

'The music of the spheres': books at the centre of a cultural universe



Anna Charlier was born in Sweden on 25th July 1871. She wanted to become a concert pianist, but her life was dominated by her relationship with **Nils Strindberg**, a trainee engineer/photographer who became an explorer.



S.S. Andrée's Expedition to the North Pole

Nils was working as a teaching assistant at the Technical University and had high marks in maths, chemistry and astronomy. He was also a keen and talented photographer, so **S.S. Andrée** employed him as second in command and the official photographer for his expedition to the North Pole. The balloon set off from Svalbard on 11th July 1897, when Nils was 23 years old.



The men never returned.

Their bodies were discovered 33 years later.

Places

Following Nils' disappearance, Anna lived as a piano teacher, but seems to have had Parkinson's or similar. She kept in touch with Nils' relatives in Stockholm. 13 years later, she married an English French teacher, **Gilbert Hawtrey**, and moved to America. She later moved with her husband to England, where she lived until her death in 1949.

She asked for her heart to be cut out and buried next to Nils, and so it was.

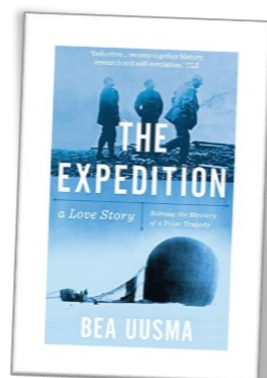
Literature & Film

Flight of the Eagle by Per Olof Sundman

Perfect North, by Jenny Bond

The Expedition, by **Bea Uusma**

Anna's Book, by George Macbeth

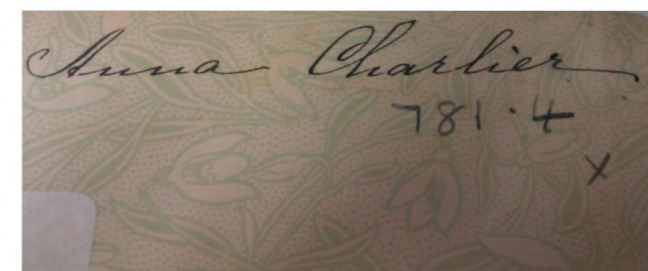


Flight of the Eagle: (Ingenjör Andrées luftfärd) (Sweden, 1982) directed by Jan Troell, based on Per Olof Sundman's novel. It stars Max von Sydow as S.A. Andrée, and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film at the 55th Academy Awards.



A Frozen Dream (En frusen dröm) (Sweden, 1997)

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Music

Anna and Nils played music together – she played the piano and he played the violin.

Anna was a music teacher, so it seems appropriate that her scores are now in our collection to be used by new generations of musicians and researchers.