

The Best of the Rune Singers: Elias Lonnrot

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Reviews

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Createspace. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 120 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.3in.The Best of the Rune-Singers: based on the life of Elias Lnnrot, the Compiler of the Finnish National Epic, The Kalevala Paula Ivaska Robbins The book begins with a prologue explaining the significance of The Kalevala to the development of Finnish as a literary language, the eventual independence of Finland from the Russian Empire, and the emergence of Finland in the twenty-first century as one of the most prosperous and successful countries in the world, the homeland of four Nobel prize winners, and an acknowledged leader in technology and education. This work of creative nonfiction follows the life of Elias Lnnrot from his childhood as a son of a poor country tailor, his education in bo and Helsinki supported by many scholarships, and his relationship with the wealthy and cosmopolitan Trngren family who encouraged and supported his dream of collecting the ancient Finnish folk poetry. The story focuses on the period from 1828 to 1845, when Lnnrot traveled to eastern and northern Finland, Lapland, and Russian Karelia on foot, on skis, by rowboat, on horseback, and by sledge searching out the singers and wise men, possessors of magical powers, who would sing the ancient folk poetry of the Finnish people. One scholar has estimated that his travels over fifteen years took him a distance equivalent to that from Helsinki to the South Pole. Lnnrot became the District Medical Officer for a large area based in rural Kaajani, near the border of Russian Karelia, fighting epidemics of cholera and typhoid. The post enabled him to combine his medical work with the goal of collecting the poems of the peasants whom he served. An epidemic of typhoid raged through the region for which...

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