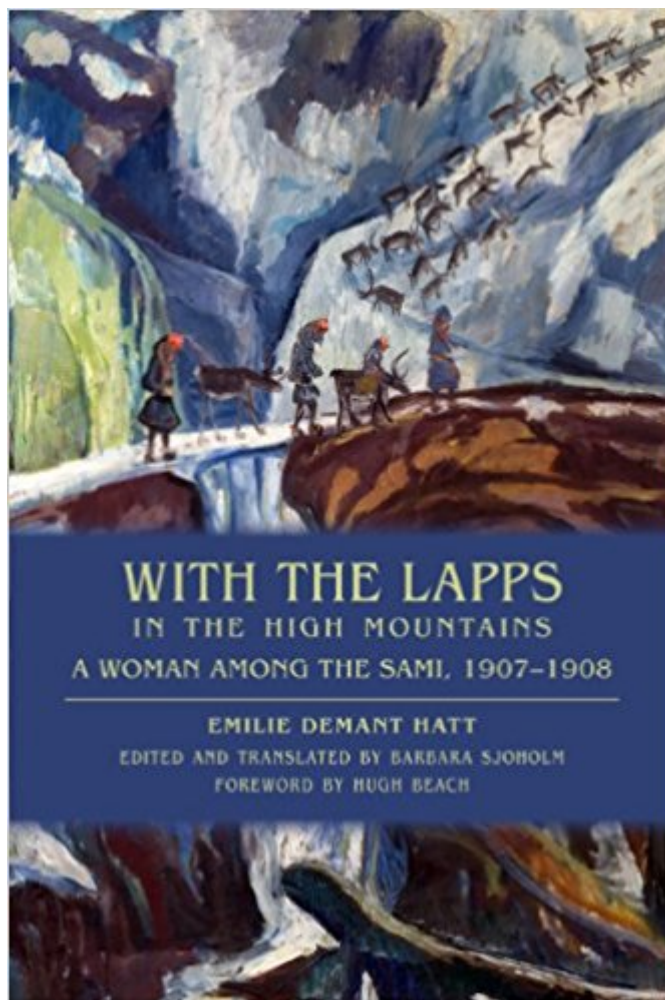


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With The Lapps In The High Mountains: A Woman Among The Sami, 1907–1908



Synopsis

With the Lapps in the High Mountains is an entrancing true account, a classic of travel literature, and a work that deserves wider recognition as an early contribution to ethnographic writing. Published in 1913 and available here in its first English translation, it is the narrative of Emilie Demant Hatt's nine-month stay in the tent of a Sami family in northern Sweden in 1907 and her participation in a dramatic reindeer migration over snow-packed mountains to Norway with another Sami community in 1908. A single woman in her thirties, Demant Hatt immersed herself in the Sami language and culture. She writes vividly of daily life, women's work, children's play, and the care of reindeer herds in Lapland a century ago. While still an art student in Copenhagen in 1904, Demant Hatt had taken a vacation trip to northern Sweden, where she chanced to meet Sami wolf hunter Johan Turi. His dream of writing a book about his people sparked her interest in the culture, and she began to study the Sami language at the University of Copenhagen. Though not formally trained as an ethnographer, she had an eye for detail. The journals, photographs, sketches, and paintings she made during her travels with the Sami enriched her eventual book, and in *With the Lapps in the High Mountains* she memorably portrays people, dogs, reindeer, and the beauty of the landscape above the Arctic Circle. This English-language edition also includes photographs by Demant Hatt, an introduction by translator Barbara Sjöholm, and a foreword by Hugh Beach, author of *A Year in Lapland: Guest of the Reindeer Herders*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A treasure trove of ethnographic and historical information for scholars of Sami and other pastoralists, especially those interested in gender dynamics, domestic life, and social relations. Sjöholm's introduction provides helpful biographical and historical information about the author, Emilie Demant Hatt, and the Sami, while Demant Hatt's ethnography is vivid and informative." — Dorothy L. Hodgson, former president of the Association for Feminist Anthropology

"Sjöholm's translation excellently captures the humanity of Sámi culture at the turn of the twentieth century and tells a complex story of Sámi-Nordic political, economic, and ecological relations on Sámi terms. Such a story sheds light not only on past conflicts, but also on the realities and challenges that Sámi people face today."

— Scandinavian Studies

Emilie Demant Hatt (1873–1958) became a prominent artist in Denmark. She helped Johan Turi write and publish his book, *An Account of the Sami*, which appeared in 1910 in an innovative bilingual Sami/Danish edition. Barbara Sjöholm is an award-winning novelist, nonfiction writer, frequent translator of Danish and Norwegian fiction and nonfiction, and cofounder of Seal Press. Her work also appears under the name Barbara Wilson. She lives in Port Townsend, Washington.

This is an amazing book giving insight into the lives of Sami women at the beginning of the 1900's. Barbara Sjöholm did a wonderful job researching and writing Emilie Demant Hatt's life and times amongst the Sami. Brava!

It was very much like a journal it was behind the scenes of everyday life of the Sami . I experienced some of these things in the 1970's and found the History and way of living hadn't changed much in 70 years. The book is more of a documentary so a slower read.

Great reading for our daughter.

I have been so captivated by this book that I've made myself read it slowly, so I miss no details of daily life among the reindeer-herding Sami more than 100 years ago. Recently translated into English by Barbara Sjöholm, this historic book is as fascinating today as it was in 1913, when Emilie Demant Hatt gave the world a focused, open-minded view into the Sami world. For example, I became absorbed with how a baby is bathed in a frigid tent: "If

it's extremely cold, the cradle is kept warm with a hot stone while the child is bathed. When the child is washed and dried off, he's dressed in a small soft fur of newborn reindeer skin with the fur side toward the body. Under the head the child has a small down pillow with an embroidered case and over that a slip of white rabbit skin, so the head can lie soft and warm. This book gets five stars because it deserves ten for authenticity alone. Any student of Scandinavian history will want to read it, probably more than once. Thanks so much to Barbara Sjöholm for translating it, and to the University of Wisconsin Press for publishing it.

I enjoyed reading this book so much. It is a fascinating account of Emilie Demant Hatt's experiences living with the Sami people in the early 20th century. Barbara Sjöholm, the translator of Hatt's work from the original Danish, also did an excellent job editing, which I learned about at one of the talks she gave on the book. One gets a special feeling for how these nordic nomads lived.

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book arrived in excellent condition as advertised

What an amazing story!

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