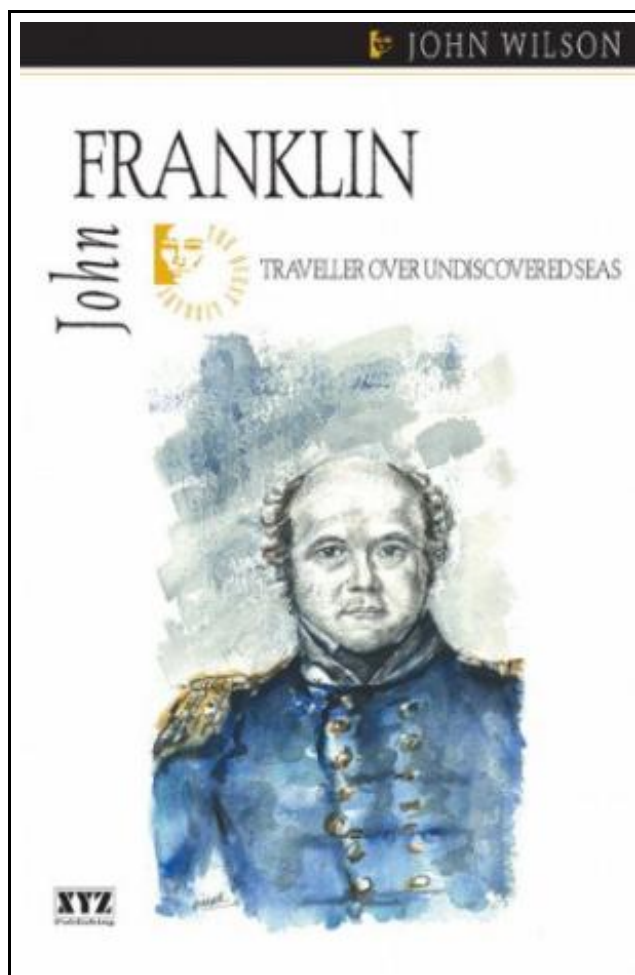


John Franklin: Traveller on Undiscovered Seas



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JOHN FRANKLIN: TRAVELLER ON UNDISCOVERED SEAS



XYZ Publishing. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, John Franklin: Traveller on Undiscovered Seas, John Wilson, In the nineteenth century the High Arctic was the equivalent of the moon, and the explorers who searched for the Northwest Passage were the Apollo astronauts of their day. The most famous of these men, John Franklin, was a British naval officer who explored and charted Canada's arctic seacoast in 1819-1822, 1825-27, and 1845. On his first expedition he nearly starved and on the third he died. None of his men survived the third expedition, but the search for clues to their fate helped to open up the North and is celebrated in Canadian songs and stories. John Franklin was a restless man, a traveller, never content to stay in one place in comfort and security. Of the forty-seven years from the time he joined the Royal Navy at age fourteen until he died at age sixty-one, he spent barely a dozen years at home in England. He served under Admiral Nelson in the great naval battles of Copenhagen and Trafalgar. He learned navigation while mapping the coast of Australia; his sea duties took him to China, Brazil, the Mediterranean, the West Indies, and New Orleans. More than 150 years after his men buried him in an unknown grave in the frozen land that kept calling him back, we are still fascinated by John Franklin. Was he a hero, an honourable officer striving nobly against impossible odds? Or was he a fool who doomed himself and his expedition through an inflexible, archaic attitude? Perhaps the mystery will never be solved and the restless traveller never laid to rest, but John Franklin and the search for the Northwest Passage have become a Canadian myth.



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