



Finding John Rae /

Hamilton, Alice Jane (1950-), author.

<https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39PCjMrthxyvgVctDhKxXcbbb>

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Monografía

This creative nonfiction biography of the celebrated Arctic explorer Dr. John Rae begins in 1854 when, on a mapping expedition to the Boothia Peninsula, Rae discovers the missing link in the Northwest Passage. On the same trip, a chance encounter with an Inuit hunter leads him to uncover the tragic fate that befell the officers and crew of the long-missing Franklin Expedition when, starving on the ice, they resorted to cannibalism. When the Scottish-born scientist and Hudson's Bay Company Chief Factor reports the shocking details about the men's demise to the British Admiralty, he is publicly belittled by such well-known Victorian society figures as the novelist Charles Dickens and Sir John Franklin's widow, Jane. From then on, Rae's life becomes a restless journey of soaring hope and bitter disappointment, as he attempts to restore his good reputation with the British public, defend the integrity of the Arctic natives who brought him detailed testimony about the evidence of cannibalism, and rebuild his shattered identity. Rae's search for what has been lost takes him to Hamilton, Lower Canada, across Rupert's Land to the Pacific Coast, to the Faroe Islands, across Greenland, and then finally home to the Orkney Islands where yet another turn of events catches him by surprise

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Título: Finding John Rae Alice Jane Hamilton

Editorial: Vancouver Rondale Press 2017

Descripción física: 1 online resource

Bibliografía: Includes bibliographical references (pages 225-226)

Copyright/Depósito Legal: 1081041809

ISBN: 9781553804826 HTML) 1553804821 9781553804833 PDF) 155380483X 9781553804819 1553804813

Materia Nombre: Rae, John 1813-1893.) Rae, John 1813-1893)- Travel- Arctic regions Rae, John 1813-1893)
<https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39PBjKtvQx4PK7QQbXWdk8wG3>

Materia Entidad: Hudson's Bay Company- Biography Hudson's Bay Company.

Materia Congreso: John Franklin Arctic Expedition. (1845-1851)

Materia: Inuit- Canada- Social life and customs- 19th century Surgeons- Scotland- Biography Inuit- Canada- Murs et coutumes- 19e siècle Chirurgiens- Écosse- Biographies BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY- Historical. Discoveries in geography- British. Inuit- Social life and customs. Surgeons. Travel.

Materia Geográfica: Arctic regions- Discovery and exploration- British Northwest Passage- Discovery and exploration- British Arctic Ocean- Northwest Passage. Arctic Regions. Canada. <https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39PBJkMHVW4rfVXPrhVP4VwG3> Scotland. <https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39QbtfRx4M4xHbtFTRj7p6BmM>

Enlace a formato físico adicional: Hamilton, Alice Jane, 1950-. Finding John Rae./. Vancouver : Rondale Press, 2017 (CaOONL)20169074412

Baratz Innovación Documental

- Gran Vía, 59 28013 Madrid
- (+34) 91 456 03 60
- informa@baratz.es