Press Kit
Joan N. Boothe
and
THE STORIED ICE

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For media questions or to arrange interviews, contact Joan N. Boothe at joannboothe@joannboothe.com or call 415-233-1697.
When Joan N. Boothe was eight years old and living in western Oregon, it wasn’t horses, ribbons or dolls that were on her mind but stories of adventure. In particular, one book with a story of icy Antarctica fired her imagination. “I knew then that one day I would travel there,” says Boothe. It took four decades, but in 1995 she made her first trip to the Antarctic Peninsula region — an adventure she calls “life changing.”

Boothe, who has now traveled to the Antarctic 11 times, including making a 67-day circumnavigation of the entire Antarctic continent aboard an icebreaker, is author of the new critically acclaimed book *The Storied Ice: Exploration, Discovery, and Adventure, in Antarctica’s Peninsula Region.*

She is considered an expert on Antarctic history and has been interviewed by NPR, taught a course in the Stanford University Continuing Studies program on the history of Antarctica’s Heroic Age, guest lectured on Antarctic tour ships and spoken on the Antarctic for the Explorers Club, Rotary Club chapters, the Stanford Women’s Club, and the Stanford University Green Library, among other venues.

Boothe has built has one of the most comprehensive private Antarctic collections in the United States, containing more than 1,800 individual titles of Antarctic-related books and thousands of journal articles. She has recently contracted to donate the collection to Stanford University, over a period of several years.

In addition to her Antarctic interests, Joan has been actively involved in community affairs in San Francisco, where she has lived since 1970. She has served on multiple nonprofit boards including the San Francisco Mothers’ Milk Bank, the California Wilderness Coalition, the Northern California Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and the University of California Business School Alumni Association. Boothe is a founding board member of The Sierra Nevada Alliance.

A graduate of Wellesley College, she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa with an
honors degree in economics and did doctoral work in economics at Columbia University. Boothe received an M.B.A. in finance from the University of California, Berkeley, and also pursued doctoral studies in organizational behavior at Berkeley.

Prior to turning her lifelong fascination with Antarctic history into a full time passion, Boothe’s working career was in economics and finance, including working for the Council on Economic Priorities as a researcher/writer, for Chevron Corporation as a senior financial manager, and as adjunct faculty at St. Mary’s College in Moraga, CA, where she taught courses in Organizational Behavior and Principles of Management to both undergraduates and graduate business students.

For the past 47 years, Joan has been married to Barry Boothe, with whom she has two children. As part of their joint passion for spectator sports (women’s basketball and track and field in particular), they have attended nearly every Summer Olympic Games since 1976.

Joan is available for appearances and interviews. She may be contacted at Joannboothe@joannboothe.com.

Joan not only has a deep and rich knowledge of Antarctic history, she is also an experienced, enthusiastic, and exciting speaker. Sample comments from students in her Stanford Continuing Studies course on the Antarctic Heroic Age highlight Joan’s ability to communicate with an audience and excite interest in her subject:

- “... an inspiring speaker. She created a great feeling ... and had such passion for her subject.”

- “Fascinating subject and delivery. ... Joan’s passion for and deep knowledge of the subject. ... [kept us] ... spell-bound hour after hour. ...”

- “... provided riveting photographs, slides, graphs and maps. ... Very well organized presentations. ...”

- “... her experiences in modern Antarctica were a nice contrast to the writings and photographs of expeditions long past.”

- “Incredible use of primary source material. I could easily see the [course] made into a PBS or History Channel mini-series.”
The Antarctic Peninsula region, the subject area of Boothe’s critically acclaimed *The Storied Ice: Exploration, Discovery, and Adventure, in Antarctica’s Peninsula Region*, is not only a place of staggering scenic beauty and amazing wildlife but also a locale with a long and fascinating human history.

Boothe began her work on *The Storied Ice* out of a desire to provide travelers to Antarctica’s Peninsula Region — where about 95 percent of Antarctic tourists go — with a historical perspective of the region, a history that goes way beyond the well-known story of Ernest Shackleton’s *Endurance* expedition, which so often suffices for the sum total of the history of this area.

Boothe has remedied this situation with a carefully researched book that for the first time provides readers with a comprehensive history of the exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula.

*The Storied Ice* recounts mankind’s dramatic explorations and adventures in the Peninsula Region, from Magellan through the first years of the 21st century, including, of course, Shackleton’s amazing *Endurance* expedition epic.

*The Storied Ice* vividly retells this story but adds to it many other less familiar, fascinating adventures — tales of early explorers, sealers, whalers, Antarctic Heroic Age expeditions, pioneer aviators and scientists. . . . Boothe weaves all these together into a coherent whole, placing the individually exciting tales in a historical context that breathes new life into even the best known of them.

Boothe’s writing style has produced a book that reviewers have called “riveting.” She infuses her narrative with abundant quotes from the explorers’ own accounts and enriches the historical account with fascinating nuggets — a beauty contest,
pet penguins, seals, a pig and a kangaroo, a bagpipe concert for penguins, an omnivorous pony, Wyatt Earp’s personal cartridge belt and many more.

Abundant maps and photos illustrate the text and a detailed Antarctic timeline places the story of the Peninsula Region into the context of all of Antarctic history.

Selected Reviews

“. . . expertly rendered history of Antarctic’s most-visited region. . . . tells the (explorers’) stories with such authority, readers forget (the author) was not part of their expeditions (as she) captures their motives, struggles, heartbreaks and triumphs. . . (This book is) a most rewarding journey.”

— Kirkus Reviews, which awarded The Storied Ice a Kirkus Star as a book “of remarkable merit.”

“. . . a skillfully synthesized, eminently readable, and impressively encyclopedic book. . . Boothe has a keen eye for lyrical Antarctic moments.”

— Publishers Weekly, Starred review

“. . . a comprehensive human history of the Antarctic Peninsula . . . that is erudite and exceedingly well researched, yet thoroughly approachable and fun to read. Like a dessert we all dream of, this book is rich and satisfying though surprisingly airy and digestible.”

— The Explorers Journal

Available from all major on-line booksellers, on special order from local bookstores, and from the publisher, Regent Press (www.regentpress.net).

ISBN 13: 978-1-58790-224-6 (hardcover) / $34.95

Distributed to the trade by Baker & Taylor and Ingram
Interview Questions:

1. According to the title, the book is about the Antarctic Peninsula region, not the entire continent. What’s the difference, and what is special about the history of that area as opposed to the rest of Antarctica?

2. How did you get interested in Antarctic history, and why did you decide to write about this particular part of Antarctica?

3. You’ve been to the Antarctic eleven times. What keeps drawing you back?

4. What part of Antarctica should a first-time visitor go to, and what is the best time of year to travel there?

5. To get to the Antarctic Peninsula, it takes 24 hours of flying from San Francisco and then two days of travel by ship. What makes it worthwhile for someone to go to that much effort?

6. Your interest in the Antarctic is human history. What’s the most fascinating thing you have learned?

7. Almost everyone has heard the famous story of Shackleton’s Endurance expedition, but in the book you relate stories that happened before or after that are in themselves astounding. Can you tell us about one of those?

8. Is it Antarctic, or Antarctica? When do you use which?

9. Who discovered Antarctica?

10. We all have an image of the Antarctic as being the coldest place on earth. How cold is it really?

11. Your career has been in economics and finance. How did you wind up writing a book about Antarctic history?
Press Release

August 1, 2012

Review copies, photography and interviews are available upon request

Contact: Joan Boothe (Joannboothe@joannboothe.com)

Powerful history of human exploration of Antarctica brings life to a frozen world

Antarctica is the only continent so cold and deadly that humans can’t live there on their own. Yet for several hundred years, explorers have risked everything to explore the gigantic, frozen southern pole of the planet and discover its secrets.

The new book "The Storied Ice: Exploration, Discovery, and Adventure in Antarctica’s Peninsula Region," by Joan N. Boothe, offers a galvanizing and comprehensive history of the exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula Region, where nearly all Antarctic tourist go.

This part of the world, by far the most visited portion of the south polar regions, is not only a place of staggering scenic beauty and amazing wildlife but also a locale with a long and fascinating human history. Several expeditions to Antarctica’s Peninsula Region are well known, in particular, the amazing story of Ernest Shackleton's "Endurance" expedition. "The Storied Ice" dramatically retells that story, along with many other less familiar but fascinating adventure tales of early explorers, sealers, whalers, seven expeditions (including "Endurance") during Antarctica’s 1897-1917 Heroic Age, pioneer aviators and scientists. All this is woven together into a coherent whole, placing the individually exciting tales in a historical context that breathes new life into even the best known of them.

"The Storied Ice" focuses on the human experience in the Peninsula Region, but the book puts this history in the context of the entire chronology of known discoveries of the seventh continent. Explorations of Antarctica are difficult and not for the fainthearted. Boothe’s descriptions of each expedition, written in a style that reviewers call “riveting,” reveal the incredible strength, personality and diversity of character in the many explorers who ventured forth and the trials and tribulations they faced.

Abundant quotes from the explorers’ accounts enrich the text, as do the nearly 100 illustrations and more than 30 maps. "The Storied Ice" is unique in the rich literature on Antarctica, the only modern, comprehensive Antarctic historical work
that both focuses specifically on the historically exciting Antarctic Peninsula and tells its complete story.

![American sealers in the Falkland Islands, 1780s](image)

Abundant maps and nearly 100 illustration accompany the text, and a detailed Antarctic timeline places the story of the Peninsula Region into the context of all of Antarctic history. The graphics aid the narrative descriptions of the events and expeditions. The detailed discussions of the entire Antarctic Peninsula Region provide modern travelers with knowledge and insights that will make tours of these regions far more satisfying.

![The Jane and the Beaufoy passing through a sea of ice islands, 1823](image)
Boothe details the dramatic explorations and adventures from Magellan through the first years of the 21st century, including, of course, Shackleton’s amazing “Endurance” expedition epic.

**Expedition of James Cook (1772 to 1775) — first circumnavigation of Antarctica**

Possession Bay, where James Cook first landed on Antarctica and claimed South Georgia for Great Britain in 1775
The Storied Ice: Exploration, Discovery, and Adventure in Antarctica's Peninsula Region

Joan N. Boothe

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About the Author

Joan N. Boothe has been fascinated with stories of Antarctic adventure and exploration since childhood. In 1995, after many years working in the worlds of economics and finance and teaching business administration to graduate business students, she at last made her first trip to Antarctica and saw where so many things she had read about took place. Ms. Boothe has returned to the
Antarctic regions many times since, including making a 67-day circumnavigation of the entire Antarctic continent aboard an icebreaker.

A graduate of Wellesley College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, she also earned an honors degree in economics and completed doctoral work in economics at Columbia University. Boothe received an M.B.A. in finance from the University of California, Berkeley, and also pursued doctoral studies in organizational behavior at Berkeley.

She is considered an expert on Antarctic history and has been interviewed by NPR, taught a course in the Stanford University Continuing Studies program on the history of Antarctica’s Heroic Age, guest lectured on Antarctic tour ships for and spoken to the Antarctic for the Explorers Club, Rotary Club chapters, Stanford Women's Club and Stanford University's Green Library, among other venue. Boothe has one of the most comprehensive private Antarctic collections in the United States, containing more than 1,800 individual titles of Antarctic-related books and thousands of journal articles. Joan has recently contracted to donate the collection to Stanford University, over a period of several years.

She lives in San Francisco, California, with her husband and two children.

**What People Are Saying**

“. . . expertly rendered history of Antarctica’s most-visited region. . . . tells the (explorers’) stories with such authority, readers forget (the author) was not part of their expeditions (as she) captures their motives, struggles, heartbreaks and triumphs. . . . (This book is) a most rewarding journey.”

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—The Explorers Journal

. . . a wonderfully researched book . . . Even the most hardened Antarctic aficionado will enjoy this freshly written [and] . . . important book. . . . a must read
for anyone going to the Antarctic Peninsula. . . . a beautifully written . . . book to fill in the history of this most visited . . . region of [Antarctica]

--Antarctican Society Newsletter

. . . much more than a modern update of the exploration of the area . . . every expedition has been re-analyzed by the author. . . The reproduction of contemporary illustrations from the expeditions . . . make the stories come alive. . . this will become the handbook to use when referring to the history of this part of the Antarctic. . . fills an important gap in every Antarctic library. . . . a must for anybody interested in South Georgia, the subantarctic islands, and the Antarctic Peninsula from a historical point of view. It is both easy to read and to use as a reference book, and . . . fascinating.

--The Upland Goose and The Polar Post
The cover of *The Storied Ice* – illustrated with a May, 1898, photo of the *Belgica*, an exploration vessel whose men spent 13 months aboard her locked in the Antarctic ice as they lived through the “first Antarctic night.” Chapter 6 tells the story.
Joan at home in San Francisco

Joan in Antarctica in 2010
The last sight of Otto Nordenskjöld’s ship *Antarctic* as she sinks below the ice in February, 1903 – A story related in Chapter 7 of *The Storied Ice*.

French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot’s ship *Pourquoi-Pas?* in winter quarters in the Antarctic in 1909, with the southern end of the scenic Lemaire Channel in the center background – an expedition whose story will be found in Chapter 11 of *The Storied Ice*. 
The *Scotia* expedition’s bagpiper plays for an emperor penguin on the ice of the Weddell Sea in 1904 – Chapter 8 of *The Storied Ice* tells of this expedition.

On South Georgia Island in 2009, a reindeer – descendant of a small herd introduced by Norwegian whalers in 1911 – strolls past slumbering elephant seals. Chapter 10 of *The Storied Ice* tells the story. Beginning in the summer of 2012–13, the South Georgia government will be removing reindeer from South Georgia.
The Storied Ice Availability

Available in hardcover, softcover, and e-book from all major on-line booksellers, on special order from local bookstores, and from the publisher, Regent Press (www.regentpress.net).

978-1-58790-224-6 (Hardcover) — $34.95
978-1-58790-218-5 (Softcover) — $24.95
978-1-58790-181-2 (e-book) — $14.95

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