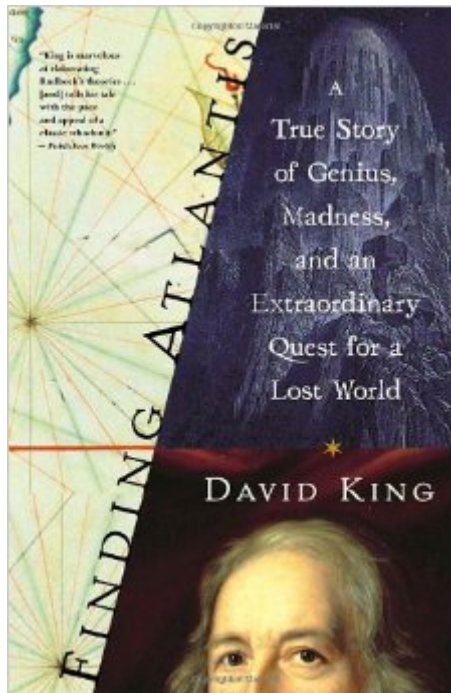


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Finding Atlantis: A True Story Of Genius, Madness, And An Extraordinary Quest For A Lost World



Synopsis

The Untold Story of One Man's Quest for a Lost World In 1679, Renaissance man Olof Rudbeck stunned the world. He proposed that an ancient lost civilization once thrived in the far north of his native Sweden: the fabled Atlantis. Rudbeck would spend the last thirty years of his life hunting for the evidence that would prove this extraordinary theory. Chasing down clues to that lost golden age, Rudbeck combined the reasoning of Sherlock Holmes with the daring of Indiana Jones. He excavated what he thought was the acropolis of Atlantis, retraced the journeys of classical heroes, opened countless burial mounds, and consulted rich collections of manuscripts and artifacts. He eventually published his findings in a 2,500-page tome titled *Atlantica*, a remarkable work replete with heroic quests, exotic lands, and fabulous creatures. Three hundred years later, the story of Rudbeck's adventures appears in English for the first time. It is a thrilling narrative of discovery as well as a cautionary tale about the dangerous dance of genius and madness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the most fascinating books I have ever read. I was engrossed in this true story from the minute I started reading until the last page. Olaf Rudbeck was a true visionary. A completely original thinker bogged down in the petty rivalries and vendettas of conventional academia. Everything about this story, although it takes place during the 1600's in Sweden, is also completely contemporary. It is a timeless tale of a great person at odds with the rigid thinking all around him. Yet Rudbeck triumphed. No matter what his foes threw at him, he came back stronger and better

every time. His essential theory is that ancient Sweden was the location of Plato's story of Atlantis. Rudbeck used astoundingly original dating methods as well as a kind of finely attuned awareness one associates with real genius, to back up his ideas. He undoubtedly found remnants of a lost, high civilization. While doing so, he added immeasurably to our overall knowledge of ancient cultures and historical Sweden, as well as giving us new ways to date ancient sites. Did he actually find Atlantis? My major gripe with David King is that at the end of the book he sort of slams or at least somewhat discredits, Rudbeck's theories. Perhaps at the time he wrote it, he was afraid of the same kind of criticism that Rudbeck himself underwent. King is a wonderful writer. Not a boring page in the book. It is delightful, informative and highly readable for anyone. But he missed an opportunity however, to have some the courage Mr. Rudbeck displayed. While he may or may not have found Atlantis, Rudbeck most certainly found a culture directly related to it. He found Hyperborea which was probably either a precursor to, or an off-shoot of Atlantis.

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