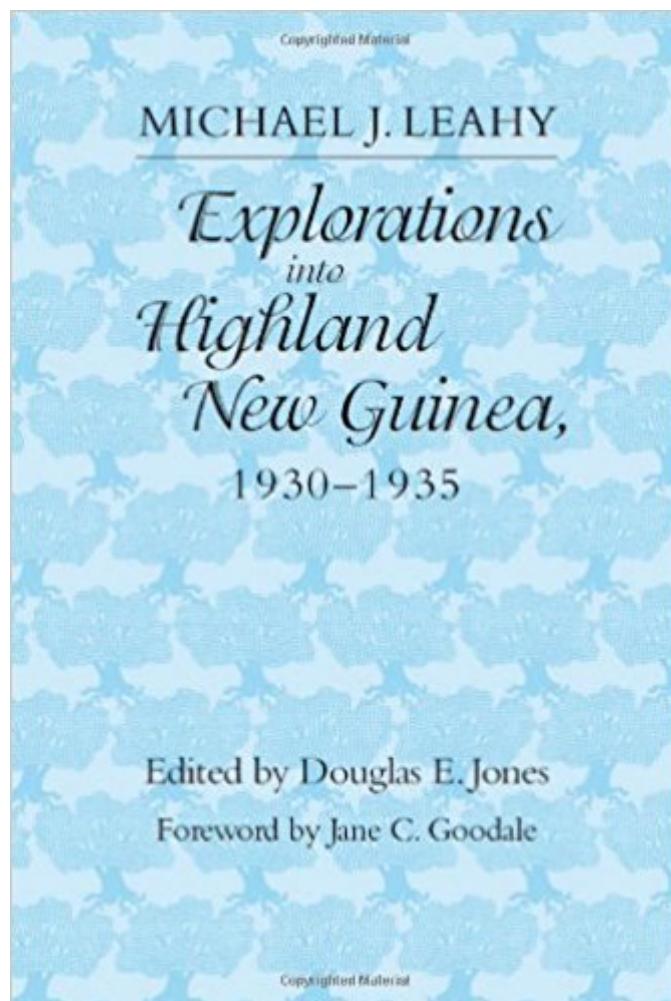


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Explorations Into Highland New Guinea, 1930-1935



Synopsis

In the 1920s and 1930s there were adventures to be lived and fortunes to be made by strong young men in the outback of Australia and the gold fields of New Guinea. This is the diary of five years spent in hot pursuit—not of honor and glory, but of excitement and riches—by one such adventurer, Michael "Mick" Leahy, his brothers Jim and Pat, and friends Mick Dwyer and Jim Taylor. Leahy and his associates explored the unknown interior of New Guinea, seeking gold and making contact for the first time with the aborigines of the interior mountains and valleys. White man was unknown to these often cannibalistic, always dangerous, aborigines who thought the seekers of yellow in the streams slightly mad, and thus easy prey. The chronicles of their explorations and their hundreds of photographs brought news of these native peoples to the outside world. In doing so, they changed forever our understanding of the human landscape of New Guinea, and carved a place in history for these explorers who, braving the environment in search of gold, found people.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: University Alabama Press; First Edition edition (August 30, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0817304460

ISBN-13: 978-0817304461

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,347,161 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Travel > Australia & South Pacific > Papua New Guinea #591 in Books > Travel > Australia & South Pacific > General #1349 in Books > History > World > Expeditions & Discoveries

Customer Reviews

"Leahy's text appears frozen in time, and reading it one travels not only into the depths of the interior of New Guinea but also into the mind-set of an older generation of Australian explorers." Contemporary Pacific "Detailed and written in a serious vein. . . . A significant contribution to the literature on early explorations into Highland New Guinea. It is of historical as well as ethnographic interest. . . . Useful to scholars as well as of broader public interest." L.L. Langness, University of California, Los Angeles

Michael J. Leahy (1901-1979) finally settled in Zenag, New Guinea, and, with his brothers, became a prosperous rancher and respected settler. Douglas E. Jones is Director of the Alabama State Museum of Natural History, which houses an extensive collection of aboriginal artifacts donated by Leahy following his explorations. Jane C. Goodale is Professor of Anthropology at Bryn Mawr College and a specialist on aboriginal New Guinea.

I read with interest Michael Leahy's explorations in New Guinea and appreciated the details related with the First Contact and the description of the life and culture of people whose existence had been unknown before 1930.

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