



# Explorers' Sketchbooks: The Art of Discovery & Adventure

*Huw Lewis-Jones , Kari Herbert , Robert Macfarlane (Foreword)*

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The sketchbook has been the one constant in explorers' kits for centuries of adventure. Often private, they are records of immediate experiences and discoveries, and in their pages we can see what the explorers themselves encountered. This remarkable book showcases 70 such sketchbooks, kept by intrepid men and women as they journeyed perilous and unknown environments—frozen wastelands, high mountains, barren deserts, and dense rainforests—with their senses wide open. Figures such as Charles Darwin and Sir Edmund Hillary are joined here by lesser-known explorers such as Adela Breton, who braved the jungles of Mexico to make a record of Mayan monuments. Here are profiles, expedition details, and the artwork of pioneering explorers and mapmakers, botanists and artists, ecologists and anthropologists, eccentrics and visionaries. Here is the art of discovery.

## Explorers' Sketchbooks: The Art of Discovery & Adventure Details

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# From Reader Review Explorers' Sketchbooks: The Art of Discovery & Adventure for online ebook

## Philip says

**UPDATE:** Okay, so I haven't *quite* finished this - as noted before, this is something that should be read over a number of weeks, 2-3 entries at a time. But I'm almost done; and I just couldn't deal with my 1000th read book being the "graphic novel" (i.e., comic book) version of **Game of Thrones**. - much classier to have a grown-up book like this occupying that hallowed slot.

Beautiful and unique book for anyone interested in natural history and/or exploration - makes you wonder why no one put something like this together before. It's not the kind of book you sit down and read all at once, but rather enjoy and study two or three entries at a time, (each artist/explorer/naturalist gets a brief introduction and then 2-3 pages of his notebooks).

I particularly like that it's arranged alphabetically rather than by topic, so that within a few pages you bounce from insect hunting in the Amazon and crossing the Outback in the 1850's, to deep diving off Bermuda in the 1930's, to spying for the British in World War I Iraq, to living with the Inuit in the 1880's, to climbing in the Himalaya today, (Henry Walter Bates, Ludwig Becker, William Beebe, Gertrude Bell, Franz Boaz, Chris Bonnington). Only small criticism is that it would have been even better if they'd included portraits (photos or paintings) of the explorers themselves, so we could visualize who we were reading about.

I'm currently reading a library copy, but only because my own hasn't arrived yet - this is definitely a keeper, much like the equally excellent and unknown **Worlds to Explore: Classic Tales of Travel and Adventure from National Geographic**. Unfortunately, this one costs a lot more on Amazon!

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## Viewpoints Radio says

Being an explorer may seem like a childhood fantasy, but it's a real thing people do. We talk to Dr. Huw Lewis-Jones about some notable explorers of the past and ways you can see the world through fresh eyes yourself. Listen here: <https://viewpointsradio.wordpress.com...>

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## Peter Tillman says

Beautiful book, featuring excerpts from 70 explorers' field journals and notes. Many are beautiful; some are more interesting than others. I enjoyed browsing the book.

The reproduction quality is good, but the illustration captions are in an imitation-typscript that I found really hard to read. The individual explorers range from famous to unknown (to me). The (typically) half-page potted bios of the explorers range from adequate to good; I read maybe a third of them. No ToC, but there is an index.

Some of the illustrations left me scratching my head. Why would the editors think readers would be interested in seeing 4 pages of illegible notes in someone's field book? Fortunately, this is pretty rare, and

there is some gorgeous artwork here.

In closing: this isn't the sort of book I would buy, but if you see it in the public library, it's definitely worth taking home. And, as you will see, many other readers liked it more than I did. 3.3 stars.

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### **Jerrie (redwritinghood) says**

This book is gorgeous! It contains short biographies of various explorers and naturalists along with pages from their journals and sketchbooks that they kept on various outings. There are quick sketches, watercolors, photographs and written notes. This is a short read about some early explorers, some no longer well-remembered with a lot of artwork that is stunning.

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### **Amy Dance says**

a beautiful book, just didn't have time 2 finish b4 due date. one thing, though, often the entries did not clearly state where in the world the exploration took place- I had to Google some locations I was unfamiliar with in order even know what continent it was on!

It would have been helpful if the entries said something like this: She travelled to (place) in the country of (place).

I will definitely get back 2 this book!

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### **Jamie says**

A beautiful book but more historical and dense than I was in the mood for; great for anyone interested in art and history though!

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### **Cat says**

If you know me, you know I love a good journal, so I enjoyed this book a lot—it's beautiful and has so many cool things in it. A little heavy on Antarctica and a little light on female explorers, which was disappointing because I'm sure females explore and I'm also sure we write about our travels. I don't know why there were so few, but it was still a gorgeous book to read. Learned of some cool explorers that I will need to read more about.

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### **Lynda says**

Yet another one of those beautiful, gorgeous books that I'm going to have to buy if I ever hope to give it the thorough reading and intense viewing and inspection that the sketchbooks in question really deserve. It makes me wonder about the pages that this book did NOT include. (And to wish that they didn't use such TINY print for the all-too-short descriptions of the explorers lives and deaths and adventures.

I also found myself wishing (and is mentioned in the author's foreword) that the field of exploration wasn't such a male, white, European pastime. I wonder if there books like this from the POV of the Native American people who led Lewis and Clark or the Nepalese Sherpas who led people up Everest.

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### **Melinda says**

This was a thoroughly enjoyable book, one that warrants being picked up and read and examined in detail. It reminds me a great deal of "The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady". Before photography, people sketched and drew and painted their discoveries and their natural history findings. I enjoyed reading this explorers' sketchbook, but I enjoyed looking at their drawings and paintings even more.

Highly recommended. The known explorers were enjoyable, and the unknown explorers (to me) were a real treat!

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### **Ella says**

Loved the layout and all the photos but I really wish there had been less white men explorers that I've read or heard about from other history books I've read and more women and POC.

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### **Stacy Tomaszewski says**

This beautiful book offers samples of the writing and drawing of explorers from all over the world and going back centuries. Each entry — offered alphabetically — gives a little summary of the explorer's life and work, and the rest is devoted to his/her own writing. As a nosy Parker, I love reading other people's letters and journals, and this book allows a small glimpse into the daily life of extraordinary people. I particularly appreciate the number of female explorers who are represented and presented as equals to the men.

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### **Lorraine says**

Didn't really know what to expect when I took this book out st the library... simply caught my eye and thought it looked interesting. What I found was page after page of incredible journal entries of the worlds greatest explorers through the last several centuries and a brief entry about their work. As I read through these passages I felt tremendous admiration for each individual's courage, perseverance, intelligence and their ability to take risks in the name of science. I also found their journals incredibly inspirational. As a individual who writes in a journal every day, I was able to discover through the journal entries in this book, a whole new way of expressing myself, documenting the world in other ways other then words... and have it be meaning, intense, worldly and beautiful.

The book is a treasure worth owning and having on one's private bookshelf.

It's a Goodread!

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## **David Hyder says**

A wonderful book. It is mainly a coffee table browser with enough text to provide some context. Some of the sketches are remarkable, some are mundane all are inspirational. Some challenge me to become better at observation. Others show that aside from fame, I have a good hand with pen and ink.

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## **JaumeMuntane says**

Este libro es una joya. Un tesoro.

Editado de forma espléndida, se recoge una selección de 70 exploradores con reproducciones de sus cuadernos de viaje. Resulta fascinante la atracción de estos cuadernos de viaje, ver las anotaciones manuscritas de famosos exploradores (Livingstone, las últimas palabras escritas por Scott..) y los dibujos especialmente bellos que contienen muchos de ellos, con sugerentes ilustraciones de paisajes, indígenas o animales algunos de ellos desaparecidos.

Me ha fascinado observar fragmentos de exploradores conocidos (Amundsen, Scott, Livingstone, Stanley, Howard Carter) pero especialmente de algunos que deberían ser más conocidos.

Un recorrido por el mundo de la mano de 70 exploradores en un libro que hará las delicias de amantes de la historia, la geografía, del arte y en definitiva para todos aquellos que, como estos 70 exploradores, tienen el rasgo común de la curiosidad.

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## **Ann says**

What a treasure this book is with the stories of explorers, travelers, scientists, artists ,collectors all together in a book showcasing examples of their works in sketchbooks and journals with a brief description of where each traveled and what drove their passions in life. I am enjoying reading this visual guide and loving the stories behind the paintings,

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