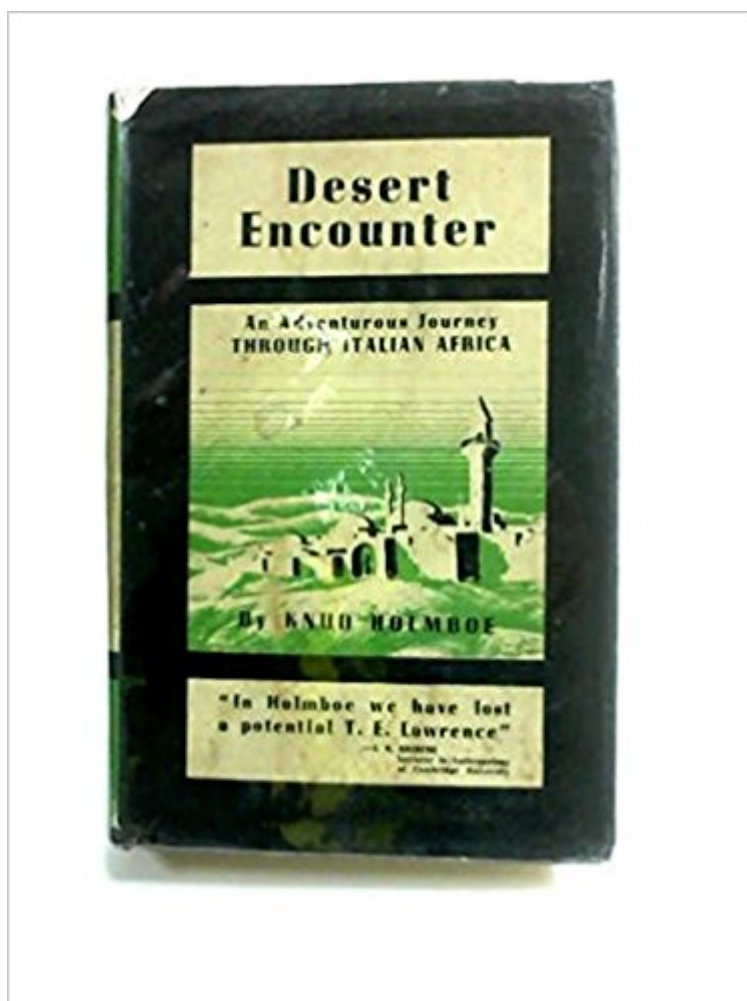


The book was found

Desert Encounter;: An Adventurous Journey Through Italian Africa



Synopsis

Holmboe was a young Dane who embraced Islam and spoke fluent Arabic. In 1930 he conceived the idea of driving a car through North Africa garbed as an Arab. He made his way from Ceuta through the southern part of Algeria and Tunisia, and into Libya, where he was accused by the Italians of being a spy and was arrested and deported to Benghazi. Holmboe sailed from Benghazi to Egypt; he failed to complete his pioneer journey, but had collected information of much more practical value to the outside world. His book shows that he started with no animosity against Italians - indeed, he emphasizes the kindness he received from individual Italian officers - but his own eyes and his talks with Arab leaders convinced him that the domination of Italy meant the extinction of Arab freedom in North Africa.

Book Information

Hardcover: 266 pages

Publisher: Putnam; First Edition edition (1937)

Language: English

ASIN: B000857CE4

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,283,268 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in [Books > Travel > Africa > Libya](#) #5793 in [Books > Travel > Europe > Italy > General](#)

Customer Reviews

A young Dane converts to Islam and dressed as an Arab seeks to travel across the Libyan desert by car to Egypt. While this may seem dangerous enough at the best of times K Holmboe made this journey during the Italian occupation of Libya while war was still raging between the Italian fascist occupiers and the Sanusi Sufi order who were leading the resistance. You don't need to be a Muslim to read this book or even to have any serious knowledge of Libya as K Holmboe is an excellent travel narrator. He is opinionated when he wishes to be (such as his criticism of the brutality of the Italian forces towards the Libyan people) but on the whole sympathetic and open minded to all sides. His travels take him deep into the desert where he has more than one dangerous encounter including being kidnapped by Sanusi fighters who mistake him for an Italian spy (and narrate to him some saddening tales as to why each of them has taken up arms) before he is finally arrested by the Italians who regard his presence in Libya as suspicious (in that a European should have such sympathy with the native Arabs) and deport him. This is an excellent read (much better I found than 'Road to Mecca') and while there are two editions of this book available (one by Darf Publishers and

another by the Quilliam press) I strongly recommend the Darf Publishers edition, not least because it is a hardback (and only a few pound/dollars more than the Quilliam press paperback) but also because of the 'soap-box' introduction to the Quilliam press edition by T. J. Winter (Abdul Hakim Murad) which spoils the book. Excellent read and highly recommended.

...having lived in North Africa for over 12 years I found this book fascinating. I especially liked the author's description of the people and cultures he met. These are the moderate and gracious peoples that I knew from my time in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. Not the extremists that want to rewrite history and change the culture. Buy this book and enjoy the adventure back into time.

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