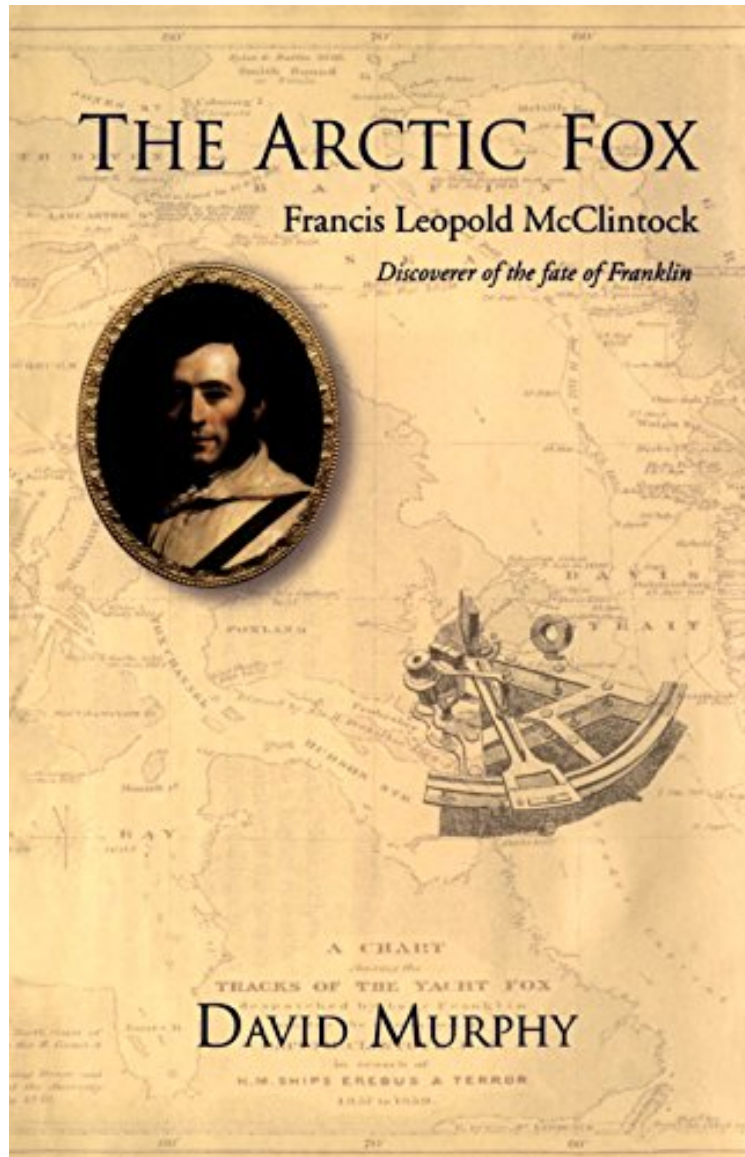


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## The Arctic Fox: Francis Leopold-McClintock, Discoverer of the Fate of Franklin

David Murphy

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**David Murphy : The Arctic Fox: Francis Leopold-McClintock, Discoverer of the Fate of Franklin** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Arctic Fox: Francis Leopold-McClintock, Discoverer of the Fate of Franklin:

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your there with the men.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Michael McClintockGood service. Good book7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Recommended for those who enjoyed Barrow's BoysBy Jared MLeopold McClintock is one of many British Naval explorers of the Victorian era, a period which seems to be becoming increasingly popular with historians. In exploration terms, Fergus Fleming started the recent trend with his book "Barrow's Boys", which for me popularized Arctic and Antarctic exploration of the Victorian era. The Arctic Fox is another excellent addition to the growing library of historical accounts of the pioneers of Arctic and Antarctic exploration. The author, David Murphy, is an Irish historian with an interest in British Naval and Polar explorers, and thus it is only fitting that he write this biography of McClintock, an Irishman. To do so he draws upon British Naval Reports of expeditions in which McClintock was a participant. He also uses McClintock's own writings, which include expedition reports, and letters to Lady Franklin. Contemporary sources are also referred to. The Arctic Fox is not a particularly lengthy book, numbering fewer than 200 pages, so readers will quickly run through this book in a couple of solid afternoon reading sessions. The brevity of the book is also partly explained by the fact that McClintock's claim to fame stemmed largely from (as the subtitle of the book suggests) being "The discoverer of the fate of Franklin". Prior to this, he had not enjoyed quite the same profile as other British Naval officers serving on expeditions to the North, such as Ross (leader of the first expedition to try and find Franklin in 1848, and under whom McClintock served), Back, and Parry. The main focus of the book is on those expeditions mounted by the British admiralty and later by Lady Franklin to try and find survivors or determine the fate of Franklin's ill-fated expedition. In fact, the subtitle of the book is a little misleading, as it was John Rae who really determined the probable nature of the demise of Franklin's expedition, much to the displeasure of Lady Franklin. McClintock merely confirmed the suspicions of Rae by finding human remains in 1859, which Rae had failed to do. There is more discussion of this in the final chapter of The Arctic Fox. McClintock certainly made the most of his opportunity in the public eye following the successful expedition, writing numerous accounts of his exploits, with the British public clamoring for Arctic heroes. However, the book does discuss McClintock's life, both his younger years, and touches briefly on his post arctic career. Although there are no glossy pictorial plates, there are numerous black and white illustrations throughout the book. The Arctic Fox is an easy read, and I would recommend it to anyone who had enjoyed "Barrow's Boys".

The Shackleton of his day, Leopold McClintock (1819-1907) from County Louth was the leading Arctic explorer of the Victorian era. He undertook four major voyages, epic sledge journeys, and was the first to bring definite information on the lost Franklin party. He then rose to admiral and advised Robert Falcon Scott before the Discovery expedition in 1901. After his death a memorial plaque was unveiled at Westminster Abbey, portraits were hung in the National Portrait Gallery in London, and the McClintock Channel in the Arctic was named after him.

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