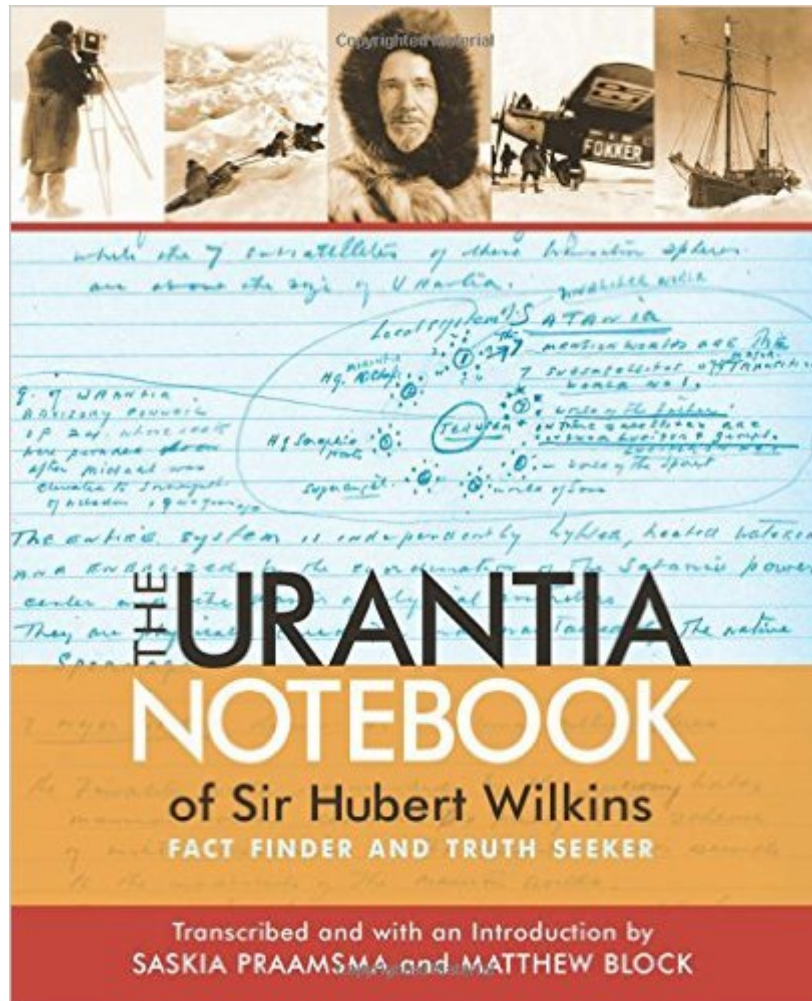


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The Urantia Notebook Of Sir Hubert Wilkins: Fact Finder And Truth Seeker



Synopsis

SIR HUBERT WILKINS (1888-1958) was an Australian adventurer who gained international renown for his pioneering flights in the Arctic and Antarctic. In 1942, after having shifted his sphere of activities from polar exploration to working for the United States Army and various government agencies, he was introduced to the Urantia revelation. This revelation consisted of thousands of pages of manuscript said to have been transmitted by superhuman beings through an anonymous man living in Chicago. The enormous text was in the custody of a Chicago physician, William S. Sadler, who formed a secret group, the Forum, to study it. Wilkins became a member on March 5, 1942. Enthralled by his initial readings, he pored over the manuscript during his periodic visits to Chicago. In 1945 he began to keep a notebook, into which he copied passages from the text that he found especially significant or inspiring. When the Urantia Book was finally published in 1955, Sir Hubert was able to retrieve the notebook, which until then had been stored at Dr. Sadler's residence in Chicago. It was rediscovered in 2014, and is now being made public. It is a unique remnant of a largely obscure period in the history of the Urantia Book and its readership. Sir Hubert Wilkins was certainly the first internationally known person to embrace the Urantia text as a major revelation to this planet. This notebook is a testament to Wilkins' devoted study of a book that answered his most vital questions and gave him a new lens through which to view his own adventurous life.

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Customer Reviews

Sir Hubert Wilkins (1888-1958) was an Australian adventurer who led a fascinating and productive

life. Primarily known for his explorations of the Arctic and Antarctic, he was also an ornithologist, pilot, soldier, geographer, photographer and a government agent. "The Urantia Notebook of Sir Hubert Wilkins" illuminates his little known activity as a spiritual seeker. A few of Wilkins' biographers have mentioned his interest in "The Urantia Book," but they did not understand the depth of his involvement with the text. "The Urantia Book" is a 2,097-page revelation channeled from higher spiritual beings that visited earth between 1923-1942. Praamsma and Block, unlike previous biographers, had access to Wilkins' own papers and the diaries of his friends, Harold and Marta Sherman. These primary source documents along with their familiarity of "The Urantia Book" gave them an excellent foundation to write this book. The book contains a brief biography and transcriptions of Sir Hubert's voluminous Urantia Notebook. In the biography Praamsma and Block set up his remarkable life and weave his spiritual beliefs into his adventures. For example, Wilkins credited divine providence when numerous accidents (averted fatal plane crashes, airship fails, hot air balloon promotions gone very wrong where he survived freezing weather and a crash landing, arrests by countries at war, gunshot wounds, being marooned in the Arctic, living peacefully with cannibals, etc.) should have found him dead. They also shed light on his belief and practice of Extra-Sensory Perception (ESP). By sharing Wilkins' beliefs in the supernatural the authors help flush out his inner life. The largest part of the book is the transcriptions of his notes from his reading of the manuscripts of "The Urantia Book" before it was published.

The "Urantia Notebook of Sir Hubert Wilkins" appeals to me on several levels. Having served on an Antarctic research project myself, anything associated with polar research grabs my attention. I was drawn to the person of Hubert Wilkins in part because of his remarkable and sometimes quirky involvement in polar exploration. I had previously read Wilkins' biography: aptly named "The Last Explorer: Hubert Wilkins, Hero of the Great Age of Polar Exploration" by Simon Nasht. Wilkins seemed to lead a charmed life, narrowly escaping death every few pages of Nasht's book. I marveled at Wilkins' travails in war and peace: in the air, on the ice, and even under the ice! In my university library I found Sir Hubert's somewhat autobiographical publication ("Under the North Pole: Voyage of the Nautilus") which laid out his plans to take a submarine to the North Pole in 1931. Those publications left me wanting to know more about the personal life of this polar hero. The great fortitude (and luck) of this indefatigable man was bolstered by his faith in God, and was informed by his reading of "The Urantia Book." In "The Urantia Notebook" Praamsma & Block give insights into the religious faith of Wilkins, who was an early student of this revelation. The second half of the "Notebook" presents the handwritten notes that Wilkins made while he

studied the pre-published Urantia Papers in the late 1940s. Each page of Wilkins's scratchy handwriting has been meticulously interpreted by Matthew Block. These back pages serve to document the earliest version of the Urantia revelation, but they are likely to be a slow read for anyone not familiar with "The Urantia Book.

Some 45 years ago, I began reading The Urantia Book, a 2,097 page tome published in 1955. A self-described epochal revelation, its author(s) do a masterful job of integrating science, philosophy, and religion. The text has answered my many questions about the nature of God, the universe, and the individual role that each of us plays within its grand, cosmic scheme. Naturally, I have wanted to share its revelatory insights with others, and have encouraged many to buy and read it over the decades. However, given its 1.1 millions words of text; the fact that much of it requires a college level education to read and comprehend; its mysterious origins, questions about authorship, etc., it's not an easy sell. Enter Sir Hubert Wilkins, a highly accomplished scientist, explorer, adventurer, and wartime spy whose enthusiastic acceptance of The Urantia Book provides a good name to drop when recommendations about fellow readers arise. (I could provide an impressive list of famous musicians and entertainers, living and deceased, who have embraced the book, but that would be a bit off-topic.) While he is best known for his pioneering flights over the Arctic and Antarctic, he brought that same spirit of exploration and discovery to his quest for spiritual understanding. Sir Hubert was introduced to The Urantia papers in 1942 by Harold Sherman, his co-author of the book Thoughts Through Space, which recounts a series of experiments in ESP and telepathy they conducted, inspired by Wilkins's attempt to locate the missing Russian aviator Sigismund Levanevsky who, with five other crew members, had disappeared on a test flight from Russia to Alaska.

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