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Danish Arctic Expeditions, 1605 to 1620

In Two Books

VOLUME 1: THE DANISH EXPEDITIONS TO
GREENLAND IN 1605, 1606, AND 1607

EDITED BY C.C.A. GOSCH



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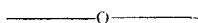
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DANISH ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS,
1605 TO 1620.



BOOK I.—EXPEDITIONS TO GREENLAND,
1605 TO 1612.

No. XCVI

DANISH
ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS,
1605 TO 1620.

IN TWO BOOKS:

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IN 1605, 1606, AND 1607; TO WHICH IS ADDED CAPTAIN
JAMES HALL'S VOYAGE TO GREENLAND IN 1612.

BOOK II.—THE EXPEDITION OF CAPTAIN JENS MUNK
TO HUDSON'S BAY IN SEARCH OF A NORTH-WEST
PASSAGE IN 1619-20.

Edited, with Notes and Introductions,

BY

C. C. A. GOSCH.

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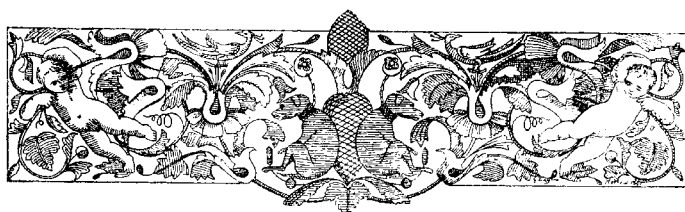
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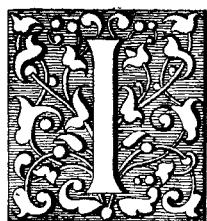
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EDITOR'S PREFACE.



IN several previous volumes, the Hakluyt Society has published new editions of the original accounts of all the English voyages in search of a North-West Passage to India which were undertaken between 1576 and 1632, when, after the return of Foxe and James, the search was discontinued for a considerable period. These voyages form a distinct and connected series. Between the years indicated, only one expedition was sent out with the same object from any other country than England, *viz.*, the Danish Expedition to Hudson's Bay under Jens Munk in 1619-1620; and inasmuch as that expedition was piloted by Englishmen and was intended to follow up the results obtained upon some of the English voyages, it may fairly be looked upon as closely connected with the latter. It seemed desirable, therefore, to complete the Society's series of works relating to the expeditions in question by

adding an English version of Munk's narrative of his voyage. There appeared so much the more occasion for doing so, as Munk's book, which was published in Danish in 1624, had never been translated into any other language, and its contents, which are interesting in many respects, were known to the world at large only through incomplete and unreliable abstracts. On the initiative of Mr. Miller Christy, the editor of the last English voyages, *viz.*, those of Foxe and James, it was accordingly arranged that an English version of Munk's *Navigatio Septentrionalis* should be issued by the Society under the joint editorship of Mr. Christy and Mr. E. Delmar Morgan, as was announced at the time.¹ At a very early stage, however, the last-named gentleman offered to retire; after which, I was invited by the Council to take his place, which I had much pleasure in doing.

Shortly after, it was decided to join to Munk's narrative the accounts of James Hall's voyages from Denmark and England to Greenland in 1605, 1606, 1607, and 1612. New editions of at least the first two of these voyages were, indeed, called for by the fact that a very considerable amount of fresh material for the elucidation of Hall's discoveries had come to light, but had, as yet, been utilised only to a small extent.

In one respect, the arrangement adopted was not altogether appropriate: *viz.*, in so far that the voyages

¹ See Miller Christy's *Voyages of Foxe and James*, p. liii, note.

in question had totally different objects from that of Munk, and could not be reckoned amongst those undertaken in search of a North-West Passage ; but, from several other points of view, there appeared, nevertheless, to be not a little connection between at least the first three of these voyages to Greenland and that of Munk. They were in some respects fore-runners of Munk's expedition, and form with it a notable chapter in the history of Danish Arctic enterprise. Nor were these Danish voyages to Greenland without connection with England and the English expeditions in search of a North-West Passage, seeing that the chief pilot, James Hall, to whom the credit of the discoveries made mainly belongs, was an Englishman ; and that one of the vessels of the expedition was commanded by another Englishman, John Knight, who in the following year commanded one of the English voyages just alluded to. It may be mentioned, too, that the expedition of 1605 was commanded by John Cunningham, a Scotchman, who afterwards commanded one of the vessels on the second voyage.

As regards Hall's own voyage in 1612, its inclusion in the present work may seem less justifiable. It was neither a Danish voyage nor had it for its object (like the three preceding ones) the discovery of the lost colonies in Greenland. It was a purely English voyage, undertaken solely for commercial purposes. Moreover, portions of the two accounts we have of this voyage have already appeared in

one of the works issued by the Hakluyt Society.¹ Nevertheless, it was felt that a new edition of these two narratives would not be out of place in connection with those of the Danish voyages. Not only did Hall on this occasion supplement his discoveries made on the previous voyages, but the accounts of the voyage of 1612 will be found to assist materially in elucidating those of the expeditions of 1605 and 1606. In many respects, the voyage of 1612 was a continuation of the earlier ones, and the accounts of the former are only in part intelligible to readers who are not familiar with the accounts of the latter. Furthermore, by joining together the accounts of all the voyages to Greenland in which Hall took part, it has been possible to collect in one place all that is known of the life and work of a man who occupies a very honourable place amongst early English Arctic explorers.

The present work consists, therefore, of two distinct parts, or "Books", each constituting a volume, with its own index, and so far complete in itself.

Book I contains reprints from *Purchas his Pilgrimes* (1625), of Hall's own accounts of the voyages of 1605 and 1606, and of Baffin's account of the voyage of 1612; as well as a reprint, from Churchill's *Collections of Voyages and Travels*, of Gatonbe's account of the latter voyage. To these are added

¹ *The Voyages of William Baffin*, edited by Sir Clements Markham (Hakluyt Society, 1881).

another account of the voyage of 1605 by Hall himself, accompanied by maps, now printed for the first time, from a manuscript in the British Museum; and translations of two Danish accounts of the voyages of 1605 and 1606. There are also two Appendices, treating respectively of an old chart ("The Stockholm Chart"), which is of much interest in connection with Hall's Voyages, and of "Buss Island".

Book II contains a translation of Jens Munk's *Navigatio Septentrionalis*, made from the edition of 1624, corrected by means of Munk's original manuscript. This is followed by a Commentary, containing, partly, explanatory matter which would otherwise have had to be given in footnotes of inconvenient length, partly a discourse on Munk's map, which has not hitherto received the attention it may justly claim.

That the work, thus extended in scope, now appears under my name alone is due to the fact that Mr. Christy, who had initiated it, decided to withdraw from participation in the editorship before the completion of the work. As the latter, however, was far advanced at the time, it becomes my agreeable duty here to record the part borne by Mr. Christy during the time of our joint editorship. Partly by mutual arrangement, partly by force of circumstances, the main part of the literary work fell to my share, whilst Mr. Christy was good enough to undertake the more technical business of seeing the work through the press,

arranging the execution of the illustrations, etc. But he has not by any means confined himself to this. Besides Appendix B, containing an exhaustive discourse on the imaginary "Buss Island", Mr. Christy has contributed to Book I that part of the Introduction which treats of the English expedition of 1612 (pp. cii-cxi), as well as most of the notes to Gatonbe's and Baffin's accounts of that voyage, and a number of notes to other portions of the book, mostly containing information on questions of biography and natural history, or referring to obsolete words and various defects in the texts of Hall's narratives, which were reprinted from Purchas under Mr. Christy's special superintendence. To Book II Mr. Christy has contributed the second chapter of the Introduction, containing a Notice of the English Voyages which preceded Munk's (pp. lxviii-xciv); furthermore, the map of Churchill Harbour, and some notes. To Mr. Christy's active inquiries are due besides several interesting extracts from English records. With these exceptions, the editorial matter is my own work; at the same time, it is a matter of course that, in what each of us has written, we have benefited by mutual assistance in minor matters, in which respect my indebtedness cannot but be the greater considering the proportionate bulk of our parts.

It may be mentioned in this connection that the large chart of Hudson's Bay and Strait placed at the end of Book II was originally prepared for, and used in, Mr. Miller Christy's *Voyages of Foxe and*

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

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James; but as it equally well serves our purpose here, it is used again, with slight alterations, Munk's route being revised.

Several English correspondents, whose names are mentioned in the proper places, have kindly afforded information and assistance.

It will be easily understood that a considerable proportion of the information required for the elucidation of the voyages edited in these volumes had to be obtained from Denmark, and that I am, consequently, much indebted to friends and correspondents there.

I have much pleasure in recording my best thanks to M. Bruun, Principal Librarian of the Royal Library at Copenhagen, for the loan to London of a copy of the rare first edition (1624) of Munk's book; to Dr. Birket Smith, Principal Librarian of the University Library at Copenhagen, who kindly made arrangements for me to copy Munk's original manuscript at a time of the year when the Library was closed to the public; to M. Jørgensen, Keeper of the National Archives in Denmark, for special facilities of research; and to Count Snøllsky, Principal Librarian of the Royal Library at Stockholm, for permission to have a copy executed of the interesting old chart which I have described as "the Stockholm Chart". I am, moreover, beholden to all these gentlemen, as well as to Dr. Wieselgren, Sub-Librarian at Stockholm, and others, for information and kind assistance of various kinds. Finally, I am under great obligations to

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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

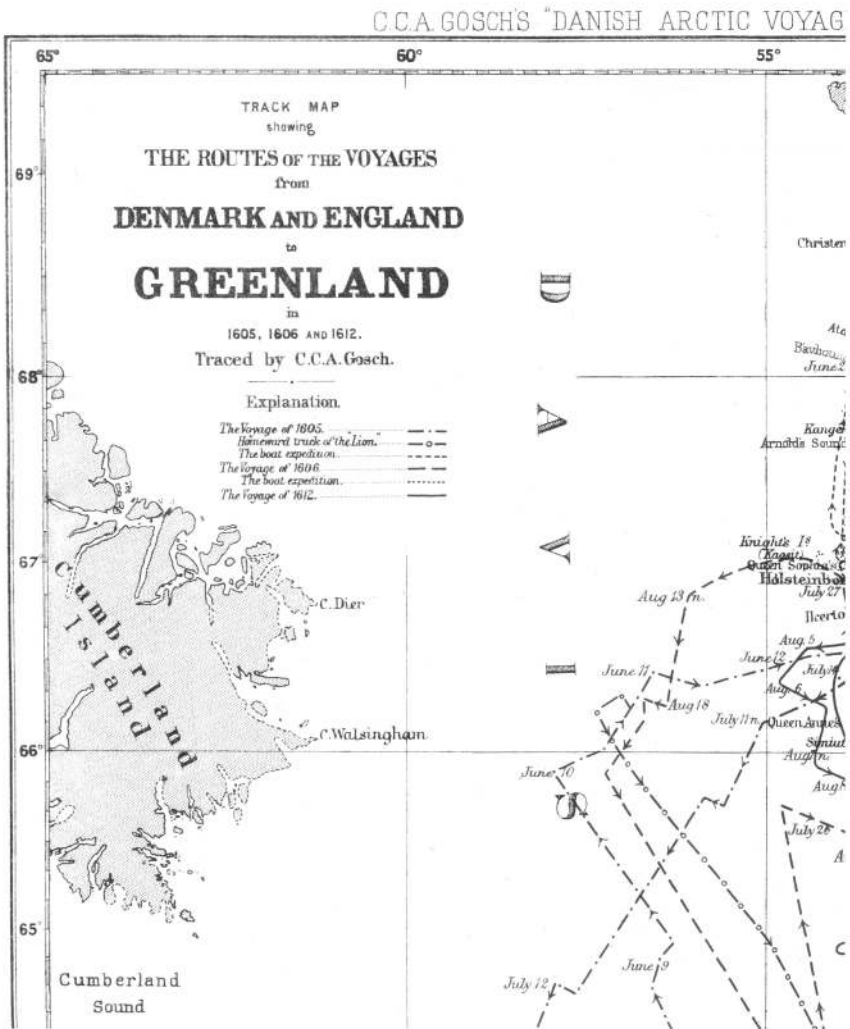
Capt. J. A. Jensen, of the Danish Royal Navy, who, during the years 1878, 1879, 1884 and 1885, partly executed, partly superintended, the mapping of the West Coast of Greenland between lat. 64° and 68° , and has kindly placed at my disposal a large number of maps and map-sketches of various localities on that coast, which were visited by Hall. These have been of very great use, and, with Capt. Jensen's permission, three of them have been reproduced in the first volume.

C. C. A. GOSCH.

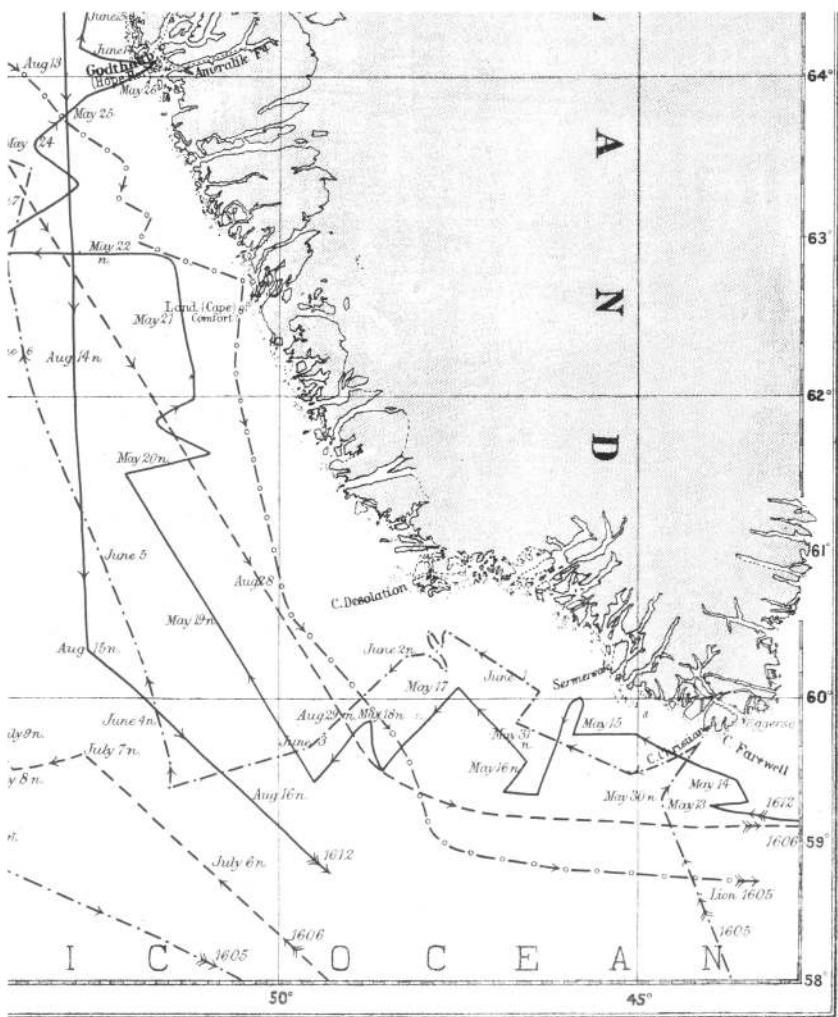
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[From *Purchas His Pilgrimes*, Churchill's *Collection of Voyages and Travels*, and a Manuscript in the British Museum.]