

VISUAL CULTURE AND ARCTIC VOYAGES

In the mid-nineteenth century, thirty-six expeditions set out for the Northwest Passage in search of Sir John Franklin's missing expedition. The array of visual and textual material produced on these voyages was to have a profound impact on the idea of the Arctic in the Victorian imaginary. Eavan O'Dochartaigh closely examines neglected archival sources to show how pictures created in the Arctic fed into a metropolitan view transmitted through engravings, lithographs, and panoramas. Although the metropolitan Arctic revolved around a fulcrum of heroism, terror, and the sublime, the visual culture of the ship reveals a more complicated narrative that included cross-dressing, theatricals, dressmaking, and dances with local communities. O'Dochartaigh's investigation into the nature of the on-board visual culture of the nineteenth-century Arctic presents a compelling challenge to the 'man-versus-nature' trope that still reverberates in polar imaginaries today. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

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VISUAL CULTURE AND ARCTIC VOYAGES

*Personal and Public Art and Literature of the Franklin
Search Expeditions*

EAVAN O'DOCHARTAIGH

National University of Ireland Galway



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
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103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108834339

DOI: [10.1017/97811088992794](https://doi.org/10.1017/97811088992794)

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/97811088992794](https://doi.org/10.1017/97811088992794)

First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: O'Dochartaigh, Eavan, author.

TITLE: Visual culture and Arctic voyages : personal and public art and literature of the Franklin search expeditions / Eavan O'Dochartaigh, Umeå Universitet, Sweden.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Series: Cambridge studies in nineteenth-century literature and culture | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021051456 (print) | LCCN 2021051457 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108834339 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108994897 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108992794 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Franklin, John, 1786–1847 – Travel – Arctic regions. | Search and rescue operations – Arctic Ocean – History – 19th century. | Arctic regions – Discovery and exploration – British. | John Franklin Arctic Expedition (1845–1851) | Terror (Ship) | Erebus (Ship) | Northwest Passage – Discovery and exploration – British. | BISAC: LITERARY CRITICISM / European / English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh

CLASSIFICATION: LCC G625 .o36 2022 (print) | LCC G625 (ebook) | DDC 919.8–dc23/eng/20211214

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021051456>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021051457>

ISBN 978-1-108-83433-9 Hardback

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