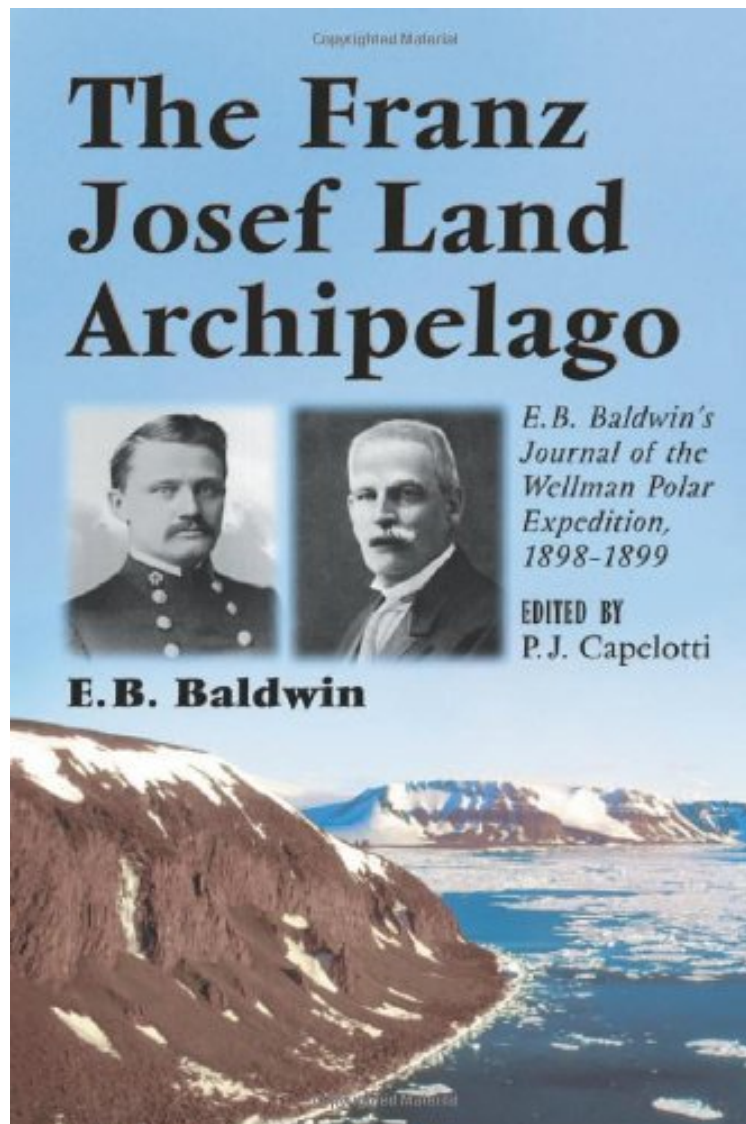


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The Franz Josef Land Archipelago: E.B. Baldwin's Journal of the Wellman Polar Expedition, 1898-1899

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E B Baldwin : The Franz Josef Land Archipelago: E.B. Baldwin's Journal of the Wellman Polar Expedition, 1898-1899 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Franz Josef Land Archipelago: E.B. Baldwin's Journal of the Wellman Polar Expedition, 1898-1899:

Franz Josef Land is a forbidding place, isolated by geography and history. Lying above the Arctic Circle in the northernmost province of Russia, this remote series of islands was only discovered by Westerners in 1873, and remains little known today. A few intrepid explorers ventured there in the late 19th century as a stepping-stone in attempts to reach the North Pole. Chicago journalist Walter Wellman led the first American expedition to the archipelago as part of a polar expedition in 1898-1899. His second-in-command, Evelyn Briggs Baldwin, kept a journal documenting their trip. This previously unpublished journal reveals much about one of the last great periods of exploration--including the violence, chicanery, and racism that characterized much of American exploration and expansion. Baldwin's journal, reproduced here, paints a more realistic picture of the expedition than did Wellman's communiques sent home for mass consumption. Correspondence between Baldwin and Wellman is included, and expedition notes list the supplies carried, descriptions of geographic features observed in the course of the trip, and the doctor's notes on treatments, remedies and supplies. Editor P.J. Capelotti provides an extended introduction, and the text is illustrated with maps, depictions of dramatic events occurring on the trip, and several photographs.

About the Author Historical archaeologist P.J. Capelotti of Penn State University is author or editor of more than a dozen non-fiction histories, including *By Airship to the North Pole: an archaeology of human exploration* (1999), *Sea Drift: Rafting Adventures in the Wake of Kon-Tiki* (2001), *Life and Death on the Greenland Patrol* (2005), *The Whaling Expedition of the Ulysses* (2010), and *Shipwreck at Cape Flora: The Arctic expeditions of England's forgotten explorer, Benjamin Leigh Smith* (forthcoming in 2013). His theory of archaeological research in space: *The Human Archaeology of Space*, was published in 2010 by McFarland. A volume of essays and poetry, *Gods Meadow: a summer of poems on the edge of Oslo fjord*, was published in 2005, and his first novel, *Nautilus: a modern sequel to 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, has been described by Clive Cussler as "an amazing tale filled with enigmas filled with riddles and dark mysteries. Truly a fascinating read."