

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1
Roald Amundsen
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Polar Exploration

This series includes accounts, by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, of early expeditions to the Arctic and the Antarctic. Huge resources were invested in such endeavours, particularly the search for the North-West Passage, which, if successful, promised enormous strategic and commercial rewards. Cartographers and scientists travelled with many of the expeditions, and their work made important contributions to earth sciences, climatology, botany and zoology. They also brought back anthropological information about the indigenous peoples of the Arctic region and the southern fringes of the American continent. The series further includes dramatic and poignant accounts of the harsh realities of working in extreme conditions and utter isolation in bygone centuries.

The North West Passage

From an early age Roald Amundsen (1872–1928) was determined to be an explorer. Having gained valuable experience on the Belgian Antarctic Expedition (1897–9), he resolved to conquer the North-West Passage. After three years, using a small fishing vessel, the *Gjøa*, and only six crew, Amundsen succeeded in reaching Nome, Alaska. First published in Norwegian in 1907, and reissued here in its 1908 English translation, this two-volume account is copiously illustrated with photographs. Volume 1 describes how the ship was chosen and its departure from Norway in June 1903. The men spent two winters on King William Island, learning much about survival from the local Inuit. The observatory they established collected magnetic data for almost two years as well as meteorological data, both of which added greatly to existing Arctic knowledge. Sledge journeys ascertained that the position of the North Magnetic Pole had changed little for more than seventy years.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The North West Passage

*Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907*

VOLUME 1

ROALD AMUNDSEN



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1
Roald Amundsen
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108071598

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2014

This edition first published 1908
This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-07159-8 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or
with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

The original edition of this book contains a number of colour plates,
which have been reproduced in black and white. Colour versions of these
images can be found online at www.cambridge.org/9781108071598

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE “GJÖA” EXPEDITION,

1903–1907.

THE

NORTH WEST PASSAGE

BY

ROALD AMUNDSEN.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



Roald Amundsen

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ROALD AMUNDSEN'S
"THE NORTH WEST PASSAGE"

BEING THE RECORD OF A
VOYAGE OF EXPLORATION OF THE
SHIP "GJÖA" 1903–1907 BY ROALD
AMUNDSEN WITH A SUPPLEMENT
BY FIRST LIEUTENANT HANSEN
VICE-COMMANDER OF THE
EXPEDITION

WITH ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINE
ILLUSTRATIONS AND THREE MAPS

VOL. I

London:

ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE AND COMPANY LIMITED

1908

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Published November 23rd, 1907.

Privilege of Copyright in the United States reserved, under the
Act approved March 3rd, 1905, by H. Aschehoug and Co.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Dedicated

TO

H.E. DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN, G.C.V.O.,

NORWEGIAN MINISTER TO THE COURT OF ST. JAMES,

WITH THE DEEPEST GRATITUDE

FROM

ROALD AMUNDSEN.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE.

I TENDER my warmest and most heartfelt thanks to the small party of brave men who followed me through the North West Passage and risked their lives to ensure the success of my undertaking.

A loving thought will again and again travel back to the lonely grave looking out on the boundless ice-desert, and grateful memories will arise of him who laid down his young life on the field of action.

I tender my best thanks to Mr. Axel Steen, meteorologist, to His Excellency Professor Dr. G. von Neumayer, to Professor Ad. Schmidt, and to Professor Johannes Edler for the valuable assistance they rendered me with reference to the difficult magnetic problem connected with the Expedition.

The complicated financial accounts of the Expedition, as well as its voluminous correspondence, have been gratuitously attended to by Mr. Alex. Nansen, barrister, and my heartiest thanks are due to him for his valued services.

In conclusion, I beg to express my sincerest thanks to the Committee, who, on the initiative of Consul Axel Heiberg, and under his and Mr. Alex. Nansen's direction, have collected the necessary funds for meeting the liabilities of the Expedition.

I feel bound to add that Mr. Bernt Lie has very kindly revised my manuscript.

ROALD AMUNDSEN.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
INTRODUCTION	I
CHAPTER II.	
MAKING FOR THE POLAR SEA	14
CHAPTER III.	
IN VIRGIN WATER	55
CHAPTER IV.	
THE FIRST WINTER	101
CHAPTER V.	
TOWARDS THE POLE	149
CHAPTER VI.	
SUMMER	188
CHAPTER VII.	
THE SECOND WINTER	237
CHAPTER VIII.	
PART I.	
THE INHABITANTS AT THE MAGNETIC NORTH POLE	291

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
Roald Amundsen	<i>Frontispiece</i>
The “Gjøa”	7
The Deck of the “Gjøa”	7
Members of the “Gjøa” Expedition	11
An Iceberg in Baffin’s Bay	21
Airing Mouldy Bread	24
Godhavn, with Disco Island in the Background	27
Eskimo Beauties from Godhavn	31
The Danish Literary Greenland Expedition	40
Eskimo from North Greenland	43
Ruins of the Franklin Dépôt on Beechey Island	50
The “Franklin, Bellot, and Belcher” Memorial, Beechey Island.	52
Fire	65
“Gjøa” Aground	71
“Gjøa” at Anchor in Gjøahavn. (Summer, 1904)	81
Gjøahavn and its Environs	<i>facing</i> 84
Magnetic Meridian. 1885	86
Magnetic Inclination Lines. 1885	87
Lines through Places having identical Horizontal Intensity	89
Self-registering Magnetic Variation Apparatus	90
Magnetic Variation Curves for 24 Hours under Quiescent Magnetic Conditions	92
Magnetic Variation Curves for 24 Hours during Magnetic Disturbances	92
“Gjøa” discharging by Aerial Ropeway. Gjøahavn, 1903	94
Building of the Store Shed. Gjøahavn, 1903	96
Building of the Magnetic Variation House. Gjøahavn, 1903	98
Observatory for the Absolute Magnetic Observations. 1904— 1905	108

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Illustrations.

	PAGE
Villa "Magnet"	110
"Uranienborg." The Astronomical Observatory in Summer Time	112
Ivayarra. Ogluli Eskimo	114
Festivities among the Nechilli Eskimo	118
The Interior of the Villa "Magnet"	119
Wiik at the entrance to the Observatory for the Magnetic Variation Instruments. Gjøahavn	123
The First Christmas Eve on Board	129
A Visit to the Cabin	139
The First Sledge Expedition	147
Members of the Expedition, front view. (Winter, 1903—1904)	152
Members of the Expedition, back view. (Winter, 1903—1904)	153
Kagoptinner in his son Poieta's Hut	161
Nechilli Eskimo in their Snow Hut	165
Eskimo Removing	175
Our Tent near the Magnetic North Pole	185
The "Owl" as Archer	191
Kabloka	193
Umiktuallu.	194
Onaller and Son.	195
Talurnakto.	197
Summer Scene on Deck. Gjøahavn, 1904	204
Summer on King William Land	207
Umiktuallu Kills his Foster-son	213
Adolf Lindström with Samples of Fish on King William Land. (Autumn, 1904)	217
Closed Nechilli Grave.	220
Open Nechilli Grave	221
Boat Expedition to investigate the Magnetic Conditions on King William Land	223
G. Hansen and H. Hansen on the Boat Expedition	227
Winter in Gjøahavn	234
Nechilli Eskimo on a Visit	239
The "Owl's" Ice Palace on King William Land	245

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07159-8 - The North West Passage: Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration
of the Ship Gjøa 1903–1907: Volume 1

Roald Amundsen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Illustrations.

	PAGE
A Hunting Party	246
Akla and Son	251
An Eskimo Camp in Winter Time	253
Silla and Pups by the Provision Shed. Gjøahavn	261
Uranienborg. The Astronomical Observatory in Winter Time	265
Snow Huts in the Lindström Valley at Gjøahavn	275
Magito, the Belle of Ogchoktu	279
Nalungia and Atikleura outside their Tent	295
Eskimo Implements	299
Kayak Building	304
Oyara and Alo-Alo	308
A living Boot-jack	314
The Nechilli in Summer Time	330

CHART.

The Route of the “Gjøa” through the North West
Passage *At the end of Volume*