

# Women of the Four Winds: The Adventures of Four of America's First Women Explorers

*Elizabeth Fagg Olds*

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**Elizabeth Fagg Olds : Women of the Four Winds: The Adventures of Four of America's First Women Explorers** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women of the Four Winds: The Adventures of Four of America's First Women Explorers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I read with great interested the story about her in "Women of the ...By pbt3When I was young, Delia Akeley was a close friend of my grandmothers and she lived in a hotel across the street from me. She was by association a friend of mine also. When I was 4 she autographed her book about her monkey for me. I read with great interested the story about her in "Women of the Four Winds". I knew growing up that she was remarkable, special. But reading that story gave me a deep appreciation of this remarkable, brave, and adventurous women. I wish I had talked to her at greater lengths about the adventures she had in Africa. I am in awe of this women.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. MemorableBy Careful shopperI first purchased this book years ago in the Smithsonian gift shop. It was an "impulse buy" and one that turned out to be one of the most memorable books I have even read. I have an extensive personal library, and this book is one I would never part with. I was unsure if it was still available, but wanted a copy as a gift for a recent graduate (female). I was so excited to find it at , it will never go out of date or out of style, amazing true stories. If you are the type who liked Out of Africa and were amazed by Karen Blitzen, this IS the book for you ! This is a book I will never forget.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and InformativeBy joanne roseThese women's courage in journeying to places

about which almost nothing was known was at times bone-chilling. They persevered in spite of maddening setbacks, often due to carelessness and/or disinterest on the part of the men who volunteered or were hired to help them. All of them mapped faraway mountains and other terrain which had never been accurately mapped before; important accomplishments for the geological and geographical communities.

Annie Smith Peck attempted seven times to climb Peru's highest mountain; Delia Akeley hunted big game in Africa; Marguerite Harrison spied in Russia for America; Louise Arner Boyd led expeditions to perilous East Greenland. Precursors of the modern Jane Goodalls and Sally Rides, these women represent a fascinating but forgotten era in the literature of exploration.

From Library Journal Although now almost completely forgotten, the four subjects of this collective biography were celebrated heroines in the first four decades of the 20th century. Annie Peck climbed mountains in South America; Delia Akeley explored equatorial Africa and lived with isolated pygmy tribes; Marguerite Harrison was a spy in Soviet Russia and a filmmaker trekking with nomads in Persia; Louise Boyd led expeditions to the Arctic. Olds, a journalist and past president of the Society of Women Geographers, has written a crisp, lively, and wonderfully entertaining account of these early members of the society. In addition, she has performed the valuable task of restoring the memory of these women to contemporary history. One hopes that these brief sketches will inspire book-length biographies. Ann Sullivan, Tompkins Cortland Community Coll. Lib., Dryden, N.Y. Copyright 1985 Cahners Business Information, Inc. About the Author Elizabeth Fagg Olds has been a foreign correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor and Mexican bureau chief for Time-Life. She recently served as international president of the Society of Women Geographers, the organization to which all these women belonged. She and her husband live in Washington, D.C.