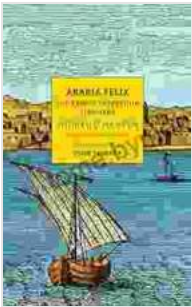


# Arabia Felix: The Danish Expedition of 1761-1767



## Arabia Felix: The Danish Expedition of 1761-1767 (NYRB Classics) by Thorkild Hansen

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 401 pages



**by Carsten Niebuhr, Frederik Ludvig Norden, and Peter Forsskål**

In 1761, as the Enlightenment reached its zenith, a group of Danish scholars set out on an expedition to the southern Arabian peninsula, a region then known as Arabia Felix. Their mission was to investigate the region's ancient history and culture, and to collect specimens of its flora and fauna. The expedition was led by Carsten Niebuhr, a mathematician and astronomer, and included Frederik Ludvig Norden, a cartographer, and Peter Forsskål, a naturalist.

The expedition traveled extensively throughout Arabia Felix, visiting the cities of Mocha, Sana'a, and Aden. They also explored the surrounding countryside, collecting specimens of plants and animals. Niebuhr made detailed observations of the region's geography and astronomy, while Norden produced a series of maps that were the most accurate of their

time. Forsskål collected over 1,000 specimens of plants and animals, many of which were new to science.

The expedition's findings were published in a series of volumes, which were widely read and translated throughout Europe. The expedition's work helped to dispel many of the myths and misconceptions that had surrounded Arabia Felix for centuries. It also provided a valuable source of information about the region's history, culture, and natural history.

### **Carsten Niebuhr**

Carsten Niebuhr was born in Germany in 1733. He studied mathematics and astronomy at the University of Göttingen, and in 1761 he joined the Danish expedition to Arabia Felix. Niebuhr was responsible for making observations of the region's geography and astronomy. He also kept a detailed journal of the expedition's travels. Niebuhr's work was highly praised by his contemporaries, and he is considered one of the most important figures in the history of exploration.

After his return from Arabia Felix, Niebuhr continued to work as a mathematician and astronomer. He published a number of important works on astronomy, including his *Description of Arabia* (1774), which is considered one of the most important works on the region ever written. Niebuhr died in Hamburg in 1815.

### **Frederik Ludvig Norden**

Frederik Ludvig Norden was born in Denmark in 1708. He studied cartography at the University of Copenhagen, and in 1737 he joined the Danish expedition to Egypt. Norden was responsible for producing a series of maps of Egypt and Nubia, which were the most accurate of their time.

After his return from Egypt, Norden continued to work as a cartographer. He also published a number of important works on cartography, including his *Description of Egypt and Nubia* (1755). Norden died in Copenhagen in 1742.

## **Peter Forsskål**

Peter Forsskål was born in Sweden in 1732. He studied natural history at the University of Uppsala, and in 1761 he joined the Danish expedition to Arabia Felix. Forsskål was responsible for collecting specimens of plants and animals. He also kept a detailed journal of the expedition's travels. Forsskål's work was highly praised by his contemporaries, and he is considered one of the most important figures in the history of natural history.

After his return from Arabia Felix, Forsskål continued to work as a naturalist. He published a number of important works on natural history, including his *Descriptiones animalium* (1775), which is considered one of the most important works on zoology ever written. Forsskål died in Yemen in 1763.

## **The Legacy of the Danish Expedition**

The Danish expedition to Arabia Felix was one of the most important scientific expeditions of the Enlightenment. The expedition's findings helped to dispel many of the myths and misconceptions that had surrounded Arabia Felix for centuries. It also provided a valuable source of information about the region's history, culture, and natural history. The expedition's legacy continues to this day, and its work is still consulted by scholars and researchers.

## Reviews

"Arabia Felix is a fascinating account of a groundbreaking expedition. Niebuhr, Norden, and Forsskål were brilliant scholars who made important contributions to our understanding of the world. Their work is still relevant today, and I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in history, exploration, or natural history."

–**Dr. Donald Ostrowski, author of *The Lost World of Arabia***

"Arabia Felix is a beautifully written and meticulously researched account of one of the most important scientific expeditions of the Enlightenment. Carsten Niebuhr, Frederik Ludvig Norden, and Peter Forsskål were pioneering scholars who risked their lives to explore a region that was largely unknown to Europeans. Their work is a testament to their courage and dedication, and it continues to inspire scientists and explorers today."

–**Dr. Erika Fatland, author of *Sovereignty: How States Change and What That Means for Human Rights***

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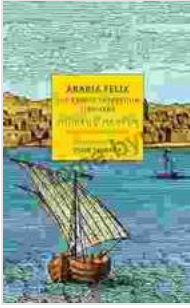
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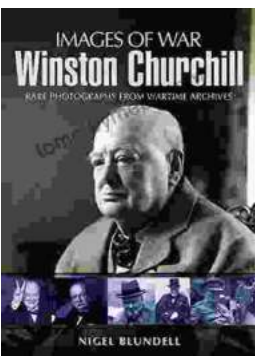


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