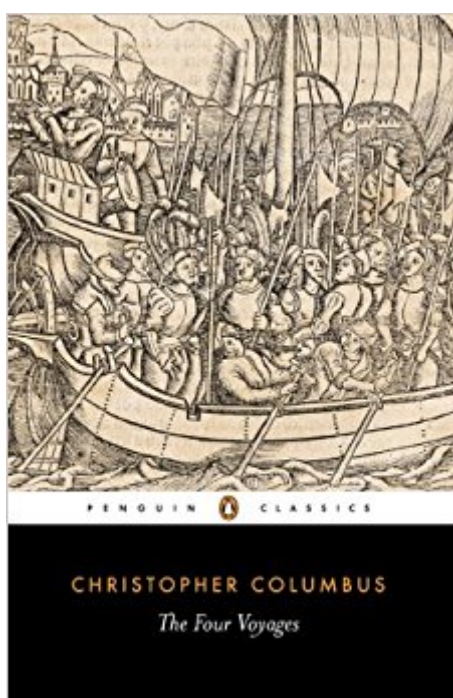


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The Four Voyages: Being His Own Log-Book, Letters And Dispatches With Connecting Narratives.. (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

'The Admiral was quite certain that they were near land ... He promised to give a silk doublet to the first sailor who should report it' No gamble in history has been more momentous than the landfall of Columbus's ship the Santa Maria in the Americas in 1492 - an event that paved the way for the conquest of a 'New World'. The accounts collected here provide a vivid narrative of his voyages throughout the Caribbean and finally to the mainland of Central America, although he still believed he had reached Asia. Columbus himself is revealed as a fascinating and contradictory figure, fluctuating from awed enthusiasm to paranoia and eccentric geographical speculation. Prey to petty quarrels with his officers, his pious desire to bring Christian civilization to 'savages' matched by his rapacity for gold, Columbus was nonetheless an explorer and seaman of staggering vision and achievement. 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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Italian (translation)

JM Cohen (1903 - 1989) was the translator of many volumes for the Penguin Classics, including versions of Rabelais, Cervantes and Montaigne.

Original source material. Very interesting to hear the 15th Century perspectives. Many concepts held by the writers of this book are now known to be totally wrong. But that is to be expected. Still, those incorrect concepts drove decisions, just as our perceptions of the World today drive ours. The New World natives were not the peace loving, idyllic, one with nature innocences popularly thought. Columbus was a major figure of History.

Great!

Whatever he was, Columbus was the first, and 'you are there' as he makes his discoveries of what he believed was a paradise on earth. Great to have the story in his own words, as much as possible. Yes, it is a complicated, difficult story, but an endlessly fascinating, rewarding read.

This is not speculation. The narrative is well written and documented and quite easy to read. Sometimes there are words which do not have an explanation, which makes some of the reading difficult.

Christopher Columbus in his own writings, translated though, what could be more exciting? Well, maybe the hardships they faced during the journey, strange Islands and natives they discoveren and all politics that were involved to arrange the journey. The Four Voyages describes Columbus throughout his carreer as a ship commander and really comes to life in your mind. I saw a Pocahontas like film featuring Colin Farrell after reading this book and just felt a void of all detail being described in the book. You want to read about what the journies were like? Then buy this book.

This is an incredible reference from the horses mouth along with some of the horses that ride in the same pack. This book offers a lot of history that a lot of most leftist books leave out.

Primary source material

fascinating and well put together and edited. I am very much enjoying this insight into history we don't normally get.

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