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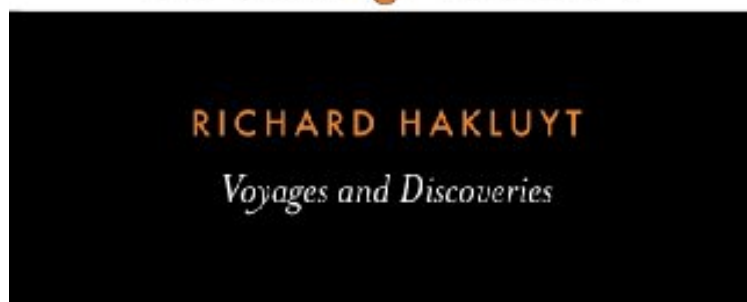
Voyages and Discoveries: Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques Discoveries of the English Nat (Penguin Classics)

Richard Hakluyt

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Richard Hakluyt : Voyages and Discoveries: Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques Discoveries of the English Nat (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Voyages and Discoveries: Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques Discoveries of the English Nat (Penguin Classics):

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Sea-Dog's Delight By Daniel Myers My only real complaint about this Penguin Classics version of Hakluyt's "Voyages And Discoveries" is that it is extremely abridged. Then again, I don't imagine that even Penguin could pull off publishing the over 4,000 page original, which was in the library at Winchester when I was a schoolboy, and - need I say - was a favourite of even those who feigned indifference to matters literary. It's the quintessential English "sea-dog" book, mostly composed by said sea-dogs themselves and has always served as a companion piece to the national anthem, with its chorus about Britannia ruling the waves and what not. These excerpts - ending slightly after the defeat of the Spanish Armada - cover, however, tales that took place BEFORE England ruled the waves. Spain is the pre-eminent sea power through almost all of the book, and Spain and RCs get rather a bad rap herein. All for the better, I say. The book was written by men who had been imprisoned by the Spanish, tortured by the Spanish and who had fought to the death with the Spanish. Should we gloss their feelings to create a book more suited to modern global sensibilities? Heaven forefend! If you like books about the perils and glories of the sea, you'll love these abridged narratives. If not, not. I couldn't help, whilst poring over these tales, of which my favourite is of the - no doubt mad - Lord Grenville, a sort of apologia written by Raleigh for his seemingly unaccountable derring-do, recall Johnson's remark to Boswell about ships and sailors: "No man will be a sailor who has contrivance enough to get himself into jail; for being in a ship is being in a jail, with the chance of being drowned." And one can't help agreeing with the lexicographic curmudgeon on this one. As Hakluyt puts it regarding the relatively "prosperous" voyage of James Lancaster: "By this may be seen that there is no sure safety of things in this world." To be sure, but it's quite an innocuous thrill to read about such bracing tales of dangerous feats upon the main - whilst tilling the ships from the safety of one's armchair. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Some real ripsnortin' yarns! By Earnest Sludge These tales vary from 2 pages to 25. The longer ones are the best, the most engaging. The short ones set the tone and establish the mentality of these commercially motivated expeditions. The first half of the book is practically all dedicated to trading trips to Russia and Persia via the White Sea, the river Dvina, the river Volga and the Caspian Sea. The second half is devoted to seafaring tales, including pirating, which is always fun. The descriptions of attempts to find a North West or North East passage to China were tedious to me since they're all doomed to tragic failure. The description of the famous battle with the Spanish Armada is kind of irritating, it's been repeated to me since I was a little shaver. It was interesting to learn that one reason the Armada ships were so big was that they were troop carriers hoping to land an invasion force. It was also interesting to learn that a second fleet of smaller ships lead by the Duke of Parma was planned to rendezvous with the Armada: maybe if that had happened I'd be typing this in Spanish right now. It would be interesting to read an impartial military analysis of this famous battle, as it stands it leaves the impression that the Spanish had way more money than brains. The Spanish are portrayed in a very bad light throughout this book, which I'm sure is pretty accurate. The 16th century style of speech made this a little difficult but by reading it aloud I was able to comprehend and appreciate it. The main text is 411 pages. After the main text there are: 1) a few pages of end notes, 2) a few pages of short bios of some of the principal actors in these expeditions, 3) a glossary of some of the archaic terms, and 4) an index. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Navigation History By Jerry King I wondered how our ancestors learned to navigate the oceans in search of what was out there. I learned about Richard Hakluyt from reading the Virginia Company colonial charter document of the English King, James I, who singles him out. The stories of discovery of previous excursions are fascinating if at times somewhat unbelievable. I failed to discover the methods used in navigation by these early sea travelers but did glean some clues of astronomical navigation. Maybe the most interesting is the clash of cultures discovered between these English sailors and the foreign lands they found.

Renaissance diplomat and part-time spy, William Hakluyt was also England's first serious geographer, gathering together a wealth of accounts about the wide-ranging travels and discoveries of the sixteenth-century English. One of the epics of this great period of expansion, *The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation* describes, in the words of the explorers themselves, an astonishing era in which the English grew rapidly aware of the sheer size and strangeness of their world. Mingling accounts of the journeys of renowned adventurers such as Drake and Frobisher with descriptions by other explorers and traders to reveal a nation beginning to dominate the seas, Hakluyt's great work was originally intended principally to assist navigation and trade. It also presents one of the first and greatest modern portraits of the globe. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

About the Author Edited, abridged and introduced by Jack Beeching