



A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder

By James De Mille (1833-1880)

A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder is the most popular of James De Mille's works. It was serialized posthumously in *Harper's Weekly*, and published in book form by Harper and Brothers of New York City in 1888. This satirical romance is the story of Adam More, a British sailor. Shipwrecked in Antarctica, he stumbles upon a tropical lost world of prehistoric animals, plants, and a cult of death-worshipping primitives. He also finds a highly developed human society which has reversed the values of Victorian society. Wealth is scorned and poverty revered; death and darkness are preferable to life and light. Rather than accumulating wealth, the natives seek to divest themselves of it as quickly as possible. At the beginning of each year, the government imposes wealth (the burden of "reverse taxation") upon its unfortunate subjects as a form of punishment. A secondary plot about the four yachtsmen who find the manuscript forms a frame for the central narrative. (Summary adapted from Wikipedia)

Read by Bob Graff, JimmyLogan, Eddie Winter, Gayland Darnell, Craig J. Whitehorne, the quiet fox, & Ralph Snelson. Total running time: 09:16:05.

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