

FRITS V. HOLM, Ph.D., M.R.A.S.

(Sailor, explorer, writer, lecturer)



Born in Denmark on July 23, 1881, he is the elder son of the late Consul-General Frederik Holm of Copenhagen. He passed a preliminary examination at the Copenhagen University and received (1895-1900) an officer's education in the Royal Danish Navy, visiting many countries on men-o'-war. Having seen the Paris Exposition of 1900, he went to the Far East and worked in Shanghai and Hankow in journalistic and commercial positions (1901-03), eventually accepting the post of manager and editorial secretary of the Japan Daily Advertiser in Yokohama. In May 1904, during the Russo-Japanese war, he left Japan and returned to Denmark via U.S.A., where he visited the St. Louis World's Fair as special correspondent, completing in nearly four years his first circumnavigation. From Sept. 1905 till Feb. 1907 he was engaged in special journalistic work in London under the Earl of Kintore and Sir Wm. Ramsay, frequently visiting the Continent; and in July 1906 he represented the Associated Press at the Interparliamentary Peace Conference in the House of Lords.

At the age of 25 he obtained the capital for a scientific journey into the interior of China. The result of THE HOLM-NESTORIAN EXPEDITION TO SIAN-FU 1907-08, which covered by caravan and house-boat more than 2500 miles through little known regions, was the bringing to civilization of a two-ton, ten feet high monolithic replica of the famous Nestorian Monument of A. D. 781 - now as a loan in the Metropolitan Museum in New York. "The Nestorian Monument" (The Open Court Pub. Co., Chicago, 1909) tells about the tablet and the expedition, through which he completed his second circumnavigation. Lack of time has prevented his accepting lecture invitations from Europe; but he has lectured, in English and French, in sixteen Universities and Learned Institutions in U.S.A. and Mexico on his archaeological explorations, about which hundreds of illustrated articles have appeared, and of which mention has been made in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, The Encyclopaedia Americana and other standard works. He is the author of numerous papers on Far Eastern and other subjects and a Doctor of Philosophy, and he holds a Royal Danish License as Sworn Interpreter-Translator, commanding many languages.

He has been decorated, for scientific services, by the President of Venezuela with the Knight-Commander Cross with Star (Commandeur avec plaque) of the Order "El Busto del Libertador"; and the Mexican Government has awarded him its Centennial Medal. He is a Gold Medalist of La Société Académique d'Histoire Internationale (Paris), a member of the Royal Asiatic Society (London) and of other scientific institutions. He has received the Gold Medal (with Crown) of La Société Royale des Sauveteurs de Belgique; and he is a life-member of the Imperial Red Cross Societies of Russia and Japan (war medals), of the Kihin Kai (Tokio) and of the Royal Yacht Club (Copenhagen).

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