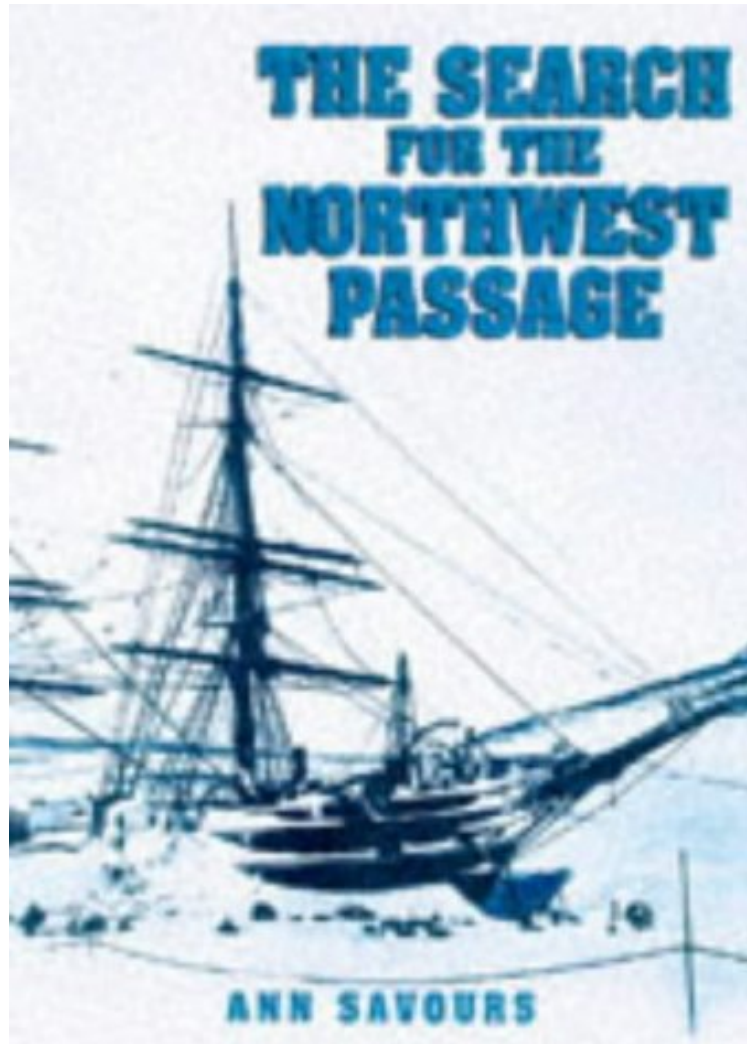


(Download pdf ebook) The Search for the North-west Passage

## The Search for the North-west Passage

*Ann Savours*

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#15628871 in Books 1999-04-20 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.81 x 9.41 x .01, 1.74 #File Name: 1861760590320 pages | File size: 70.Mb

**Ann Savours : The Search for the North-west Passage** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Search for the North-west Passage:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A good primer on the subject By A Customer I would recommend a good detailed map of the arctic at hand when reading this book. Ann Savours assumes the reader is intimately familiar with arctic geography. Once you get a hand on the geography it is a very good read for the non-fiction addict.

The search for the North West Passage to the Far East was the main driving force behind British arctic exploration from the sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth century, culminating in the famous and ill-fated Franklin expedition, the disappearance of which and the resulting search for the missing crews is one of the great tragic stories of the history of

exploration. This book covers the early history of this great quest, including the voyages of Frobisher, Hudson and Captain Cook, and all of Franklin's expeditions. After the disappearance of his ships Erebus and Terror, his wife galvanised the Government into mounting a search for her husband and his men and these expeditions are also vividly described. It examines the British encounters with the Esquimaux and their vital help in charting the Arctic archipelago, the way the variations in the ice from year to year affected the results of each expedition, and the ships, boats, diet and clothing of the early explorers. This book will be compulsive reading for all those interested in the saga of arctic exploration and for those who enjoy the recounting of stories of human endeavour in the face of terrible odds.

.com After Columbus sailed the ocean blue in search of a trading route to China but found his way blocked by North and South America, Britain and Europe's other colonial powers scrambled to find alternate paths to the Far East. Avoiding the south, dominated by Spain and Portugal after the Pope's 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, the English and the Dutch searched for both a North East Passage, north of Eurasia, and a North West Passage, through the Arctic ice of what is now North America. Although such a passage was to become commercially unimportant (and unviable, thanks to climate), the successful transit of the North West Passage became a Holy Grail and deadly siren for countless exploration teams, and it eluded explorers for nearly 400 years. Ann Savours, one of Britain's leading authorities on this tenacious pursuit, describes in a lively and sprawling account the extraordinary adventures of these courageous expeditions. Drawing heavily on primary sources, including diaries, letters to home, and sketches, Savours's *Search* makes for engrossing reading: from the Frobisher team's 1570s descriptions of the "countrey people" (later the "Esquimaux") "clad in coates made of the skinnes of beastes" and "sharp-witted, readie to conceive our meaning by signes, and to make answeere" to accounts of Sir John Franklin's ultimately successful but completely decimated mission, Savours puts you on the heaving decks of the icebreakers and in the minds of these brave explorers. Excellent illustrations, end notes, and appendices round out the work. --Paul Hughes

From Booklist

Once sixteenth-century geographers realized the Americas were a New World, the undying hope for a short water route to the riches of Asia fostered the search for a Northwest passage through the North American land-mass and into the Pacific. Savours is one of Britain's leading experts on the history of polar explorations. In this engrossing and often exciting narrative, she provides in-depth examinations of most of the prominent expeditions that sought the elusive passage. With the skill of a novelist, Savours portrays the steely courage and determination of men who frequently endured great suffering in a frozen, unforgiving environment. She makes effective use of firsthand accounts by the explorers, and the striking illustrations enrich the text. This is a superb rendering of a series of real-life adventures. Jay Freeman

From Kirkus

Savours (*The Voyages of Discovery*, not reviewed) provides a thorough and transporting survey of North West Passage explorations, drawn, and laced with excerpts, from primary sources. Using original manuscripts, ship's logs, letters, and diaries, Savours recounts, voyage by voyage, the many attempts to discover a sea route from the North Atlantic to the North Pacific. Savours works in strict chronological mode, proceeding from John Cabot, of whom little is known, up to the expeditions of Sir John Franklin and the eventual navigation through the ice and archipelagoes by Amundsen in his herring boat. The series of voyages, mainly from England, in hopes of tapping into the rumored fabulous wealth of Cathay, are understood here to have comprised three epochs. The first, commercially motivated, sought a route around the Americas to the Far East that avoided the waters controlled by the Portuguese and the Spanish to the south; the second was characterized by a bouillabaisse of scientific curiosity, national pride, and imperial hunger; the last was the era of individual ambition, marked by such personalities as Scott, Shackleton, Amundsen, and Peary. In writing that is formal and unembellished, Savours makes judicious selections from her source material to give each voyage a distinct personality, full of the detail and coloration—clothing, food, tools, boats, descriptions of Inuit that reveal why Hudson's voyage was tragic, Frobisher's misguided, Barrow's endless, Franklin's endlessly popularized. What engages the reader perhaps more than the celebrated voyages of Cook and Davis and Ross are the numerous forgotten sailings by men like George Waymouth, James Knight, Captain Middleton, and Captain Lyon. Savours allows these explorers to rise toward the light, if only briefly, the space they occupy here directly proportional to the paper trail they left in their wake. For so dry a linear narrative, Savours pleasingly manages to summon the atmosphere that attended each phase of the 400-year infatuation with the North West Passage. (85 color and bw photos and illustrations) -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.