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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (9.15.22)

**Author (as it should appear on the book):** William Frej with Anne Frej

**Title:** *Travels across the Roof of the World*

**Subtitle:** *A Himalayan Memoir*

**Contributor:** with a foreword by Michael Tobias and Jane Gray Morrison and an essay by Edwin Bernbaum

**Partner:** Published in association with the Center for the Study of Place

**Book pages:** 280

**Number and type of illustrations:** 228 color photographs by the authors, 18 line-art maps, and 1 full-spread map = 247

**Trim size:** 12.0" x 10.0" landscape/horizontal

**List price:** \$55.00

**Discount:** Trade

**ISBN (book):** 978-1-938086-93-9

**ISBNs (electronic):** N.A.

**Edition:** Hardcover/PLC

**E-book?** N.A.

**Interactive e-book?** N.A.

**Jacket:** Yes

**Edition size:** 1,500

**Publication date:** July 2022

**Advances due:** May 2022

**To warehouse:** June 2022

**Printed in:** Singapore

**Distributor:** Casemate/IPM

**Bookstore categories (list three):** Photography/Travel/India/Buddhism

**Audience:** Anyone interested in photography, travel, India, and Buddhism.

**Selling points (list three):** (1) This book is undoubtedly among the most beautiful and comprehensive photographic renderings of the Himalaya region; (2) it combines artistry with travel and a true sense of place; and (3) it reveals how Tibetan Buddhism is an unforgettable foundation for land and life in the world's highest reaches.

**Tagline:** A gorgeously illustrated, unforgettable account of the authors' twenty journeys, spanning forty years, through the Himalayas and through many areas now closed to foreigners.

**Description of the work:**

*Travels Across the Roof of the World* provides a sweeping yet intimate view of the breathtaking peaks, splendid valleys, and extraordinary people of this vast region, from the Pamir Mountains in Kyrgyzstan through Afghanistan's fabled Hindu Kush, the Karakoram in Pakistan, and the Great Himalaya Range that stretches across northern India, Nepal, Tibet, and Bhutan.

Unique in scope among photo books on the Himalaya, *Travels Across the Roof of the World* chronicles William and Anne Frej's more than twenty pilgrimages throughout the area, spanning forty years and 3,000 miles through some of the world's most remote and difficult-to-reach country. Inspired by the devotion to Tibetan Buddhism of the villagers whom they met on their first trek to Nepal in 1981, the Frejs set out on an epic quest to document Asia's highest peaks as well as the lives of the resilient people living in these remote mountain communities.

When they began, trekkers from the West through these regions were few. Even now, trips are demanding—but not nearly as harsh as the daily lives of the residents, who continue to exist in a kind of stunning isolation that has allowed them to maintain rich cultural traditions and spiritual practices that have sustained them over many centuries. Michael Tobias and Jane Gray Morrison's foreword provides an intimate, human perspective on the people of the area while Edwin Bernbaum's essay adds to the depth of the pictures, with his focus on the symbolism, religious importance, and associated legends of these sacred places. The authors also share extensive encounters about the places they saw and how they have changed over time.

**Blurbs:**

"William and Anne Frej have created a magnificent book that provides intimacy, acute detail, context, history, and ethnography of a vast swath of incomparable, and ecologically critical geography—the Himalaya. With nearly forty years of passionate exploration of this region—from one end to the other, beginning with Manaslu in 1981—they offer an engaging and deeply felt perspective on a subject more typically associated with the fever of conquest on the world's highest peaks."

—Michael Tobias and Jane Gray Morrison, from their Foreword

**About the Author:**

*William Frej* has been photographing indigenous people for more than forty years while living in Indonesia, Poland, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and other remote, mountainous regions of Asia as a career diplomat with the United States Agency for International Development. His work has been featured in a number of exhibitions, galleries, and museums in the U.S. and Mexico. His recent book of black-and-white photographs, *Maya Ruins*

*Revisited: In the Footsteps of Teobert Maler* (2020), is the recipient of eight awards, including the Silver Medal from both the Independent Publishers Book Awards and the Moscow International Photography Awards.

*Anne Frej* is a retired urban planner who focused on feasibility studies and design concepts for real estate projects in the United States, Indonesia, Central Europe, and Central Asia. At the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C., she directed books on real estate development, and at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, she served as a cultural resources planner.

### **About the Contributors:**

*Edwin Bernbaum*, Ph.D., is a lecturer, author, and scholar of comparative religion and mythology whose work focuses on the relationship between culture and the environment. He is the author of *Sacred Mountains of the World* (1990), which won the Commonwealth Club of California's gold medal for best work of nonfiction, and *The Way to Shambala* (1989), a study of Tibetan myths and legends of hidden valleys and their symbolism.

*Jane Gray Morrison* is an ecologist, author, and filmmaker who currently serves as executive vice president of the Dancing Star Foundation ([dancingstarfoundation.org](http://dancingstarfoundation.org)), a non-profit organization focused on international biodiversity conservation, global environmental education, and animal protection. Her books include *Sanctuary: Global Oases of Innocence* (2008) and *On the Nature of Ecological Paradox* (2021), both with Michael Tobias, and *Bhutan: Conservation and Environmental Protection in the Himalayas* (2021), with Michael Tobias and Ugyen Tshewang, the former secretary of Bhutan's National Environment Commission.

*Michael Charles Tobias*, Ph.D., is a global ecologist, author, filmmaker, and the president of the Dancing Star Foundation ([dancingstarfoundation.org](http://dancingstarfoundation.org)). The author of some sixty books of non-fiction and fiction, and the writer/director/producer of more than 100 films, Tobias did much of his Ph. D research in Ladakh, India and has explored mountain ranges on every continent. He received the Courage of Conscience Award in 1996 and the Parabola Magazine Focus Award in 2004.