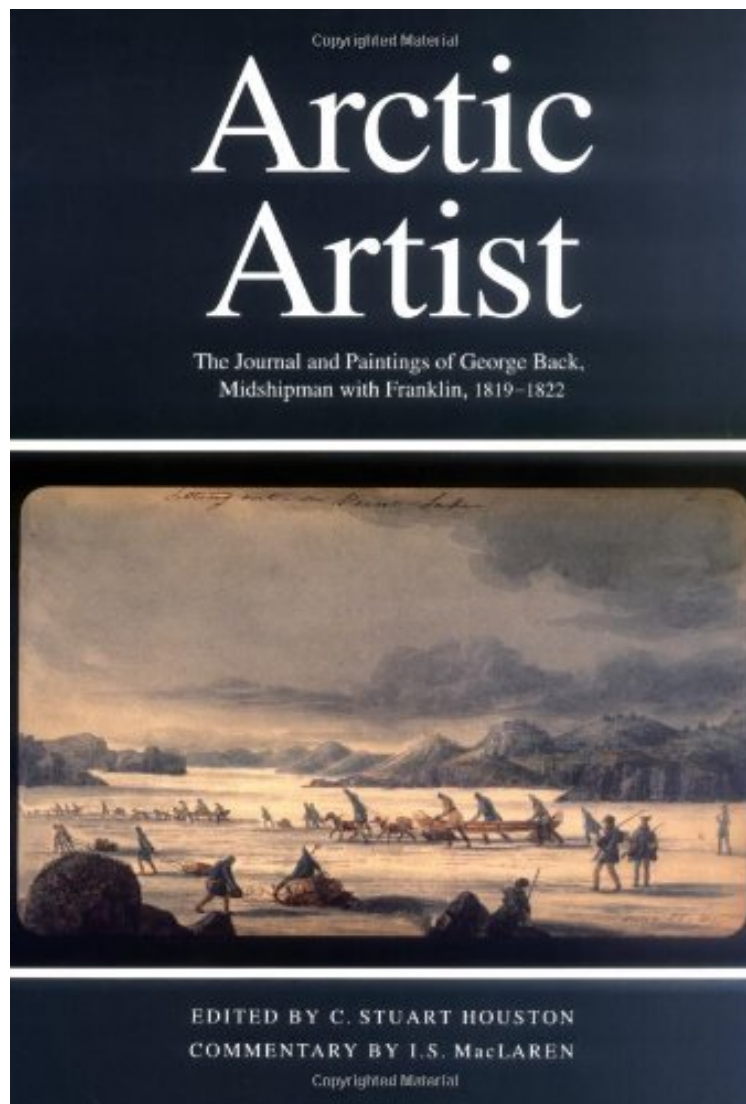


[Download] Arctic Artist: The Journal and Paintings of George Back, Midshipman with Franklin, 1819-1822 (Rupert's Land Record Society Series)

## Arctic Artist: The Journal and Paintings of George Back, Midshipman with Franklin, 1819-1822 (Rupert's Land Record Society Series)

*Stuart Houston*

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**Stuart Houston : Arctic Artist: The Journal and Paintings of George Back, Midshipman with Franklin, 1819-1822 (Rupert's Land Record Society Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arctic Artist: The Journal and Paintings of George Back, Midshipman with Franklin, 1819-1822 (Rupert's Land Record Society Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. True Explorer! By Ronald K. Schlie  
Journals can sometimes be hard to read and this one is no exception. The reader has to sift through the daily repetitive entries and pull the story out of the pages. If one is looking for a simpler read one might consider Franklin's journal/narrative. It reads more like a story but lacks detail. Franklin having lost his original journal had to use Back's journal to refresh his memory to publish his. I recommend this book to those in search of the real story and are able to sift out the daily weather reports. I find it amazing that he was able to find time to create his excellent artwork and be a true explorer of the arctic. To view these works in person would be a joy!!

Back's journal is particularly valuable because it is the only one that records the entire expedition; Franklin himself relied on it for his own published account of the journey. Both the journal and Back's earlier notes have been edited by Houston, who provides an introduction and extensive annotations, as well as synopses of the frank comments regarding the expedition recorded in the various journals of the Hudson's Bay fur trade posts. I.S. MacLaren's commentary on Back's paintings reveals a midshipman-artist of exceptional talent. Conversant with the artistic conventions and aesthetic temper of his age, Back used his sketch-books not only to depict the expedition's progress but also to capture his imaginative response to the northern wilderness. MacLaren edits and comments on two other documents written by Back during the expedition: a candid letter to his brother and a poem dramatizing the disaster that claimed the lives of eleven of the twenty explorers in Franklin's party. *Arctic Artist* will be of interest to Franklin and Arctic enthusiasts, and to Canadian studies, northern studies, art history, and anthropology specialists.

From the Back Cover  
*Arctic Artist* is the liveliest and most complete account of Sir John Franklin's tragic first Arctic land expedition. George Back's prose captures the drama of this journey, and his superb watercolour sketches reveal the beauty and wonder of this northern land. Back's journal completes Stuart Houston's trilogy of the journals of Franklin's officers, and is particularly valuable because it is the only journal that records the entire expedition; Franklin himself relied on it for his own published account of the journey. Houston provides an introduction and extensive annotations, as well as synopses of the frank comments regarding the expedition recorded in the various journals of the Hudson's Bay fur trade posts. I.S. MacLaren's commentary on Back's paintings reveals a naval officer of exceptional talent. Conversant with the artistic conventions and aesthetic temper of his age, Back used his sketchbooks not only to depict the expedition's progress but also to capture his imaginative response to the northern wilderness. MacLaren also edits and comments on two other documents written by Back during the expedition: a candid letter to his brother and a poem dramatizing the disaster that claimed the lives of eleven of the twenty explorers in Franklin's party.