ARCTIC EXPLORATION
a short list e-catalogue

Donald A. Heald | Rare Books
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Just click the title of each item in this illustrated short list and follow the link to a full description and images on our website.
GEORGE BACK

_Narrative of the Arctic land expedition to the mouth of the Great Fish River, and along the shores of the Arctic Ocean, in the years 1833, 1834, and 1835_

London: A. Spottiswoode for John Murray, 1836. 4to (11 1/8 x 8 5/8 inches). 16 plates on India paper mounted, after Back (13) and B. Waterhouse Hawkins (3), (7 lithographed by Haghe or Day & Haghe, 9 steel-engraved by E. Finden), 1 folding engraved map, numerous illustrations. 19th century half dark brown morocco and marbled paper covered boards, spine gilt with raised bands.

Rare large-paper issue of the first edition: "One of the fundamental books on Arctic exploration" (Hill).

(#28175) $4,000
WILLIAM BRADFORD

The Arctic Regions. Illustrated with photographs taken on an expedition to Greenland by William Bradford. With descriptive narrative by the artist

London: Chiswick Press for Sampson, Low, Marston, Low and Searle, 1873. Large folio. 141 mounted albumen prints from wet collodion negatives, by John Dunmore & George Critcherson. Original brown publisher's morocco by Leighton, Son & Hodge, after a design by Bradford, the covers elaborately blocked in gilt and black with a large centrally-placed vignette, expertly rebacked to style, the spine in six sections with raised bands, marbled endpapers, gilt edges.

The greatest of all the illustrated books on the Arctic and a major photographically-illustrated book.

(#31760) $ 175,000
JOHN CASSIN

Illustrations of the Birds of California, Texas, Oregon, British and Russian America


The first edition of Cassin’s additions to Audubon, including descriptions of Alaskan birds: an important American colour-plate and ornithological work..

(#32717) $ 3,500
CAPT. JAMES COOK

A Voyage to the Pacific Ocean, for making Discoveries in the Northern Hemisphere


A fine set of the second and best edition of the official account Cook’s third voyage, during which he explored Hawaii and the west coast of America, Canada and Alaska.

(#28739) $ 25,000
THEODORE DRAGE OR CHARLES SWAINE

An Account of a Voyage for the Discovery of a North-West Passage by Hudson's Streights, to the Western and Southern Ocean of America ... performed in the year 1746 and 1747, in the ship California.

London: Sold by Mr. Jolliffe [and others], 1748-49. 2 volumes, 8vo. 10 engraved maps and plates. Contemporary speckled calf, spine with raised bands in six compartments, brown and black morocco lettering pieces in the second and third compartments, the others with a repeat decoration in gilt. Provenance: Marinens Bibliotek (small inked stamp on the title).

A rare and important narrative of an early exploratory expedition in Hudson's Bay in search of the Northwest Passage: a beautiful example of this rare work.

(#33865) $ 39,500
JEAN BAPTISTE DU HALDE

*Description géographique, historique, chronologique, politique et physique de l'Empire de la Chine et de la Tartarie*

Paris: Le Mercier, 1735. 4 volumes, folio. 65 engraved maps and plates. Contemporary French mottled calf, spines gilt with raised bands, red and block morocco lettering pieces, marbled endpapers (repairs at joints and head and tail of spines).

The first edition of Du Halde's celebrated and comprehensive history of China and a cornerstone of northwest Americana, as it contains the earliest printed record of Bering's first expedition, with the earliest map of any portion of present-day Alaska.

(#31324) $37,500
DANIEL WESTON HALL

Arctic Rovings: or the Adventures of a New Bedford Boy on Sea and Land


A scarce account of a teenager's adventures at sea, including Pacific whaling experiences and visits to Hawaii and the Arctic.

(#31581) $ 950
JOHN HARRIS

Navigantium atque Itinerantium Bibliotheca. Or, a complete collection of voyages and travels

London: printed for T. Woodward, A. Ward, S. Birt [inter alia], 1744–1748. 2 volumes, folio. 61 engraved maps, plans and plates (15 folding). Minor worming in vol. 1, chips and tears at fore-edge of vol. 2, a few plates with tape repairs, some browning. Bound to style in full calf, spines gilt with raised bands, red and black morocco lettering pieces.

The second and best edition of Harris's important compilation, including accounts of both Bering expeditions, as well as a map of the region.

(#29765) $ 9,500
RICHARD KING

Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Arctic Ocean, in 1833, 1834, and 1835: under the Command of Capt. Back

London: Richard Bentley. 1836. 2 volumes in 1, 8vo. xv, 312, [i]; viii, 321, [i]pp. 4 plates, including 2 frontispieces and a map. Modern half morocco over marbled paper covered boards.

Rare narrative by the surgeon and naturalist on the Back expedition.

(#27894) $13,500
ADAM JOHANN VON KRUSENSTERN

Voyage autour du monde, fait dans les années 1803, 1804, 1805 et 1806

Paris: Gide fils, 1821. 3 volumes (text: 2 volumes, 8vo [8 x 5 1/2 inches]; atlas: folio [18 1/2 x 12 inches]). xii, 418; [4], 531, [1]pp. 30 engraved plates (portrait, 9 maps and 20 plates; 2 double-page maps). Uncut. Text in period patterned paper wrappers, the atlas bound to style in uniform period panelled wrappers. Housed in black morocco backed boxes.

First edition in French of Krusenstern's seminal account of the first Russian expedition to circumnavigate the globe: complete with the rare atlas of plates.

(#34467) $ 32,000
JEAN FRANÇOIS DE LA PÉROUSE

Voyage de La Pérouse autour du monde


First edition of the official account of the famous but ill-fated voyage: a cornerstone work on Pacific exploration, including the Northwest coast and Alaska.

(#28260) $27,500
JEAN FRANÇOIS DE LA PÉROUSÉ

_Naufrage de Mm. De Laborde sur les Canots de La Peyrouse au Port des François dans la Californie_


Rare separately-issued print depicting the tragic loss of two launches during La Perouse's expedition in Lituya Bay, Alaska.

(#31698) $6,000
ALEXANDER MACKENZIE

*Voyages from Montreal on the River St. Lawrence, through the continent of North America, to the Frozen and Pacific Oceans; in the years 1789 and 1793*


First edition of this cornerstone of any collection of books on the exploration of North America

(#26697) $ 8,250
DONALD BAXTER MACMILLAN

Album of original photographs from three Arctic expeditions


A lively collection of photographs documenting an important series of 20th century Arctic voyages.

(#31633) $ 15,000
WALTER WILLIAM MAY

A Series of Fourteen Sketches made during the voyage up Wellington Channel in search of Sir John Franklin

London: Day and Son, 1855. Folio. Letterpress title (verso blank), 4pp. text, 1p. List of Subscribers (verso blank). 14 tinted lithographed plates printed by Day & Son on 13 leaves (13 views after May on 12 plates, drawn on stone by by J. Needham [4], Thomas Goldworth Dutton [4] and others), 1 plate of "Franklin Relics brought [home] by Dr. Rae"). Publisher's lettered stiff paper wrappers, rebacked to style with green cloth. Housed in a green morocco box.

The principal visual record of the search for Franklin and a rare work of Arctic views.

(#29122) $16,000
PEARY ARCTIC EXPEDITION

*Incredible album of photographs documenting Peary's final expedition to the Arctic, taken and assembled by G. Frederick Norton*

[Northern Greenland]: 1908-1909. Oblong small folio. 238 silver print photographs (comprising 71 panoramic images measuring 3 1/4 x 11 1/2 inches, 147 measuring 3 3/4 x 4 7/8 inches and 20 measuring 3 x 3 7/8 inches). Mounted recto and verso on grey card mounts within the album. Some images captioned in ink on the mount. Contemporary leather, missing part of one post, leather worn. Housed in a morocco backed box.

An important photographic record of Peary's Arctic expedition.

(#32761) $ 35,000
CONSTANTINE JOHN PHIPPS

A Voyage towards the North Pole undertaken by His Majesty's Command 1773


A fine copy of the first edition, here in an unusual and very beautiful contemporary green morocco binding.

(#25553) $ 5,850
NATHANIEL PORTLOCK

A Voyage Round the World; but more particularly to the North-West Coast of America

London: Printed for John Stockdale, and George Goulding, 1789. Quarto (11 1/2 x 9 1/4 inches). xii, 384, xl pp. 20 engraved plates, charts and maps (6 folding charts or maps, 2 engraved portraits, 12 engraved plates [the 5 ornithological plates with contemporary hand-colouring, as issued]). Bound to style in period mottled calf, covers with a Greek key border in gilt, flat spine gilt, black morocco lettering piece, marbled endpapers.

Rare deluxe issue with hand coloured plates of the first edition of a classic narrative of the early exploration on the Northwest coast.

(#33030) $ 17,500
JAMES CLARK ROSS

Rear Admiral Sir James Clark Ross, D.C.L.: F.R.S. From the Original Portrait in the Royal Hospital Greenwich by several Naval Officers & Scientific Men in honour of his great discoveries & Achievements in the Arctic and the Antarctic Regions


A fine portrait of Polar explorer James Clark Ross.

(#34702) $ 1,500
A Voyage of Discovery, made under the orders of the Admiralty, in his Majesty's ships Isabella and Alexander, for the purpose of exploring Baffin's Bay, and inquiring into the probability of a north-west passage

London: John Murray, 1819. Quarto. 32 maps, coastal profiles, plates, tables or graphs (comprising: 1 engraved folding frontispiece general chart, 2 engraved folding maps, 25 aquatint or engraved plates [15 hand-coloured, 7 folding], engraved table, 3 folding engraved meteorological graphs), wood-engraved illustrations. Uncut. Contemporary blue cloth, rebacked with the original spine, red morocco lettering piece.

First edition of the official account of Ross's first voyage, the beginning of an important series of British north-west passage expeditions.
WILLIAM SCORESBY

*Journal of a Voyage to the Northern Whale-Fishery*


First edition of the most important work by one of greatest of all Arctic explorers: "Geographically ... Scoresby's discoveries were greater in importance and number than those of any other single navigator in northern waters" (Hill).

(#31611) $ 1,000
WILLIAM EDGAR SPADER

Archive of 62 original ink drawings illustrating the Harriman Alaska Expedition, 1899

[N.p., likely New York: ca. 1900–1905]. Sixty-two line drawings on thick card stock, each signed "W. E. Spader." Sizes vary between 4¼ x 8 inches to 17½ x 10¾ inches, oriented both portrait and landscape. Minor edge wear, some thumb-soiling, a few examples with minor marginal surface wear.

A remarkable archive from the Harriman Alaska Expedition.

(#28802) $ 19,500
GEORGE VANCOUVER

A Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean, and Round the World; in which the coast of North-West America has been carefully examined and accurately surveyed


"One of the most important [voyages] ever made in the interests of geographical knowledge" (Hill). This copy from the on-board library of the USS John Hancock during its mid-19th century exploration of the Pacific.

(#23339) $45,000
HARRY WHITNEY

*Incredible photographic album of photographs documenting Harry Whitney's first and second expeditions to Arctic Greenland.*


An important photographic record of high Arctic exploration.

(#32859) $ 32,500
CHARLES WILKES

Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition. During the Years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842

Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1845. 6 volumes (text: 5 volumes; atlas: 1 volume), imperial octavo. Text: 64 engraved plates, 8 double-page maps, numerous vignette illustrations (42 steel-engraved); Atlas: 5 folding maps (1 hand-coloured). Original cloth, covers elaborately panelled in blind around blocked central gilt vignettes, text volumes with flat spines blocked and lettered in gilt and blind, the atlas lettered in gilt.

A fine unsophisticated set of the first regularly available trade edition of the official record of this ground-breaking expedition.

(#19442) $ 6,000