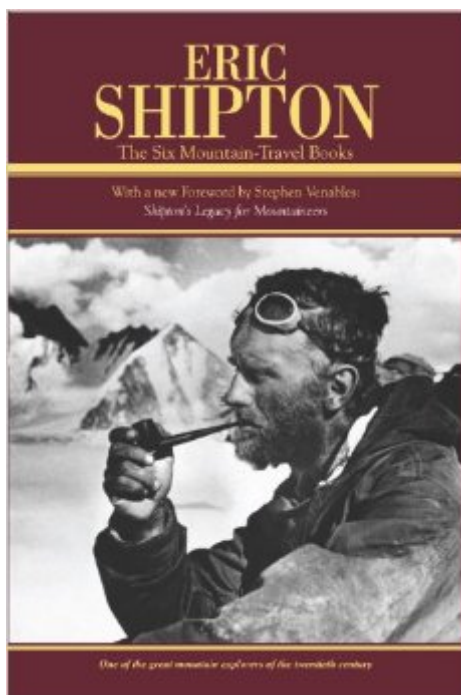


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Eric Shipton: The Six Mountain-Travel Books



Synopsis

The explorer's explorer, Shipton's enormous accomplishments make him one of the greatest adventures of the twentieth century. His pioneering treks and climbs in unmapped mountain ranges laid the groundwork for the first ascent of Everest and other Himalayan peaks. A global traveler, he was tapped for Britain's diplomatic core during World War II. These six books cover his greatest adventures.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you could find the six Shipton books this omnibus embraces, their purchase would require a second mortgage. So this collection is an incredibly good buy, and you need to know this author and his travels. As in many tales about mountain exploration and climbing, sometimes we have to defer to celebrated persons -- who deserve their recognition -- even if we think their writing may be something less than new ground or a summit. Such is the case with the Heroic Eric Shipton. You will learn of this iconic figure's life by reading between his lines and paying close attention to remarks about character and personality, but here the focus will be on the travel (secondarily on the climbs); the collection is far from conventional autobiography. (But as some climbers start life stories with a first climb being the bars of their cribs, maybe so much the better.) I gave the anthology a good work out, at my bedside at the ready for weeks -- no, not due to my ignoring the poor thing but only because of Shipton's dense style. It can be an endless snow slog up an ever steepening slope. And he never saw a detail he didn't love, or five minutes along a valley's basin or over a mountain's

pass, that didn't call for his close, step-by-step description down to the last tree, boulder, limestone out-cropping, icy pinnacle, akois, or ram chikor. Still, Shipton's portraits of the mountains, their human inhabitants, and the history of the ensuing entanglement are first rate, albeit rarely poetic. As moved as this man was while in his favorite, "most fascinating" landscape, he fails to sweep us off our feet with glowing prose about it. Some of Shipton's constructions are adept, but the entire endeavor amounts to a lot of straight forward language packed in 800 nearly margin-less pages.

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