

**RUSSIAN EXPLORATIONS,
1725-1743; VITUS BERING:
THE DISCOVERER OF BERING
STRAIT. CHICAGO, 1889**

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PETER LAURIDSEN & JULIUS E. OLSON & FREDERICK SCHWATKA

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VITUS BERING:
THE DISCOVERER OF BERING STRAIT.

BY

PETER LAURIDSEN,
MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL DANISH GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY,
EDITOR OF JENS MUNK'S "NAVIGATIO SEPTENTRIONALIS."

REVISED BY THE AUTHOR, AND TRANSLATED FROM THE DANISH BY

JULIUS E. OLSON,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN EDITION BY

FREDERICK SCHWATKA,
MEDALLIST OF THE PARIS GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, AND OF THE IMPERIAL GEOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY OF RUSSIA; HONORARY MEMBER OF THE BREMEN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY,
AND THE SWISS GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF GENEVA; CORRESPONDING MEMBER
OF THE ITALIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, ETC., ETC.; AUTHOR OF
"ALONG ALASKA'S GREAT RIVERS," ETC., ETC.

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INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN EDITION.

A BIOGRAPHY of the great Bering is of especial interest to American readers desiring an accurate history of a country that has recently come into our possession, and the adjoining regions where most of the geographical investigations of the intrepid Danish-Russian explorer were made. The thorough, concise, and patient work done by Mr. Lauridsen is deserving of world-wide commendation, while the translation into the language of our land by Professor Olson of the University of Wisconsin puts students of American historical geography under a debt for this labor of love rather than remuneration that cannot be easily paid, and which is not common in our country. It is a matter of no small national pride that the translation into the English language of a work so near American geographical interests should have been done by an American, rather than emanate from the Hakluyt Society or other British sources, from which we usually derive such valuable translations and compilations of old explorations and the doings of the first explorers.

The general American opinion regarding Bering is probably somewhat different from that on the continent which gave him birth and a patron government to carry out his gigantic and immortal plans; or, better speaking, it was different during the controversy in the past over the value and authenticity of the great explorer's works, for European opinion of Bering has slowly been more and more favorable to him, until it has reached the maximum and complete vindication in the admirable labors of Lauridsen, whose painstaking researches in the only archives where authentic data of the doings of the daring Dane could be found, has left no ground for those critics to stand upon, who have