



*Unveiling the Arctic* is the result of a conference held in Rome in 1981 entitled "The History of the Discovery of the Arctic Regions as Seen through the Descriptions of Travellers and the Work of Cartographers from Early Antiquity to the 18th Century". This conference was the third in a series of meetings organized by Comité Arctique International, which was created in Monaco in 1979 with the active support of H.S.H. Prince Rainier III.

The objectives of the committee are to improve knowledge and understanding of arctic areas and, to that end, to promote research in different fields on an international, multidisciplinary basis. Composed of experts from many countries concerned with polar activities and acting in a private capacity, Comité Arctique International works as a non-political group with a view to enhancing and sustaining a harmonious, well-balanced development of arctic regions in close cooperation with existing relevant national and international authorities and organizations. It is formally established in the Principality of Monaco.

The publication of this volume of papers presented at the 1981 conference is a joint venture by Comité Arctique International, the Arctic Institute of North America (the University of Calgary), and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The collection appears simultaneously as a special issue of the Arctic Institute journal *Arctic* and as a hardbound volume. For this reason, and to facilitate the inclusion of a comprehensive index, pagination begins with page 321, the first page of Volume 37, Number 4, of *Arctic*. The project represents a mutual desire on the part of the three organizations to cooperate in the dissemination of information about the arctic regions.

The editors wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Mrs. Jill Wilshire and Mr. Maurice Guibord, who translated the French-language articles into English. Mrs. Helen Elliot Miklautsch, artist of the Frontispiece, studied as Helen Elliot at various art and design schools in Los Angeles. She also taught art at a Fine Arts Centre for seven years, during which time she held many exhibits and won many awards. Since moving to Alaska in 1971 she paints mostly for pleasure, capturing on canvas the beauty of the North.

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