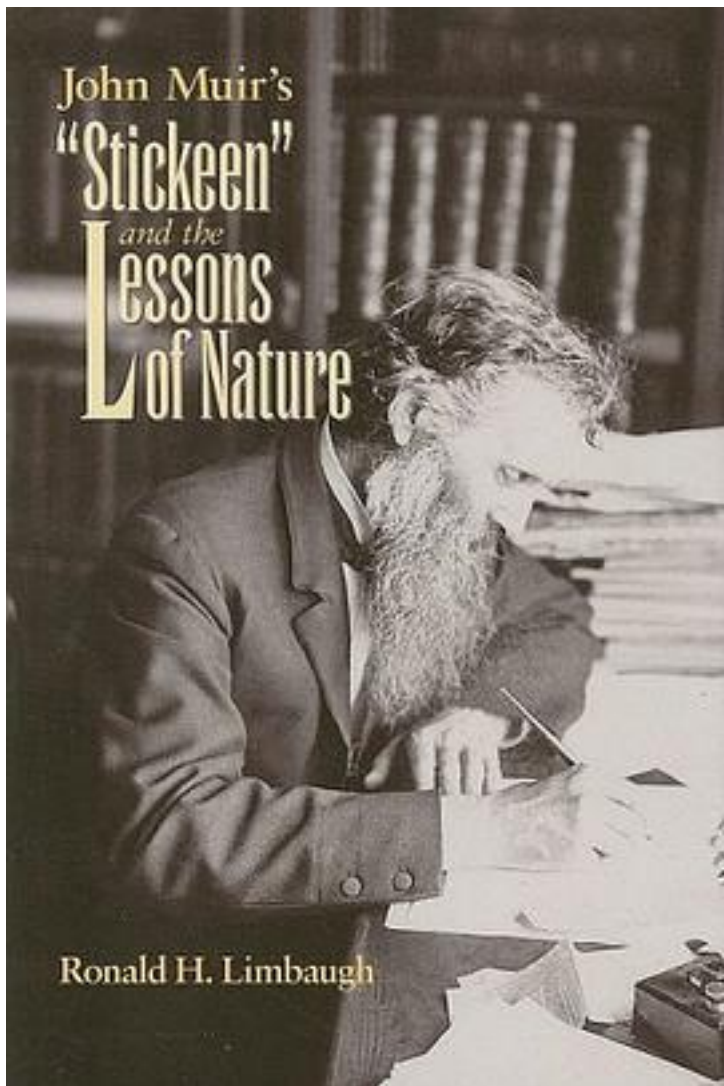


# John Muir's "Stickeen" & the Lessons of Nature



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This literary detective story, like all good stories, could begin, "Once upon a time..." Once upon a time in 1880, a young man name John Muir spent a day crossing a rugged glacier in Alaska. Though he did not even think it worth recording in that evening's diary entry, a little black dog had accompanied him on that storm-haunted trek. As time passed, the image of the dog and what it symbolized grew in Muir's mind, entering his after-dinner sessions of storytelling. Seventeen years after the event, the popular story, of Stickeen finally saw print, though in a form much edited from Muir's original. Author Limbaugh here explains the mystery of why John Muir struggled for so long to bring Stickeen to life. Limbaugh pursued the evolution of the tale through a previously underexplored resource, the handwritten annotations Muir left in the volumes of his personal library. His thorough study covers the oral and literary history of the adventure, discusses its style, content, and sources, and places it -- and Muir's difficulties in perfecting it -- in the context of some of the major concerns of the era, particularly the Darwinian debates and the emerging animal rights movement.

作者介绍:

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