

[Free pdf] The Greatest Show in the Arctic: The American Exploration of Franz Josef Land, 1898-1905 (American Exploration and Travel) by P J Capelotti (2016-05-06)

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*P J Capelotti*

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**P J Capelotti : The Greatest Show in the Arctic: The American Exploration of Franz Josef Land, 1898-1905 (American Exploration and Travel) by P J Capelotti (2016-05-06)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Greatest Show in the Arctic: The American Exploration of Franz Josef Land, 1898-1905 (American Exploration and Travel) by P J Capelotti (2016-05-06):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ah But for A Strong LeaderBy Susan Duxbury-AmzThe book The Greatest Show in the Arctic by Peter J. Capelotti covers three American expeditions with the stated goal of reaching the North Pole. These expeditions covered the period from 1898 to 1905 and were staged from the Franz Joseph archipelago off the northern coast of Russia. The first of these expeditions was led by Walter Wellman, a Chicago journalist He was joined on this expedition by Evelyn Briggs Baldwin to whom he gave a great amount of authority for which he was sorely disappointed. The second expedition was led by Evelyn Briggs Baldwin with unlimited financial support from William Ziegler, a New York City millionaire. And the final expedition was led by a profoundly spiritual Anthony Fiala. None of these expeditions reached the stated goal of making it to the North Pole. Walter Wallman's attempt was hampered by his personal foils between him and his wife over the presence of a mistress with an illegitimate daughter. Further he turned over much of the progress of the expedition to Baldwin who

had an absolute talent for getting on the bad side of the working party, to the point of hate. Baldwin's expedition, with all that money could purchase, again failed to provide leadership and esprit de corps among the team. Rather than seeking the stated goal he contented himself with exploring the Franz Joseph Islands, naming bays and inlets after industrialists and patrons. While all the while the other members of the expedition made futile trips over the ice to stash away supplies. The final attempt by Anthony Fiala was doomed by poor choices of fellow explorers. Capelotti has researched these expeditions thoroughly and written well of the vastness of the Franz Joseph Lands and its hazards. One is left with knowing that good intentions and lots of money are not what make a success of ventures such as these. Leadership was the missing element in each of these adventures, particularly those in which Baldwin had a major role. He was indeed a madman and I praise Capelotti for spending years with this man through his journals and those of his fellow explorers. I longed for the brilliant leadership of someone like Shackleton who could get this circus on track. I enjoy reading about Arctic exploration and thing The Greatest Show adds to this genre, although I think it could have benefitted by some extra editing. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A great read By James Cecorn Each adventure includes the back story leading up to the expedition; the authors in-depth research is thorough and detailed. The personality of each player is covered, the hurdles they faced are described in detail, and finally their ultimate failures unfold as each story is told. The book offers a rich coverage of the politics and technology of the time allowing each story take us back to the turn of century. Even though the book is a detailed step back in time, it emphasizes to us that success or failure ultimately depends on compatible personalities with the leadership skills to bring people together for success. The approach taken by the author is a reminder that all failures have similar roots and these failures are fertile ground for thought. This is a well written book that I thoroughly enjoyed. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A raw and unvarnished look at early Arctic exploration By Customer A fascinating read of a little-known corner of Arctic exploration at a time when the lure of being "first to the pole" led to more tragedy than triumph, Capelotti's work puts you on the ice and in the hearts and minds of men who saw the extremely isolated Franz Josef archipelago as a springboard to the North Pole - a vision that mostly led to hardship, greed, mutiny, madness, and utter failure. If it is true that we learn as much from our mistakes as from our successes, especially when it comes to leadership, than this book deserves to be studied as much as any work on Shackleton. The succession of failures of leadership brought to life in "Greatest Show in the Arctic" is astonishing. The author's research is impeccable. I often found myself vicariously feeling cold and exhausted. Of the numerous arctic exploration books that I have read, this one feels to me to be probably the most realistic and truthful.