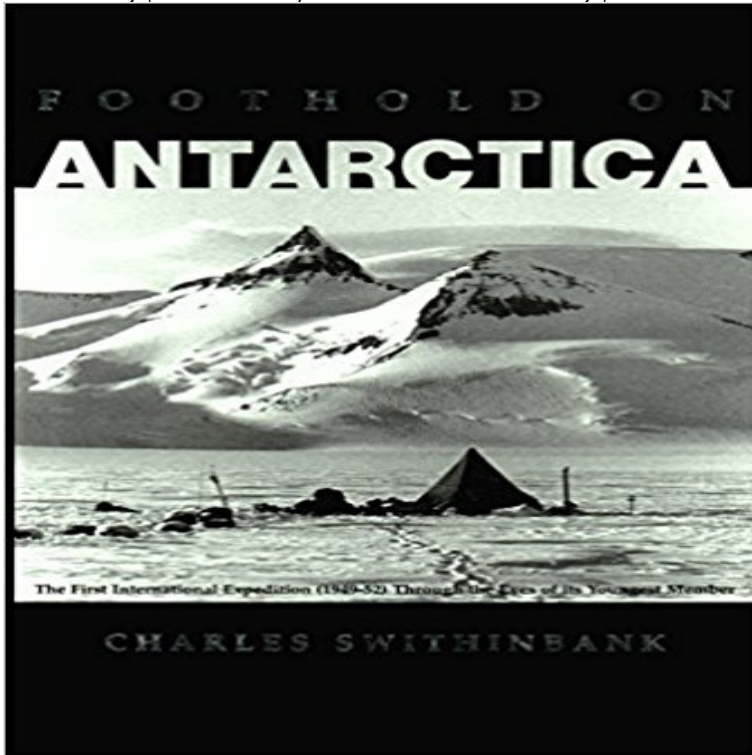


Foothold on Antarctica: The First International Expedition (1949-1952) Through the Eyes of Its Youngest Member



In 1948 when Charles Swithinbank was still an undergraduate at Oxford, he applied to join the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition. A year later, after training in Swedish Lapland, he was the youngest member of the expedition as he set out to spend two years in the splendid isolation of Antarctica. He had the time of his life, knowing that he and his 14 companions were the first to explore a vast untrodden sector of Antarctica. Three men and many dogs died. One man lost an eye. Danger was ever present and accidents happened. But it never ceased to be a wonderful experience in an awe-inspiring landscape. In one mountain pass they mapped, the ice was found to be even thicker than the highest mountain in Britain. The expedition's scientific results proved invaluable and led to an understanding of the importance of ice sheets in regulating world climate and sea level. But this is the human story of a great adventure, illustrated with 100 superb photographs. Charles Swithinbank became an eminent glaciologist who made a score of subsequent visits to Antarctica. Yet even after 50 years the thrill of this first expedition remains - a thrill that we can now share. Since graduating from Oxford, Charles Swithinbank has held research posts in the universities of Cambridge and Michigan, and has visited the Antarctic over 20 times, spending three winters at isolated scientific stations. He is the author of *Alien in Antarctica* and *Forty Years on Ice* (published by the Book Guild in 1998), as well as scores of articles on glaciers and the Polar regions. He was awarded the highest gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society - the medal given to Livingstone, Nansen, Amundsen and Scott - as well as several other medals. Now a Senior Associate of the Scott Polar Research Institute, he lives in Cambridge.

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