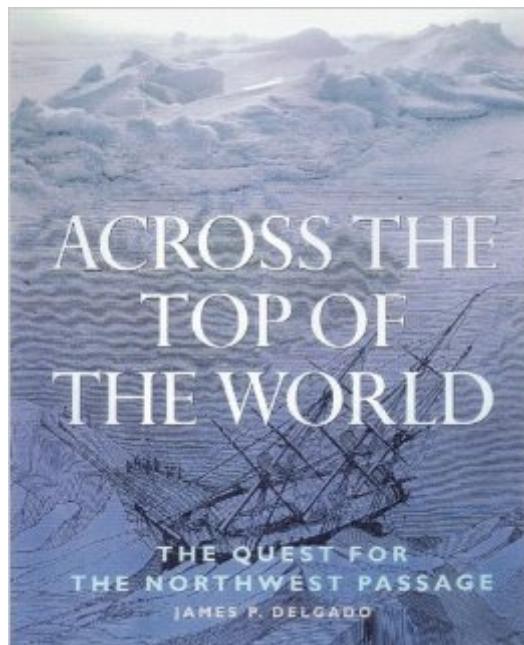


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# Across The Top Of The World: The Quest For The Northwest Passage



## **Synopsis**

Across the Top of the World is a vivid retelling of one of the most enduring quests in the history of exploration and discovery--the Northwest Passage. It covers the earliest endeavors in the sixteenth century, the many ill-fated expeditions that followed, the successful crossing in 1905, and the scientific work conducted in the Northwest Passage today. The book is beautifully illustrated and gives readers a true sense of the harsh realities of the landscapes and seascapes traversed. Among the book's many highlights are the use of explorers' published accounts, the ill-fated Franklin Expedition in 1845-1847, historic and contemporary color photographs of significant artifacts, and contemporary images of the Northwest Passage from the air, land, and water.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The moment I picked up the book I couldn't put it down! It is truly a story of adventure, courage, tragedy, and triumph. I am currently reading Endurance and this book with all of its wonderful photographs, and illustrations has given me insight into what it must have been like to have been there. I recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in the Arctic and its courageous explorer's. Mr Delgado I give your book five stars!!!

The Norsemen may have been the first to attempt this passage but they were certainly not the last. Over 300 years of trials and bitter, freezing failures were to come and go before Norwegian Roald Amundsen finally conquered the passage in the early 20th century. It is not a coincidence that the only other undiscovered lands and the last of the remaining great adventures was also in a snowy,

bitter climate - Shackleton's voyage to the Antarctic on the 'Endurance' was taking place at about the same time. Disimilar to other 'popular history' books, this one does not have the same easy, flowing, narrative style but what it does differently and better than other pop histories is give details. Here you learn all that you could possibly want to know about every unfortunate mission that unsuccessfully sought the Northwest passage. Crammed with maps, photos and illustrations it's all here. The little sidebar descriptions - mini biographies- of many of the explorers is a nice feature.

After having successfully transited the Northwest Passage in 2009 ("The Other Side of The Ice") I bought this book to gain even more knowledge on what has to be the most amazing area of the world. Brilliant in every way. I highly recommend it! Sprague Theobald *The Other Side of the Ice: One Family's Treacherous Journey Negotiating the Northwest Passage* *The Other Side of the Ice*

This book has the capacity to touch you intellectually and emotionally. It is a well written book on explorers and exploration. This book brings to life those searching for the Northwest Passage. Their struggles and hardships are well documented. I loaned this book to a friend, who is somewhat of a stoic, and inquired how he liked it. He responded the book brought tears to his eyes. He was able to clearly envision the hardships these people endured. Amazingly, they willingly faced those hardships again to assist others. This book takes you to a time when extrodinary hardships were dealt with as a fact of life.

During my lifetime, mans endeavors at pushing back the boundaries of the unknown were attacking the sound barrier, and going into space ... culminating in landing on the moon, and equally important, the return to our diverse blue planet alive. Then ... there were the manned descents to the deepest known ocean floor .. "Challenger Deep" in "Trieste" and "Deep Challenger" for a bold push to expand our knowledge under the sea. But, there was a time, a time spanning centuries when the curiosity of the vast unknown was not as lofty as space, nor as deep as 35,700' below the surface of the ocean. It was a shorter nautical path west ... to the Pacific, and the trade opportunities in the far east. The problem ... the newly discovered and vastly uncharted continents of the north, central and south Americas were blocking the way. There had to be a path toward the north. A pathway involving direct penetrations off the map into the dangerous uncharted cold icy unknown. James P. Delgado does a magnificent job, with excellent utilization of maps, charts, photos, paintings and drawings to lay out the historical journey of conquest; man seeking a sea passage across the often bitterly frozen and deadly north. A very good read! Great nautical history.

I found this book a very interesting read. The photos were wonderful. It covers the varied expeditions on the quest for the Northwest Passage. Lots of people lost their lives and ultimately it was not, of course, a really usable shipping route. The Franklin expedition and the various search parties is well covered. The one existing daguerotype of Franklin, which I had not seen, is included, as are the recent discoveries and theories about what happened. At a bargain price, this is a nice gift book. Mine came without the tell tale black "bargain stripe" on the spine.

I really loved this book. Delgado's writing is so vivid and clear that you really feel like you are there! Everyone should read this.

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