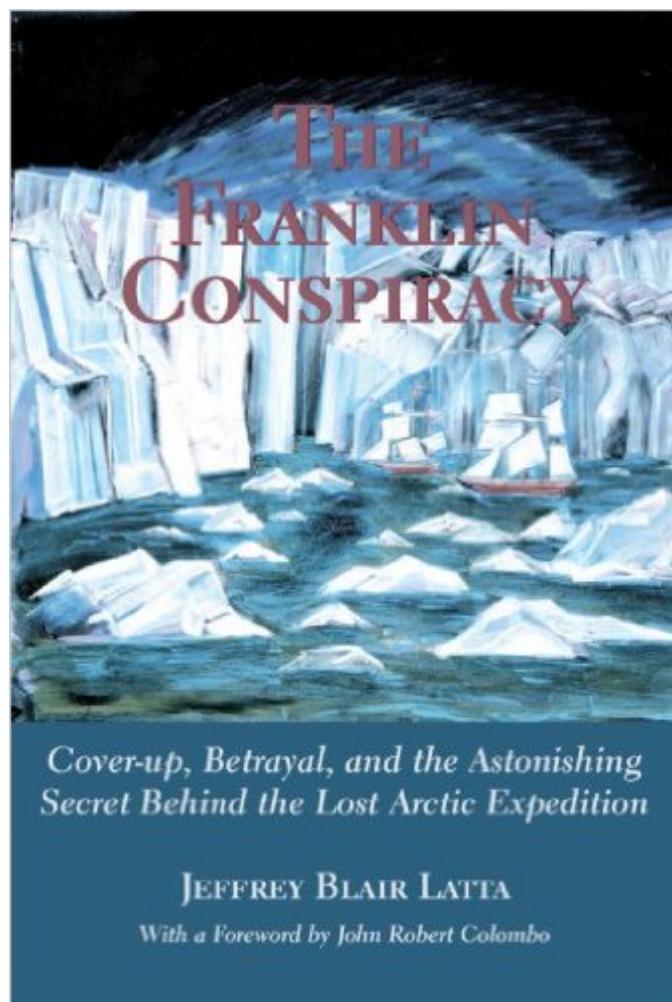


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The Franklin Conspiracy: An Astonishing Solution To The Lost Arctic Expedition



Synopsis

The Franklin Conspiracy is an absorbing account of the single most enigmatic event in Canadian history. In 1845, two British Royal Navy ships, the Erebus and the Terror, commanded by Sir John Franklin, entered the Canadian Arctic in search of the Northwest Passage. Neither ship returned. A fifteen-year search uncovered evidence of unparalleled disaster, but to this day no one knows exactly how the 129 men of the Franklin Expedition met their deaths. Although the expedition did not run out of food, there is clear evidence of cannibalism. The ships carried two hundred message cylinders with them, yet failed to leave records. Stranger still, an earlier explorer, Thomas Simpson, was reputedly murdered for the "secret of the Northwest Passage." What was this "secret"? The Franklin Conspiracy is an exhaustively researched, compellingly reasoned answer to that question. The result is a shocking saga of conspiracy, cover-up, and unbelievable secrets.

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Customer Reviews

In his Acknowledgements, the author thanks individuals without whom "this book would still be languishing in the back of a drawer." Those people may have been well-meaning, but they did a disservice to everyone, including the author, as this wretched book should never have been published. Nor should anyone waste his time reading it. Much of the book concerns an elaborate conspiracy by the British Admiralty to fail to locate the Franklin Expedition, which it had, as the author concedes, sent out with the most lavish and advanced preparation. As in all such theories, the conspirators are all-powerful and all-knowing, though the author never bothers to explain who the members of "the Admiralty" were, how the membership changed over the years, or how they

were able to swear hundreds of officers and men to everlasting secrecy. Though this would be the most (if not the only) successful mass conspiracy in history, the author does not attempt to explain how the omnipotent conspirators would benefit from the failure to find Franklin. Furthermore, if the Admiralty was so omniscient, it would not have needed to dispatch Franklin; or the expedition could not possibly have failed. The later portions of the book become even further detached from reality and in the process forget to show what these bizarre speculations have to do with the conspiracy. If the Franklin party fell victim to supernatural forces, the Admiralty could hardly have been to blame and would have had no motive for a cover-up. To Europeans (and probably to its original inhabitants) the Arctic is a strange and terrifying place. In the course of hundreds of years of contact over this vast region, it is not surprising that a collection of odd, weird, and inexplicable occurrences have been recorded.

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