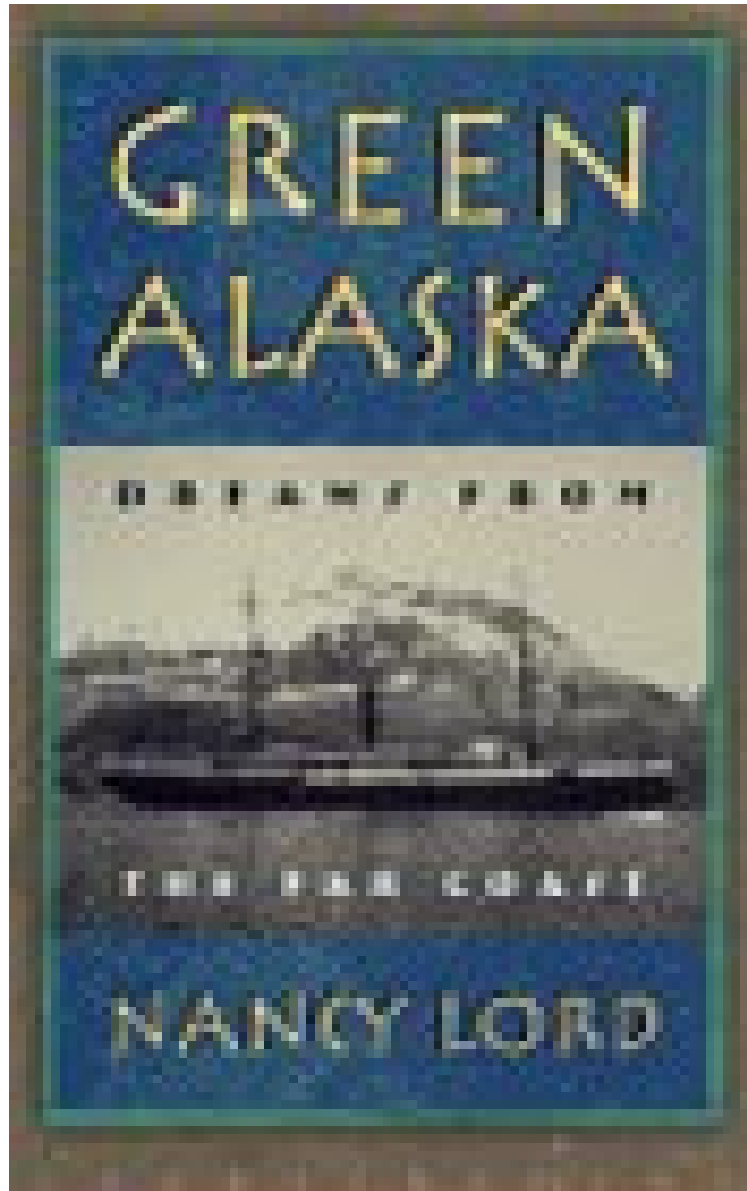


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Green Alaska: Dreams from the Far Coast

Nancy Lord

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Nancy Lord : Green Alaska: Dreams from the Far Coast before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Green Alaska: Dreams from the Far Coast:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. His guests read like a Who's - Who of American elite and he ...By AlaskanWow! Every once and awhile you stumble onto a book, that for you, turns into an instant classic! From Alaska's Writer Laureate, Nancy Lord delights and captivates in a series of short essays retracing the remarkable

Harriman expedition of Alaska. Railroad tycoon Edward Harriman, owner of the Union Pacific Railroad, has enough money to do whatever he wants, and in the summer of 1899, he wants to travel the coast of Alaska on a large steamship he has refitted into a luxury cruise-liner. His guests read like a Who's - Who of American elite and he has assembled an all-star list of scientist, naturalist, and photographers to discover and catalog their findings. The author loosely retraces their sea route and wonders with talented poetic writing if the the voyagers really understood and grasped the magic that unfolded before them. Lyric in its prose, penetrating with its depth, "Green Alaska" is a hidden gem! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Read before you go to Alaska By AHBI Interesting read. I'd almost say a necessary read prior to your first trip to Alaska, especially if you'll be near coast and glaciers. The story of the Harriman expedition was fascinating and though I'd been to Alaska several times before I'd read this, I had not known about that prior to reading this book. Worth the read just to learn about the expedition and the changes since! Gave to dad before his cruise to AK and he seemed less enthused than I about the book. He didn't like the back and forth (present to past) style of the story. Yet I'd found the counterpoint very effective and enjoyable. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting book. By Richard A. Gallimore This book is a very nice collection of views and happening from Alaska. It has shown some of the different sides of just a few of the problems facing Alaska today. Good style.

Offering powerful insight into an environment in flux, Nancy Lord has written a definitive work on America's farthest reach. In 1899 the Harriman Alaska Expedition assembled a company of exceptional characters—the nature writers John Burroughs and John Muir, photographer Edward Curtis, scientist William Dall, conservationist and ethnographer George Bird Grinnell, bird artist Louis Agassiz Fuertes, geologist Henry Gannett, and others. They cruised glacial fjords, collected specimens, and photographed Alaska's Native people. Nearly a hundred years later, Nancy Lord, an Alaskan well-rooted in coastal life and commercial fishing, revisits many of the same stops made by the earlier expedition from the pilothouse of a modern salmon tender. At salmon canneries and fox farm islands, on mountaintops and in the "big silences," *Green Alaska* takes us on a contemplative ride across a century of American attitudes toward wild landscapes, resource development, and culture.

.com A century ago, Edward H. Harriman, the president of the Union Pacific Railroad and perhaps the wealthiest man in America, put some of his wealth to visionary purpose: he outfitted a steamship with scientific instruments, hired a 65-member crew, and invited choice friends to accompany him on a cruise to Alaska. But more: he invited 30 more guests, "the nation's top natural scientists, mainly, but also a few practical engineering types, some cultural enthusiasts, select writers and artists and photographers." Among those 30 "faculty" were the great naturalists John Muir, John Burroughs, C. Hart Merriam, George Bird Grinnell, and William Dall, who took the opportunity to study the flora, fauna, and geology of the glacier-carved coasts of what Burroughs called "green Alaska," infusing American natural-history literature with a stream of books and articles on the then little-known North. Nancy Lord, the author of the fine Alaska memoir *Fishcamp*, retraces the course of the Harriman expedition, examining how much of Alaska has changed—but also how much more has remained much as her peers of a century ago saw it. Her graceful, vigorous book is a fine contribution to the history of science, and a welcome addition to the shelves of anyone with an interest in natural-history writing and arctic exploration. --Gregory McNamee From *Kirkus* sA thoughtful and imaginative tour of the Alaskan landscape, past and present, by a laureate of the tundra. In 1899, writes Lord (*Fishcamp: My Life on an Alaskan Shore*, 1997), the Bill Gates of a century ago, Edward H. Harriman, funded an exotic dream vacation for himself: he fitted a steamship with motor launches and canoes, a piano and organ, weaponry for hunting, horses and tents, cases of champagne and the requisite thin-stemmed glasses, a library, the latest audio and visual equipment, along with a 65-man crew and the livestock to feed them. Added to this roster were some of the nations leading naturalists, writers, and artists C. Hart Merriam, the mammalogist and head of the US Biological Survey; Edward Curtis, the photographer of American Indian life; George Bird Grinnell, editor of *Field and Stream* and a founder of the Audubon Society; John Muir, the naturalist and wilderness philosopher; and John Burroughs, also a naturalist, who was one of the countrys most popular writers. Lord reconstructs their witty and learned journey as this latter-day Solon and his entourage traveled across the Far North, calling on native fishing villages and gold-rush camps, collecting samples of animal and bird life that would enrich the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution and other museums, and chronicling all that they saw. Lord has no small adventures herself as she retraces the Harriman Expeditions steps, including a memorable encounter with a grizzly bear; she also notes all that has disappeared in the century since the Harriman party came to Alaska, including many species and many Native American cultures and languages. A beautifully written contribution to what might be called the literary history of science, on a par with Ivan Doigs *Winter Brothers* and Barry Lopez's *Arctic Dreams*. -- Copyright 1999, *Kirkus Associates, LP*. All rights reserved. "Part travelogue, part history lesson, part love letter, and part wake-up call, *Green Alaska* is a luminous piece of writing, full of richly observed detail. . . . Lord is firmly rooted in place, even when she is at sea." -- Anchorage Daily News