



THE FRANKLIN CONSPIRACY

*Cover-up, Betrayal, and the Astonishing
Secret Behind the Lost Arctic Expedition*

Jeffrey Blair Latta

Foreword by John Robert Colombo



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The Franklin Conspiracy

- Lyon, George Francis. *A Brief Narrative of an Unsuccessful Attempt to Reach Repulse Bay, Through Sir Thomas Rowe's "Welcome", in His Majesty's Ship Griper, in the Year MDCCCXXIV.* Reprinted, Toronto: Coles Pub. Co., 1971.
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It is the single most enigmatic mystery in Canadian history. In 1845, the British Royal Navy sent two ships, the *Erebus* and the *Terror*, into the unexplored Arctic. They were the most advanced vessels of their day, fully outfitted with state-of-the-art scientific equipment. On board were 129 sailors and scientists, led by the legendary explorer, Sir John Franklin.

Neither ship was ever seen again.

Years of searching uncovered evidence of unparalleled disaster. But to this day, the experts remain mystified. What really happened to the lost Franklin Expedition? Now, for the first time, *The Franklin Conspiracy* presents an astonishing new theory, one that attempts to follow all the clues, no matter where they may lead. The expedition did not run out of food, yet there is evidence of cannibalism. The ships carried two hundred message cylinders, yet failed to leave records. Stranger still, an earlier explorer 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 an unbelievable secret that may have sealed the fates of 129 men.



Jeffrey Blair Latta has contributed popular science columns to Canadian newspapers, been published in the prestigious science journal *Nature*, and written two one-act plays as well as several screenplays. Though originally majoring in Physics at Queen's University, he graduated in Film Studies.



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40. Krapf, Phillip H. **THE CHALLENGE OF CONTACT: A MAINSTREAM JOURNALIST'S REPORT ON INTERPLANETARY DIPLOMACY.** Origin Press, 2001. HC, 186pp. This author has appeared on the scene just a bit too late to be included in one of Donna Kossy's books—but you can bet the farm he'll be in her next one. His first book (**The Contact Has Begun**) left many of us wondering just how a 25-year veteran of the Los Angeles Times news staff, an education which has to hard-boil one's consciousness to the point of petrification, could possibly convince himself that he was basking in the metaphysical glow of a group of alien beings, the "Verdants" (with names like "Robert" and "Kyle") who appear entirely human and who do entirely human things, and who had chosen him, and several hundred other earthlings, to act as spokespersons for them in advance of an impending mass contact between them and humanity. **THE CHALLENGE OF CONTACT** is a sequel to the first book. The text reads like something out of Angelucci's **Son of the Sun** and Adamski's **Inside the Space Ships**, benign, patient, peaceful, imaginative. The only nagging problem is, how the hell does a Los-Angeles-Times-hardened newsmen fall for this??? Maybe you can figure it out, because it just won't penetrate my misanthropic consciousness. \$19.95

41. Latta, Jeffrey Blair. **THE FRANKLIN CONSPIRACY.** Hounslow / Dundurn, 2001. Qual. soft, 320pp, illus. In the first half of the 19th Century, Britain and the U.S. both sent expeditions in search of a northwest passage through the Arctic seas to China and the rest of Asia. One of these, the ill-starred expedition commanded by Sir John Franklin in 1845, ended in tragedy: all 129 members perished, their mutilated remains being discovered on King William Island only in 1929. The author's research has led him to conclude that there was more than a trade route at stake in these expeditions. He theorizes that the British and U.S. governments wanted to know more about Arctic anomalies such as mirages of mountain ranges, polar openings (Hollow Earthers note!), and sightings of tropical bird life and giants. And it seems that the several search expeditions which followed the tragedy had as a real objective to keep secret whatever discoveries they might make concerning the disaster. The mystery was not lessened when 3 crewmen were exhumed and examined in the 1980s—and were found to have undergone bizarre autopsies! Now you will have something new to discuss with your associates. We have limited stock coming momentarily—don't delay. \$22.95

42. Lewis, Michael. **NEXT: THE FUTURE JUST HAPPENED.** Norton, 2001. HC, 236pp. Lewis, known for his slash-and-burn **Liar's Poker**, now fixes his gaze on the internet—and warns us that it turns out not to be a benevolent, orderly transformation of the way we do things, but instead, a deadly weapon in the hands of revolutionaries. Old establishments, old priesthoods of bankers, lawyers, investment icons and professionals in general are tumbling to the ground, being plowed under by their worst possible nightmare—amateurs, and individuals, even children. Where does it head from here? Lewis extrapolates, and we shudder more than a little. Wickedly relentless in its vision of what's really Next, read it if you dare! \$23.95

43. Little, Gregory and Lora, and Van Auken, John. **MOUND BUILDERS: EDGAR CAYCE'S FORGOTTEN RECORD OF ANCIENT AMERICA.** Eagle Wing, 2001. Qual. soft, 293pp, photos, notes, bibliog., index. It was only a few years ago—1997—that the "Clovis Barrier" dating the age of Man in the Americas was broken by new and convincing archaeological finds. But decades ago, Edgar Cayce had already left a legacy, in his many readings, of Man in the Americas almost inconceivably long ago. Nobody took him seriously then, but this team of authors shows us that quite a bit of Cayce's information, some 77% of it, in fact, stands a good chance of having been correct after all. As for the mounds and the mound-builders, they are shown to have originated in Atlantis and Lemuria, migrating here as far back as 50,000 BC during the recurring cataclysms which were destroying those land areas. The reader will have to take some of this on faith, specifically the Christian faith, but in general many points are well taken. And if nothing else, the book should motivate those who love ancient mysteries or who are interested in megalithic cultures to seek out further books on the ancient Americas. Too bad this will probably not be read much by the very people who need to read it the most—the "professional" archaeologists. \$16.95

44. Maccabee, Dr. Bruce. **ABDUCTION IN MY LIFE. A NOVEL OF ALIEN ENCOUNTERS.** Granite, 2001. Qual. soft, 345pp, notes, bibliog., index. A "new form of UFO literature," in which it is made clear which portions are strictly fact, and which are presented as fiction. The plot involves a man who tries to help a friend research stories of strange events, only to find the strangeness taking over his own family life. Here is a new level of UFO fiction, \$15.00

CATALOGUE 2001

45. Mehler, Stephen T. **THE LAND OF OSIRIS: AN INTRODUCTION TO KHEMITOLOGY.** AUP, 2001. Qual. soft, 231pp, notes, bibliog., photos, index. The author discovers an oral tradition still alive in Egypt which relates to the country's ancient past. This tradition parallels—but does not duplicate—what historians and archaeologists have told us about ancient Egypt. It holds that there was an advanced prehistoric civilization there, whose members built the pyramids (which served as energy devices, and not a royal tombs) and carved the Sphinx. The author benefited greatly from studying with a master of this tradition, Abd'El Hakim Awyan. "Khemit" (derived from KMT, the ancient word for the Nile Delta, meaning "Black Land") is the term which ought to be used in place of "Egypt," hence the "Khemitology" of the title. Throughout the book, indications abound that the KMT culture knew about electricity, flight, and psychic power, and these are revealed in numerous examples of artwork. Follow 65000 years of "Egyptian" civilization, \$18.95

46. Moen, Bruce. **VOYAGE TO CURIOSITY'S FATHER.** Hampton Roads, 2001. Qual. soft, 308pp. 4th book in the "Exploring the Afterlife" series. Astral traveler Moen finally makes it to the origin of consciousness itself, a source he calls "Curiosity's Father." Once there, he meets with "those who have gone before," and finds out the answers to such questions as "What is Consciousness" and "Where do we, and our perceptions, fit into what is ultimately real?" Reads easily, considering the difficulty of the subject material, and should please those who have been on Moen's 3 previous book-journeys. \$3.95

47. MUFON, eds. **MUFON 2001 INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS.** MUFON, 2001. Lg. softbound, 216pp. Theme of this year's Symposium was "2001: Joining the Cosmic Neighborhood," and was by all accounts a great success. Here are the papers: Stanton Friedman, **Flying Saucers and the Cosmic Neighborhood**; Eric Davis (of NIDS), **Wormhole-Stargates: Tunnelling Through the Cosmic Neighborhood**; Robert Wood, **Mounting Evidence for the Authenticity of MJ-12 Documents**; Daniel Sheehan, **Earning Our "Citizenship" In Our Galactic Community: The New Paradigm**; Steven Greer, **Disclosure: Implications For The Environment, World Peace, World Poverty and the Human Future**; Barry Downing, **UFOs and the Strange Business of Believing**; Budd Hopkins, **UFO Abductions and Their After-Effects**; Ryan S. Wood, **The First Roswell Evidence For A Crash Retrieval In Cape Girardeau Missouri in 1941**; John Mack, **Witnessing: Abductees as Sacred Truth-Tellers**; Pratt, Bob, **UFO Terror in Brazil**; Roger Leir, **alien Abduction—Alien Implants: Why????**; Ann Druffel, **Alien Abduction Defense**; Jaime Maussion, **UFO Encounters in Mexico**; and Joseph McMoneagle, **Remote Viewing: Extraterrestrials.** \$25.00

48. Mullins, Larry, and Sprunger, Meredith J. **A HISTORY OF THE URANTIA PAPERS.** Penumbra Pr., 2001. HC, 436pp, index, illus. The author (Mullins) says he is "utterly convinced that circa 1906-1955, non-material beings of super-human intelligence and maturity interfaced regularly with a group of (eventually six mortals) for the purpose of providing a religious revelation of epochal significance." Here is his history of the development of what became The Urantia Book. As such, valuable insight into the development of a "cult," or quasi-religious movement taking shape in our own times. \$24.95

49. Revere, Paul. **ALIEN ALERT!** 2001, Qual. soft, 174pp. Recalling his namesake, this "Paul Revere" gallops through town, yelling "The Aliens are coming, the Aliens are coming!" after taking note of three lanterns in Old North Church (third one is for "if by the heavens"). He says cryptic things in his publicity like "Our secret past is impinging inexorably upon our world," and "The approaching crisis will bring it all out into the open" (Can you imagine how many modern pseudo-prophets are going to think the WTC calamity was meant just for them??? One swoons with anticipation!). ---Sigh---another problem with the print-on-demand phenomenon is that just anybody can whip up a book now, and use them to pick up babes later at parties because he can claim he's a published author (babes with brains dig published authors). This is probably a book by just anybody, but it'll be rare 20 years from now because nobody will ever have heard of it except in Arcturus catalogs. **Stock due late November, \$16.95**

50. Rife, Philip L. **IT DIDN'T START WITH ROSWELL: 50 YEARS OF AMAZING UFO CRASHES, CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AND COVERUPS.** 2001, qual. soft, 216pp. The world is awash in print-on-demand UFO books. The publicity for this one says (in total) "Sheds surprising new light on the origins of modern UFOs." We don't know where the author will search for the origins, but there aren't too many places that haven't already been raked over. **Due Late Nov. \$16.95**

EXPEDITIONS

- 1818 **John Ross**, aboard the *Isabella*, sails in search of the Northwest Passage, with William Edward Parry accompanying in the *Alexander*. Ross enters Lancaster Sound, but turns back "as if some mischief was behind him."
- 1819 **William Edward Parry** commands his own expedition, his first of three. He nearly makes it through the Northwest Passage, but is stopped by the ice stream in Viscount Melville Sound.
- 1821-1823 **Parry** makes a second attempt at the Passage aboard the ships *Fury* and *Hecla*. He enters the Arctic farther south and is stopped by ice in Fury and Hecla Strait.
- 1824-1825 **Parry's** third attempt at the Passage, again in the *Fury* and the *Hecla*, results in the *Fury* being abandoned at Fury Beach on the east coast of Somerset Island, along with a cache of supplies. In later years, there is no sign of the *Fury*.
- 1829-1833 **John Ross** undertakes his second (this time private) expedition in search of the Passage. Aboard the *Victory*, he is

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- trapped on the coast of Boothia Peninsula for three years, then escapes to the supply cache at Fury Beach, where he spends a fourth year before being rescued by whalers. His nephew, James Clark Ross, accompanies him and sledges to Victory Point on King William Island.
- 1833 **Richard King** and **George Back** travel overland to explore the Great Fish River.
- 1836-1837 **George Back**, in command of the *Terror*, enters the Arctic through Hudson's Strait. In Repulse Bay, the *Terror* is battered by ice and barely makes it back across the ocean, grounding on the Irish coast with only hours to spare.
- 1837-1839 **Thomas Simpson** and **Peter Warren Dease** are sent overland by the Hudson's Bay Company to map the southern Passage. Thomas Simpson visits the south shore of King William Island where he builds a cairn. He subsequently dies under mysterious circumstances.
- 1845-? **Sir John Franklin** commands 128 men in the *Erebus* and the *Terror* in a final push to complete the Northwest Passage. The ships are equipped with the most up to date technology, including desalinators, internal heating and screw propellers driven by steam engines. No expense is spared, but the expedition meets with disaster.
- 1846-1847 **Dr. John Rae** is dispatched by the Hudson's Bay Company to map the east coast of Boothia and to determine if there is a passage through it. He finds no sign of a passage and concludes, rightly, that Boothia is a peninsula.
- 1848-1849 **James Clark Ross** commands the *Investigator* and the *Enterprise* in the first search for the lost Franklin expedition. He searches Somerset Island using man-hauled sledges and visits Fury Beach, but no sign of the expedition is found. Francis Leopold McClintock commands the sledges across

Expeditions

- 1848-1851 **Dr. John Rae** takes part in a naval expedition led by **John Richardson** travelling overland in search of Franklin. Rae reaches the east coast of Victoria Island across the water from Victory Point but is unable to cross.
- 1850-1851 **William Penny**, a whaling captain, is hired by Jane Franklin to command the *Lady Franklin* and the *Sophia* in the search for her husband. When the Navy offers to pay expenses, she hands the expedition over to them. Penny accuses the naval searchers of "suppressing" records left by Franklin.
- 1850 **Charles Codrington Forsyth** is hired by Lady Jane Franklin to command the *Prince Albert* and to search for Franklin on Somerset Island and Boothia Peninsula. A civilian, **Parker Snow**, goes along as the ship's doctor. Forsyth returns to England because of heavy ice with vague news of the discovery of Franklin's camp on Beechey Island.
- 1850-1851 **Horatio T. Austin** commands a four-ship naval flotilla which discovers Franklin's camp on Beechey Island. The *Assistance* is commanded by **Ommanney** who visits Cape Walker but finds no record left there by Franklin.
- 1850-1851 **John Ross** commands a private expedition aboard the *Felix* (with the tender *Mary*) claiming he thinks Franklin is to be found in the ice stream in Viscount Melville Sound. His Inuit interpreter, **Adam Beck**, hears a story about naval ships attacked and burned on the Greenland coast, but no evidence is found to support the story.
- 1850-1851 **Elisha Kent Kane** is surgeon aboard the *Advance*, one of two American ships (the other being the *Rescue*) sent in search of Franklin. Trapped in an ice pan for eight months and twenty-four days, the ships are carried from Wellington Channel through Lancaster Sound and out into Baffin Bay.
- 1850-1854 **Robert McClure**, in command of the *Investigator*, enters the Arctic from the north in search of the Northwest

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Passage, but is stopped by the ice stream near Banks Land and is forced to complete the Passage on foot. He is rescued by **Henry Kellett** in the *Resolute*.

1850-1855 **Richard Collinson** enters the Arctic from the west aboard the *Enterprise*. He reaches the east coast of Victoria Island across the water from Victory Point where he discovers three cairns. Against the advice of his officers, he ignores evidence that Franklin has met with disaster in the area.

1851-1852 **William Kennedy**, a former Canadian fur-trader, and **Joseph-René Bellot**, a French Lieutenant, reach Prince Regent Inlet aboard Lady Franklin's *Prince Albert*. They search Somerset Island and Prince of Wales Island, going over the same ground as Ommanney's naval searchers.

1852-1854 **Sir Edward Belcher** commands a five-ship naval flotilla to search Wellington Channel and Melville Island. The *Resolute* is commanded by **Henry Kellett** and is caught by ice in Viscount Melville Sound. Belcher, also caught by ice, orders four ships abandoned and returns to England, leaving Collinson who is still somewhere in the southern Arctic.

1853-1855 **Elisha Kent Kane** commands the second American expedition which searches Smith Sound.

1853-1854 **Dr. John Rae** is sent by the Hudson's Bay Company to explore the west coast of Boothia Peninsula up to Bellot Strait. He encounters Inuit at Pelly Bay who tell him about many dead men in the mouth of the Great Fish River south of King William Island. He returns to England with relics and stories of cannibalism.

Expeditions

dence of Franklin's expedition but no sign of bodies or records, and is unable to cross over to King William Island.

1857-1859 **Francis Leopold McClintock** sails in the *Fox* to King William Island. Bodies are at last discovered, a final record is retrieved from Victory Point and Simpson's Cairn is found to have been looted of whatever it contained.

1860-1869 **Charles Francis Hall**, an American, lives for nine years among the Inuit before finally reaching King William Island and spending four days searching for relics of the lost expedition. Of more importance are the stories he hears from his Inuit hosts, including stories of survivors.

1879 **Lieutenant Frederick Schwatka**, of the United States Army, searches King William Island and Adelaide Peninsula. He interviews the Inuit, discovers a complete skeleton at Victory Point and names Starvation Cove.

1903-1905 **Roald Amundsen**, aboard the *Gjoa*, is the first to successfully sail through the Northwest Passage.

1981, 1982 **Owen Beattie**, a physical anthropologist with the University of Alberta, and **James Savelle** search King William Island. They recover some bones and discover the first evidence of lead poisoning.

1984, 1986 **Owen Beattie** exhumes three bodies from the lost expedition buried on Beechey Island. He finds further evidence of lead poisoning.

1992, 1993, 1994 **Barry Ranford**, a photographer and Franklin scholar, finds bones and relics on King William Island.