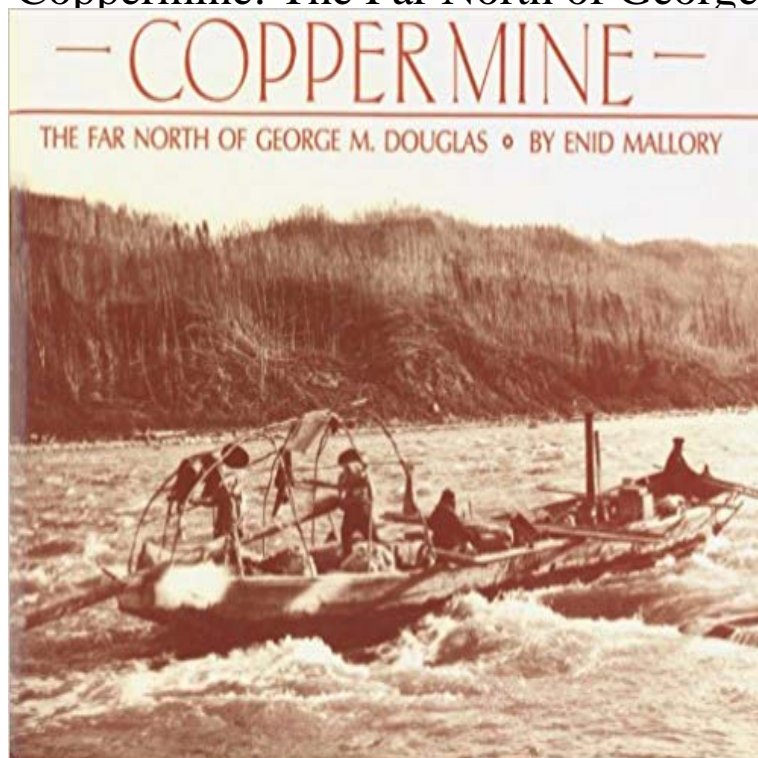


Coppermine: The Far North of George M. Douglas



This book presents a compelling view of one of the great travelers of the 20th century and of the last days of the Old North. A mining engineer and almost the archetype of the practical man, George Douglas was in 1911 given the task of searching for minerals in the watershed of the Coppermine, above the Arctic Circle. He never found great wealth, but developed a life-long affinity with the North itself; a fragile land of subtle beauty about to be changed forever by the advance of southern civilization. During that year and the next he lived a life of extraordinary adventure, became the first white man to make contact with many of the Inuit of the region, and became involved with the great figures of that last generation of Northern adventures.

He became a reluctant father figure to Jack Hornby, the doomed romantic who would starve to death with Harold Adlard and Edgar Christian in 1927. Douglas knew as well Robert Service; in one of the more grisly episodes recounted in this book, he and Service are among a group that discovers the bodies of two dead trappers in an isolated cabin. The note beside the bodies reads I just killed the man that was killing me...There aint no but death for me. On his later trips--he continued to travel north until 1938--Douglas became haunted by the loss of the old north: a place in which travel meant exploration, a place whose natural resources were as yet unexploited, a place in which death was never far away, and a place of raw and spectacular beauty. This book is illustrated with 116 of Douglas own extraordinary photos, makes that place, that era, and this remarkable man come to life again.

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