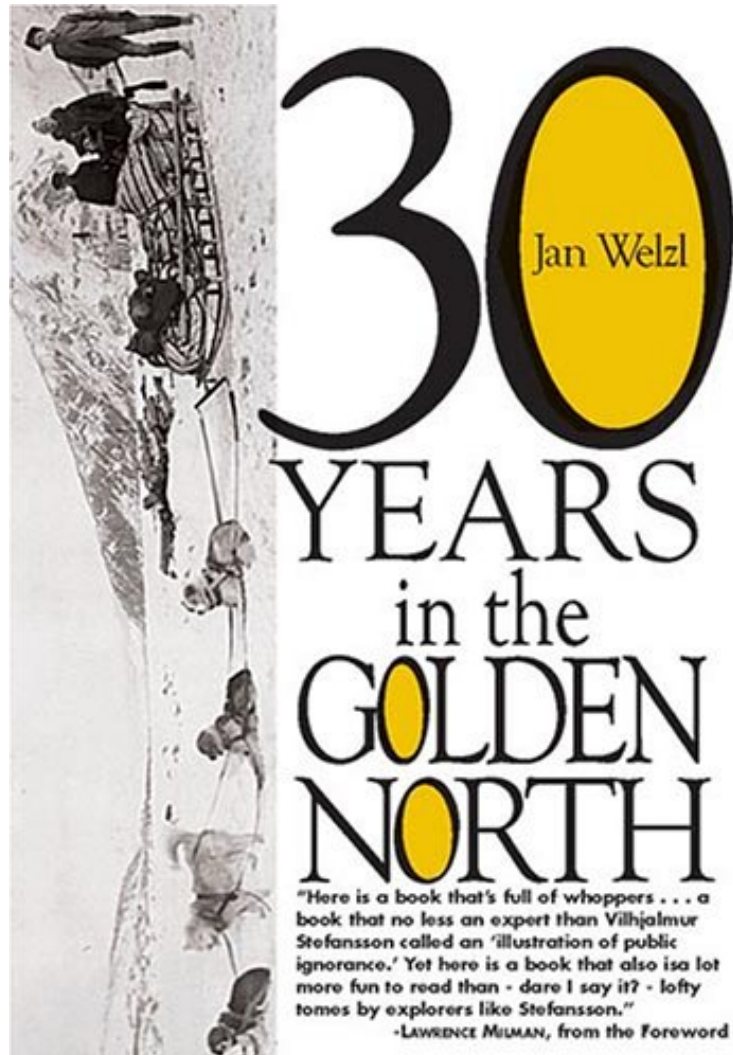


(Free) Thirty Years in the Golden North

Thirty Years in the Golden North

Jan Welz

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Jan Welz : Thirty Years in the Golden North before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thirty Years in the Golden North:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A book not to be forgottenBy Paul ShisbeyThis is an interesting account of Mr. Welzl's experience of traveling to the Arctic Circle first with a ponyand then with a team of reindeer and staying to live a most uncommon life around the turn of the Century.He relates an adventure that is unreal to all but a few of us. I came across this book many years agoand never forgot it. I had to read it again!4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Improbable, but Illuminating Just the SameBy elcajonfarmsJan Welzl's picaresque autobiography of his years spent crossing Mongolia and Siberia from south to north in the early part of the 20th

century, his arrival and sojourn among the natives along the north coasts of Asia and North America, his transit of the Yukon River from its sources to the sea, and his eventual ascent to wealth and fame as a merchant trader, ship owner, fur trapper, big game hunter, gold miner, explorer, adventurer and Czech favorite son, is entertaining as all get out. It is also hard to believe and even harder to verify in many respects. How he ever found the time to gain his vast claimed treasure trove of knowledge about any number of complex operations and techniques for survival and prosperity in the arctic wilderness, or to travel the vast distances he claims to have travelled by foot, kayak, boat, and horseback, often by rather indefinite routes and in improbably short times, or to generate the astonishing profits he claims to have made from a rather mundane series of occupations and businesses, can sometimes challenge the most willing believer. Yet, he has a winning way of explaining in the most matter of fact way the most astonishing details of life in the bush, of his encounters with native peoples of various cultures, and of the incredible cruelties and excesses of vigilante justice in the Arctic. This book was evidently a Book of the Month Club choice in the 1930s, and hardcovers can be found in good condition for about \$50, but the paperback is a cheaper way to experience this unique piece of writing from a now-forgotten time and place.

Jan Welz, a Czech by birth, a locksmith by trade, decided to seek his fortune in the Far North. He traveled by wagon across the wilds of Siberia, then on a whaling ship up to the Arctic Circle. In simple, lively, humorous fashion he tells the story of his arduous journey, and of how he became a successful trader, with headquarters in a commodious cave on the rocky coast of New Siberia, an island in the Arctic Ocean, where he lived for more than thirty years. In his account of his adventure among Eskimos and gold miners he tells how he adopted an Eskimo baby to save it from being thrown into the sea, took a rich American woman to board in his care through a whole winter, was stormbound in a blizzard without food for four days, enjoyed a host of other perilous experiences, and was finally voted chief on the island, with power of life and death.