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# John Rae Arctic Explorer The Unfinished Autobiogr

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*John Rae  
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## ANASTASIA PRECIOUS

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### Discovering the Arctic

Cambridge University Press

The true story of the remarkable John Rae - Arctic traveller and Hudson's Bay Company doctor - FATAL PASSAGE is a tale of imperial ambition and high adventure. In 1854 Rae solved the two great Arctic mysteries: the fate of the doomed Franklin expedition and the location of the last navigable link in the Northwest Passage. But Rae was to be denied the recognition he so richly deserved. On returning to London, he faced a campaign of denial and

vilification led by two of the most powerful people in Victorian England: Lady Jane Franklin, the widow of the lost Sir John, and Charles Dickens, the most influential writer of the age. A remarkable story of courage and determination, FATAL PASSAGE is Ken McGoogan's passionate redemption of Rae's rightful place in history. In this richly documented and illustrated work, McGoogan captures the essence of one man's indomitable spirit.

### *Fatal Passage*

Sourcebooks, Inc.

The Orkney Islands are a place of mystery and magic, where the past and the present meet, ancient standing stones walk and burial mounds are the home of the trows. Orkney Folk Tales

walks the reader across invisible islands that are home to fin folk and mermaids, and seals that are often far more than they appear to be. Here Orkney witches raise storms and predict the outcome of battles, ghosts seek revenge and the Devil sits in the rafters of St Magnus Cathedral, taking notes! Using ancient tales told by the firesides of the Picts and Vikings, storyteller Tom Muir takes the reader on a magical journey where he reveals how the islands were created from the teeth of a monster, how a giant built lochs and hills in his greed for fertile land, and how the waves are controlled by the hand of a goddess.

### Arctic Labyrinth

TouchWood Editions

When Sir John Franklin

disappeared into the Arctic in 1845, it was his adventurous wife, Jane Franklin, who kept the search for him alive and, as a result, contributed more to the discovery and mapping of the North than any explorer. A third masterful biography from historian Ken McGoogan, *Lady Franklin's Revenge* is the richly documented story of a complex, ambitious

Victorian—arguably the greatest woman traveller of the 19th century— and the transformation of a failed expedition into a triumphant legend. A *Globe and Mail* Book of the Year, and shortlisted for the Ontario Libraries Evergreen Award, *Lady Franklin's Revenge* is an exquisitely illustrated epic adventure.

[The Man who Mapped the Arctic](#) The History Press John Rae is best known today as the first European to reveal the fate of the Franklin Expedition, yet the range of Rae's accomplishments is much greater. Over five expeditions, Rae mapped some 1,550 miles (2,494 kilometres) of Arctic coastline; he is undoubtedly one of the Arctic's greatest explorers, yet today his significance is all but lost. John Rae, *Arctic Explorer*

is an annotated version of Rae's unfinished autobiography. William Barr has extended Rae's previously unpublished manuscript and completed his story based on Rae's reports and correspondence—including reaction to his revelations about the Franklin Expedition. Barr's meticulously researched, long overdue presentation of Rae's life and legacy is an immensely valuable addition to the literature of Arctic exploration.

**Expedition to the Shores of the Arctic Sea in 1846 and 1847**  
Basic Books

In 1868 American explorer Charles Francis Hall interviewed several Inuit hunters who spoke of strangers travelling through their land. Hall immediately jumped to the conclusion that the hunters were talking about survivors of the Franklin expedition and set off for the Melville Peninsula, the location of many of the sightings, to collect further stories and evidence to support his supposition. His theory, however, was roundly dismissed by historians of his day, who concluded that the Inuit had been referring to other white explorers, despite significant discrepancies

between the Inuit evidence and the records of other expeditions. In *Strangers Among Us* Woodman re-examines the Inuit tales in light of modern scholarship and concludes that Hall's initial conclusions are supported by Inuit remembrances, remembrances that do not correlate with other expeditions but are consistent with Franklin's. *Fatal Passage* New York : Carleton

With this book—his most ambitious yet—Ken McGoogan delivers a vivid, comprehensive recasting of Arctic-exploration history. *Dead Reckoning* challenges the conventional narrative, which emerged out of Victorian England and focused almost exclusively on Royal Navy officers. By integrating non-British and fur-trade explorers and, above all, Canada's indigenous peoples, this work brings the story of Arctic discovery into the twenty-first century. Orthodox history celebrates such naval figures as John Franklin, Edward Parry and James Clark Ross. *Dead Reckoning* tells their stories, but the book also encompasses such forgotten heroes as Thanadelthur, Akaitcho,

Tattanoeuck, Ouligbuck, Tookoolito and Ebierbing, to name just a few. Without the assistance of the Inuit, Franklin's recently discovered ships, Erebus and Terror, would still be lying undiscovered at the bottom of the polar sea. The book ranges from the sixteenth century to the present day, looks at climate change and the politics of the Northwest Passage, and recognizes the cultural diversity of a centuries-old quest. Informed by the author's own voyages and researches in the Arctic, and illustrated throughout, *Dead Reckoning* is a colourful, multi-dimensional saga that demolishes myths, exposes pretenders and celebrates unsung heroes. For international readers, it sets out a new story of Arctic discovery. For Canadians, it brings that story home.

[Explorations in the Icy North](#) University of Alberta

Although Arctic explorer and Hudson Bay Company surveyor John Rae (1813-1893) travelled and recorded the final uncharted sections of the Northwest Passage, he is best known for his controversial discovery of the fate of the lost

Franklin Expedition of 1845. Based on evidence given to him by local Inuit, Rae determined that Franklin's crew had resorted to cannibalism in their final, desperate days. Seen as maligning a national hero, Rae was shunned by British society. This collection of personal correspondence—reissued here for the first time since its original publication in 1953—illuminates the details of Rae's expeditions through his own words. The letters offer a glimpse into Rae's daily life, his ideas, musings, and troubles. Prefaced by the original, thorough introduction detailing his early life, *John Rae's Arctic Correspondence* is a crucial resource for any Arctic enthusiast. This new edition features a foreword by researcher and Arctic enthusiast Ken McGoogan, the award-winning author of eleven books, including *Fatal Passage: The Untold Story of John Rae* (HarperCollins, 2002).

[Icebound In The Arctic](#) Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

"An extraordinary real-life adventure of men battling the elements and themselves, told with ice-

cold precision." –Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

In the dark years following the Civil War, America's foremost Arctic explorer, Charles Francis Hall, became a figure of national pride when he embarked on a harrowing, landmark expedition. With financial backing from Congress and the personal support of President Grant, Captain Hall and his crew boarded the *Polaris*, a steam schooner carefully refitted for its rigorous journey, and began their quest to be the first men to reach the North Pole. Neither the ship nor its captain would ever return. What transpired was a tragic death and whispers of murder, as well as a horrifying ordeal through the heart of an Arctic winter, when men fought starvation, madness, and each other upon the ever-shifting ice. *Trial by Ice* is an incredible adventure that pits men against the natural elements and their own fragile human nature. In this powerful true story of death and survival, courage and intrigue aboard a doomed ship, Richard Parry chronicles one of the most astonishing, little known tragedies at sea in American history.

"ABSORBING . . .

Suspense builds as Parry describes the events leading up to Hall's 'murder,' then climaxes in horrifying detail."

-Publishers Weekly  
"RIVETING." -Library Journal

*Barbara Rae* Trans-Atlantic Publications

This creative nonfiction biography of the celebrated Arctic explorer Dr. John Rae begins in 1854 when, on a mapping expedition to the Boothia Peninsula, Rae discovers the missing link in the Northwest Passage. On the same trip, a chance encounter with an Inuit hunter leads him to uncover the tragic fate that befell the officers and crew of the long-missing Franklin Expedition when, starving on the ice, they resorted to cannibalism. When the Scottish-born scientist and Hudson's Bay Company Chief Factor reports the shocking details about the men's demise to the British Admiralty, he is publicly belittled by such well-known Victorian society figures as the novelist Charles Dickens and Sir John Franklin's widow, Jane. From then on, Rae's life becomes a restless journey of soaring hope and bitter disappointment, as he attempts to restore his

good reputation with the British public, defend the integrity of the Arctic natives who brought him detailed testimony about the evidence of cannibalism, and rebuild his shattered identity.

Rae's search for what has been lost takes him to Hamilton, Lower Canada, across Rupert's Land to the Pacific Coast, to the Faroe Islands, across Greenland, and then finally home to the Orkney Islands where yet another turn of events catches him by surprise.

*Finding John Rae* London : T. & W. Boone

This is an illustrated children's biography of 19th-century explorer John Rae, a Scotsman who opened up vast tracts of land in the Canadian Arctic and may have been the true discoverer of the Northwest Passage. He discovered the fate of the failed Franklin Expedition and evidence of cannibalism on the bones he found, but was disgraced by a slanderous campaign against his name, which resulted in a century of subsequent obscurity. Rae was one of the first Europeans to show respect for Inuit customs and to take inspiration from their Arctic survival skills. John Wilson brings this

fascinating man and his times to life in an exciting narrative full of survival stories, shipwrecks and scandals. The book is illustrated with sketches, maps and archival photos.

**After the Lost Franklin Expedition** HarperCollins

George Back went on three Arctic expeditions under Franklin, opening up the vast barren lands of the north. But unlike Franklin, Back lived to tell his tales and left behind an inspirational legacy of journals, drawings and maps. From these sources emerges a story of remarkable endurance in the face of appalling odds. Back was a brave and important explorer who has long been denied the limelight he deserved. Peter Steele does him belated justice with this fascinating account. "The stuff of myth comes from a book like this." -Globe and Mail "A masterpiece of Arctic adventure ... will likely become an outstanding classic." - Yukon News

Resolute Random House  
Published to great reviews in Canada, the US and the UK, Ancient Mariner tells the riveting story of how Samuel Hearne—a sailor at 12, a northern explorer at 24, an admirer of Native peoples—became the first European to

reach the Arctic coast of North America. Yet, as Ken McGoogan reveals, Samuel Hearne's place in the history books has been a subject hotly disputed over the past two centuries. This fascinating saga, a skillful blend of literary detective work and finely imagined narrative, delights and surprises as it restores Hearne's rightful place in history.

Discovering the Arctic The O'Brien Press Ltd

"Icemen is a fascinating investigation of man's relationship with the Arctic. It not only looks at the history of its exploration, but also examines the region's increasing political significance in the modern age: the secret battles of the Second World War, the military build up during the Cold War and most recently, the bitter disputes between the native peoples and the Canadian government."--

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**Narrative of an Expedition to the Shores of the Arctic Sea, in 1846 and 1847**

Union Square + ORM  
No Ordinary Journey  
marks the centenary of

the death of arctic explorer Dr John Rae. Rae was the first arctic traveller to find evidence of the fate of the missing Franklin expedition, evidence that was based on Inuit testimony. This embroiled him in argu Dead Reckoning Ballantine Books Science in the Arctic changed dramatically over the course of the nineteenth century, when early, scattered attempts in the region to gather knowledge about all aspects of the natural world transitioned to a more unified Arctic science under the First International Polar Year in 1882. The IPY brought together researchers from multiple countries with the aim of undertaking systematic and coordinated experiments and observations in the Arctic and Antarctic. Harsh conditions, intense isolation, and acute danger inevitably impacted the making and communicating of scientific knowledge. At the same time, changes in ideas about what it meant to be an authoritative observer of natural phenomena were linked to tensions in imperial ambitions, national identities, and international

collaborations of the IPY. Through a focused study of travel narratives in the British, Danish, Canadian, and American contexts, Nanna Katrine Lüders Kaalund uncovers not only the transnational nature of Arctic exploration, but also how the publication and reception of literature about it shaped an extreme environment, its explorers, and their scientific practices. She reveals how, far beyond the metropole—in the vast area we understand today as the North American and Greenlandic Arctic—explorations and the narratives that followed ultimately influenced the production of field science in the nineteenth century. Orkney Folk Tales HarperCollins Canada The spellbinding story of the greatest cold case in Arctic history—and how the rare mix of marine science and Inuit knowledge finally led to the recent discovery of the shipwrecks. Spanning nearly 200 years, *Ice Ghosts* is a fast-paced detective story about Western science, indigenous beliefs, and the irrepressible spirit of exploration and discovery. It weaves together an epic account of the legendary Franklin Expedition of

1845—whose two ships, the HMS Erebus and the HMS Terror, and their crew of 129 were lost to the Arctic ice—with the modern tale of the scientists, researchers, divers, and local Inuit behind the recent discoveries of the two ships, which made news around the world. The journalist Paul Watson was on the icebreaker that led the expedition that discovered the HMS Erebus in 2014, and he broke the news of the discovery of the HMS Terror in 2016. In a masterful work of history and contemporary reporting, he tells the full story of the Franklin Expedition: Sir John Franklin and his crew setting off from England in search of the fabled Northwest Passage; the hazards they encountered and the reasons they were forced to abandon ship after getting stuck in the ice hundreds of miles from the nearest outpost of Western civilization; and the dozens of search expeditions over more than 160 years, which collectively have been called "the most extensive, expensive, perverse, and ill-starred . . . manhunt in history." All that searching turned up a legendary trail of sailors'

relics, a fabled note, a lifeboat with skeletons lying next to loaded rifles, and rumors of cannibalism . . . but no sign of the ships until, finally, the discoveries in our own time. As Watson reveals, the epic hunt for the lost Franklin Expedition found success only when searchers combined the latest marine science with faith in Inuit lore that had been passed down orally for generations. *Ice Ghosts* is narrative nonfiction of the highest order, full of drama and rich in characters: Lady Jane Franklin, who almost single-handedly kept the search alive for decades; an Inuit historian who worked for decades gathering elders' accounts; an American software billionaire who launched his own hunt; and underwater archaeologists honing their skills to help find the ships. Watson also shows how the hunt for the Franklin Expedition was connected to such technological advances as scuba gear and sonar technology, and how it ignited debates over how to preserve the relics discovered with the ships. A modern adventure story that arcs back through history, *Ice Ghosts* tells the complete and

incredible story of the Franklin Expedition—the greatest of Arctic mysteries—for the ages. Fatal Passage Turtleback The truth is that John Rae solved the two great mysteries of nineteenth-century Arctic exploration: during a single expedition in 1854, he discovered both the fate of the Franklin expedition and the only Northwest Passage navigable by the ships of that time — the fatal passage explorers had been seeking for centuries. — from *Fatal Passage* Not long after he began reading the handwritten, 820-page diary of Scottish explorer John Rae, Ken McGoogan realized that here was an astonishing story, hidden from the world for almost 150 years. McGoogan, who was originally conducting research for a novel, recognized the injustice committed against Rae. He was determined to restore the adventurer's rightful place in history as the man who discovered not only the grisly truth about the lost Franklin expedition, but also the final link in the elusive Northwest Passage. *Fatal Passage* is McGoogan's completely absorbing account of John

Rae's incredible accomplishments and his undeserved and wholesale discreditation at the hands of polite Victorian society. After sifting through thousands of pages of research, maps and charts, and traveling to England, Scotland and the Arctic to visit the places Rae knew, McGoogan has produced a book that reads like a fast-paced novel — a smooth synthesis of adventure story, travelogue and historical biography. *Fatal Passage* is a richly detailed portrait of a time when the ambitions of the Empire knew no bounds. John Rae was an adventurous young medical doctor from Orkney who signed on with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1833. He lived in the Canadian wilds for more than two decades, becoming legendary as a hunter and snowshoer, before he turned to exploration. Famous for what was then a unique attitude — a willingness to learn from and use the knowledge and skills of aboriginal peoples — Rae became the first European to survive an Arctic winter while living solely off the land. One of dozens of explorers and naval men commissioned by the

British Admiralty to find out what became of Sir John Franklin and his two ships, Rae returned from the Arctic to report that the most glorious expedition ever launched had ended with no survivors — and worse, that it had degenerated into cannibalism. Unwilling to accept that verdict, Victorian England not only ostracized Rae, but ignored his achievements, and credited Franklin with the discovery of the Passage. *Fatal Passage* is Ken McGoogan's brilliant vindication of John Rae's life and rightful place in history, a book for armchair adventurers, Arctic enthusiasts, lovers of Canadian history, and all those who revel in a story of physical courage and moral integrity. Read an opinion piece by Ken McGoogan: <http://www.edmontonjournal.com/opinion1/stories/010415/5013219.html>  
**Fatal Passage** McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP  
 In 2015 Barbara Rae travelled to Greenland on the trail of her namesake and fellow Scot, the surgeon and explorer Dr John Rae (1813-1893). Captivated by the 'wild sort of life', he travelled to the Arctic in 1846, learning local languages and survival techniques.

His enlightened co-operation and collaboration with the Inuit - almost unheard of at the time - allowed him to discover the fate of Sir John Franklin's lost 1845 expedition, and to confirm the existence of the Northwest Passage, the maritime link between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This book is the artistic result of Barbara Rae's extraordinary journey. Through the artist's deft handling of colour and line the frozen landscape of the Arctic jumps into life from the page. This special publication takes the reader on a journey of discovery from Scotland to the Arctic, and back again. Her vivid images are combined with insightful texts from authors including the Inuit leader and advocate Tagak Curley, the architect Ian Ritchie and the celebrated art critic Duncan Macmillan, as well as contributions from the artist herself. *Ancient Mariner* Univ of California Press  
 Appendices include lists of mammals, birds, fishes and plants collected. Also magnetic and meteorological observations.  
[Unravelling the Franklin Mystery](#) UCL Press

Captain Francis Crozier was a major figure in 19th century Arctic and Antarctic exploration who led the doomed Franklin Expedition's battle to survive against the odds. It is a compelling story which refuses to be laid to rest and recent discovery of his lost ships above the Arctic Circle gives it a new urgency. The ships may hold vital clues to how

two navy vessels and 129 men disappeared 170 years ago and why Crozier, in command after Franklin's early death, left the only written clue to the biggest disaster in Polar history. Drawn from historic records and modern revelations, this is the only comprehensive account of Crozier's extraordinary life. It is a

tale of a great explorer, a lost love affair and an enduring mystery. Crozier's epic story began comfortably in Banbridge, Co Down and involved six gruelling expeditions on three of the 19th century's great endeavours - navigating the North West Passage, reaching the North Pole and mapping Antarctica. But it ended in disaster.