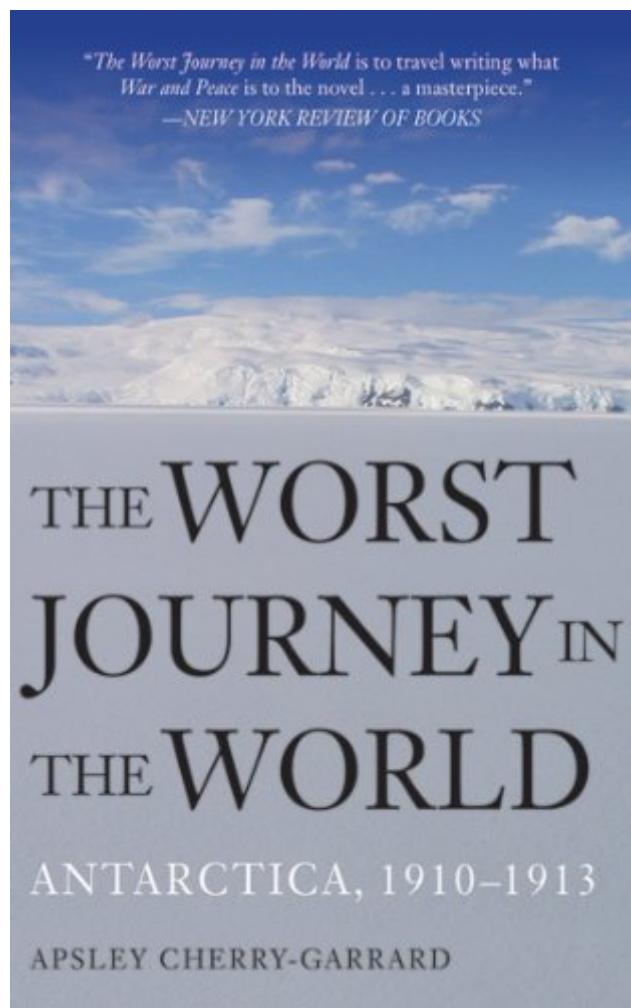


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The Worst Journey In The World: Antarctica, 1910-1913



Synopsis

In 1910, hoping that the study of penguin eggs would provide an evolutionary link between birds and reptiles, a group of explorers left Cardiff by boat on Robert Falcon Scott's expedition to Antarctica. Not all of them would return. Written by one of its survivors, *The Worst Journey in the World* tells the moving and dramatic story of the disastrous Scott expedition. Driven by an obsession for scientific knowledge, these brave polar explorers embarked on a journey into the unknown, testing their endurance by pushing themselves to the ultimate physical and mental limits as they surveyed the striking and mammoth land that lay far to the south. Their goal was to discover as much as was scientifically possible about the terrain and habitat of Antarctica, and to be the first to reach the South Pole. The party was plagued by bad luck, weather conditions of unanticipated ferocity, and the physical deterioration of the party itself on the last part of the journey. The youngest member of the team and its sole survivor, Apsley Cherry-Garrard gives a gripping account of Scott's last expedition. The author was also part of the rescue team that eventually found the frozen bodies of Scott and the three men who had accompanied him on the final push to the Pole. These deaths would haunt him for the rest of his life as he questioned the decisions he had made and the actions he had taken in the days leading up to the Polar Party's demise. Prior to this sad denouement, Cherry-Garrard's account is filled with details of scientific discovery and anecdotes of human resilience in a harsh environment. Each participant in the expedition is brought fully to life. The author's recollections are supported by diary excerpts and accounts from other teammates.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I own several editions of this book; the rating is not for the work itself, which rates an unconditional five-stars, but for this particular edition. Please disregard this review if you are not bothered by typography issues, which is mainly the source of the criticism. I generally enjoy Dover publications, however this modification of *Worst Journey* is rather odd. The dates have mostly been Americanized (month/day instead of the original British day/month), and there are some quirks to the typesetting that I found interesting but probably not worth implementing. For one example: ship names are not italicized as is customary, but in an old book with lots of references to ships, this proves to be a little incongruous in appearance. Far more taxing to the eye is the abandonment of setting off long quotes in a paragraph of reduced size ~ which is the classical way of dealing with long quoted passages, and there are a LOT of these. The result of having long quotes look exactly the same as the narration is a fair amount of visual confusion regarding who is speaking. There is evidence that this may have been set on a word processor: among other things, small caps are not true small caps but the faux version (reduced capitals), which is a giveaway of enthusiastic but, shall we say, amateur typesetting. I am all for simplification, but I think a work such as this is too intricate to deserve a streamlined format. So with respect I give it a "fair" rating, and suggest looking at other editions if you are a connoisseur of the Scott Expedition as I am. If not, then this edition will probably serve adequately for informational purposes, but perhaps without the appropriate mood of other versions.

Words fail me when I talk about the Heroic Age of the Antarctic explorations of the past century so to describe this and similar books I purchased here and read: "Endurance" (Shackleton's voyage of 1914-17); "Birdie Bowers - Captain Scott's Marvel

As one of the participants in the Terra Nova Expedition, Apsley Cherry-Garrard is more than qualified to write about it. He brings to life the events and adventures of the men of Scott's

Expedition, the good things and the bad things, the dreary things and the exciting things. When he begins the book, "Cherry" seems to be angry, railing at the circumstances of the trip, but then he hits a stride and remembers the event rather than the emotion of it, which makes for much better reading. Relating the tale of the party waking at 2am to the sound of booming, realizing that the ice on which they are camped has broken off into floes and they are now on the way out to sea, the horses on the other floe, kind of give the reader pause. Cherry recounts the story of the rest of the day, the campers hop-scotching from one floe to the next, WITH horses, trying to make it back to shore, all the time watched by Orcas, with one eye out of the water, circling and waiting....can't get much more exciting than that....But it does! You'll just have to read it yourself and find out! Marion

The Worst Journey in the World has been called the one of the greatest travel book in English, and not just by me. At one time it was about to go out of print and was brought back from the edge of death by enthusiasts writing appreciations of it for magazines and newspapers. It is a fabulous, hair-raising page-turner about a group of intrepid Englishmen, part of the doomed Scott polar expedition, who rather breezily set off in the polar winter on a side expedition to the coast to get eggs of the emperor penguin for scientific study. Sub-zero temperatures! howling winds! crummy equipment! arctic darkness! stiff (literally) upper lips! They are all there.

the story itself is fantastic but this version of the book doesn't include the maps that are in the original version and are necessary to properly follow along their journeys. my advice is to make sure you purchase a version with the maps in it. not this one. had this version had the maps I would have given it 5 stars.

Extremely interesting & very well written. I feel like I was there with them.

Aspects of quest for antarctic that got little noticed when Scott failed in his bid to be first at the south pole

what a story.

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