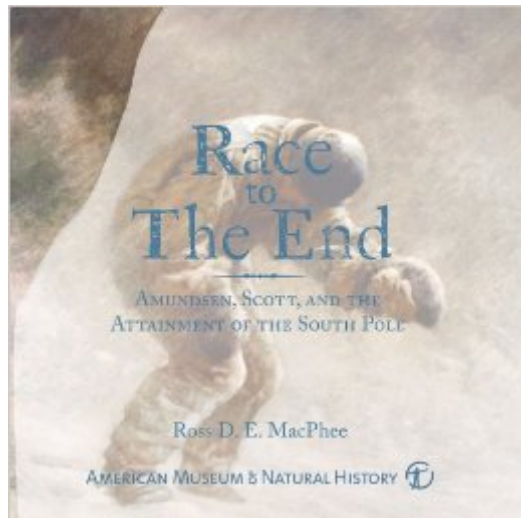


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Race To The End: Amundsen, Scott, And The Attainment Of The South Pole



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

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 civilizations in the end. Well documented book.

Just got the book on publication date (4th May, 2010). I couldn't wait to get my eyes on it, being a student of Antarctic's Heroic era. I was not disappointed. Great, powerful work. There are many priceless pictures, never before printed or published for the general public. One set of photographs shows the Scott polar party at the south pole. No words can describe the horror of those photographs. Scott appears more defeated and beat than on the classic South Pole shot where Birdie Bower pulled the string. Two pictures are particularly disturbing. One shows Uncle Bill Wilson in a very odd manner, surely he is not doing what he appears to be doing. Another shows Titus Oates in the process of disappearing... Another pictures the same Oates, sitting on the cold snow, utterly defeated, beat, lost, suffering beyond imagining and hopeless. One other picture shows Amundsen, Shackleton and Robert Peary in New-York, posing for posterity around a globe. Two IMMORTALS GIANTS and a brutal, immoral and remorseless faker. For the pictures alone, this book is pure gold. That book is an absolute must for everybody interested in Antarctica exploration. A treasure.

This is quite an impressive book published by the American Museum of Natural History in conjunction with their exhibit on the race for the South Pole between Scott and Amundsen. The story is very well-known, so the book only fills in a lot of things that were minor, but informative. There are photos taken at the time of "the race" and also fairly recently. The text is straightforward and easy to comprehend, and even though you know how it is going to turn out, you find yourself rooting for Scott to not only win the race, but to survive. The book reveals that the tragedy of Scott's expedition was due, not only to reliance on man hauling as opposed to dog sleds, but a real lack of comprehensive planning on Scott's part before the actual run for the Pole began. Amundsen was more of a meticulous thinker, and he planned everything quite carefully, leaving nothing to chance. His personality was not like Scott's, for he was single-minded and determined to be the first to the Pole, and anyone who disagreed with anything he did was "banished" from the potential Pole team.

Scott was more haphazard, even taking an extra man on the final push to the Pole, which strained his meager resources, and quite possibly cost him his life, and the lives of his companions. In the Edwardian age, heroes who died striving to achieve a goal were often lauded more than technicians who achieved that goal. So it was with Scott and Amundsen, the dead loser admired and remembered, the live winner not appreciated for his great achievement. This is an excellent "coffee table" book, and I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in Polar exploration, or just wants to read of men striving greatly against almost overwhelming odds.

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 Scott's 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.

I was looking for a solid book to better understand the story of Amundsen and Scott. As this was the latest book published I thought I would give it a try. I actually did not realize it's a small "coffee table" book (about 9x9) with lots of charts and pictures scattered throughout, and was at first thinking this was going to be a bit of a light, teen book or something. However it's an excellent, very well written book, interesting from start to finish. I ended up appreciating the pictures, drawing and charts scattered throughout the book. They add insight and in many cases bring you closer to the story and the people involved. This is truly a history lesson and exciting story rolled into one. I really appreciated how balanced he was in looking at Scott and Amundsen, not taking sides as many books have. He did state his opinion, but in a very logical, well-thought out way that made you feel he really understood these two men - at least as well anyone could almost 100 years later. He really did his homework. I would highly recommend this book to anyone.

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