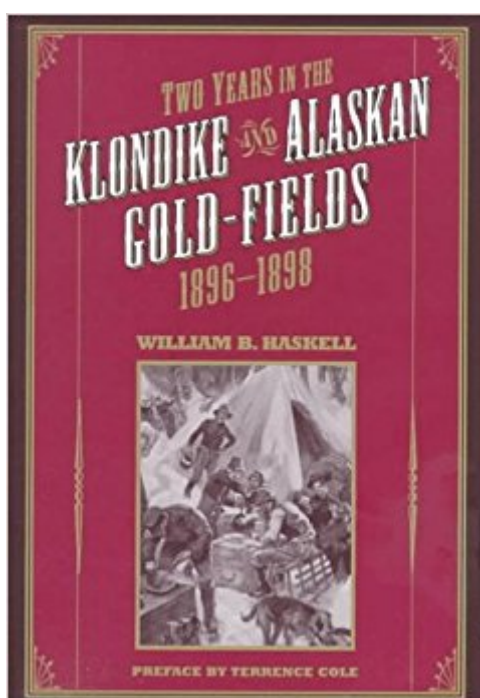


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Two Years In The Klondike And Alaskan Gold Fields 1896-1898: A Thrilling Narrative Of Life In The Gold Mines And Camps (Classic Reprint Series (Univ Of Alaska Pr), No 5)



Synopsis

A thrilling narrative of personal experiences and adventures in the wonderful gold regions of Alaska and the Klondike, with observations of travel and exploration along the Yukon. Portraying the dangers, hardships, and privations of a gold-seeker's life; with a faithful description of life and scenes in gold mines and camps. Including full and authentic information of the countries described, their underground treasures, how to find them, etc. Beautifully illustrated with many engravings from recent photographs taken on the spot. Dozens of the instant guides to the Klondike that sprang from the presses at the turn of the century might have bannered the text above, but *Two Years in the Klondike* was singularly different from those books: here, author William B. Haskell told the truth, and he told it well. In a unique, charming, and poetic style, Haskell writes of his trek to Alaska's Fortymile and Circle City in the spring of 1896 preceding the Klondike discovery, and recounts his adventures in the gold fields before and after the rush of 1897-1898. A keen observer of human nature, Haskell's witty comments on conditions in the Yukon Valley are delightful reading. His gritty and realistic account of life in the north on the eve of the Klondike rush details the enormous changes that took place once the flood of stampeders arrived. Though out of print for nearly a hundred years, Haskell's autobiography has been a major source for every thorough history of the gold rush era in the past century. This new edition of his memoir, published in commemoration of the gold rush centennial as the fifth volume in the University of Alaska Press's Classic Reprint Series, brings back his remarkable eyewitness account of the Klondike stampede. A preface by series editor Terrence Cole and index accompany the original text and photographs.

Book Information

Series: Classic Reprint Series (Univ of Alaska Pr), No 5

Hardcover: 578 pages

Publisher: University of Alaska Press; Reprint edition (March 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1889963011

ISBN-13: 978-1889963013

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,530,525 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > History > Americas > Canada > 19th Century #740 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical >

Customer Reviews

This is a wonderfully exciting narrative, written and published more than a century ago by a Klondike prospector who'd "been there, done that." It was probably not transcribed directly from a diary, but was certainly written soon after events, while memories were still fresh. The author briefly prospected for gold in the Cripple Creek mountains of Colorado, following which he and his partner joined the mad stampede and hazardous trek over Chilkoot Pass, thence down the Yukon River to the Klondike gold field. The original publication was seemingly scanned using optical character recognition, resulting in occasional typographical errors, which are easy to ignore. The author writes in a highly literate manner, and the text is very well edited. The story comes across as interesting and as exciting as the best fictional portrayal of that era (i.e., James Michener's "Alaska" and others)--and is a good example of truth at times being stranger than fiction. This book will be of serious interest to the historian, and is also an exciting page-turner. Highly recommended!

Written as a diary of his life and his two years in the Yukon. Makes you feel as if you were there with him. Many technical details and stories of others who were there. Removes the hype and unrealistic romance of the Klondike gold rush. A must read for anyone going to Alaska or the Canadian Northwest Territories. Makes one realize that no matter how much technological change we've had since the 1890's, people haven't really changed. The Stars TV mini-series did not use much from Haskell's book except his name. Too bad since his real story would have been much more interesting.

I purchased this book for my dad who loves to read about gold rushes of any kind. I couldn't pry this book out of his hands. He said he felt like he was living through through the Klondike. While I did not read the book, I did skim through the preface, written by a history professor at University of Alaska. If you read the book, I would recommend the preface as it gives some background information relative to the period and genre of book. I would have liked to know more about how the book was received after it was published--was it a best seller at the time (1898), what happened to William Haskel?

I was fascinated by the Klondike mini-series and had to find more about the true story. Would YOU have gone to the Klondike searching for gold? It really makes you wonder what would my choice

have been. Most of the world's people were still farmers then. Electric lights were a brand new invention. Immerse yourself in the turn of the 18th century with this book and wonder. What would I have done?

This is a great story of Alaska and all true to boot, tells of the problems of looking for gold in the Klondike at the turn of the 1900s.

Informative about the Klondike gold rush.

Fun story. Simply written. Makes it feel as if you were there during the gold rush.

Very interesting if you are interested in the history of the Yukon Gold Rush. It is told from the author's personal experience.

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