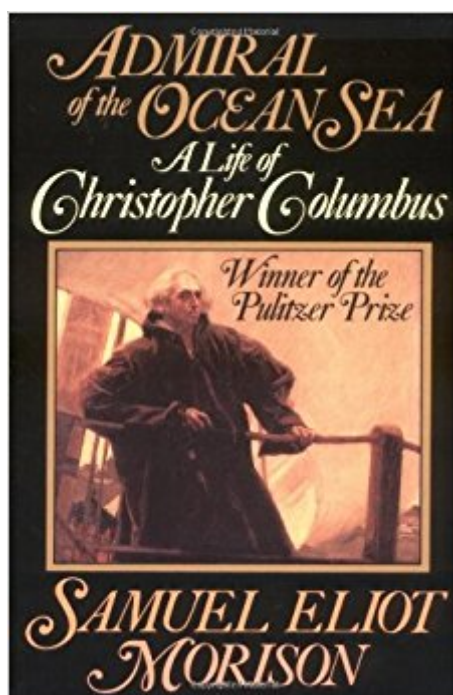


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Admiral Of The Ocean Sea: A Life Of Christopher Columbus



Synopsis

Telling the story of the greatest sailor of them all, "Admiral of the Ocean Sea" is a vivid and definitive biography of Columbus that details all of his voyages that, for better or worse, changed the world.

50 drawings, maps & charts; 4 fold-outs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A splendid achievement and a lasting monument of American scholarship. The style is delightful and flowing, and the whole work is replete with beauty and humor . . . [A] supremely valuable contribution to the literature on Columbus." --New York Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Samuel Eliot Morison was Professor of History at Harvard University. His books won two Pulitzer Prizes.

the book i recieved is nice but not what was pictured in its ad in a gre silver "leather" cover![MY BOOK WAS DARK BROWN LEATHERETTE WITH GOLD LETTERING WHICH IS OK,ITS JUST DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WAS PICTURED.

This book is the definitive work on Columbus. Morison is famous for making the same journey that Columbus made with largely the same equipment in order to prepare for writing this book. His experience shines through in the detail that Morison lavishes on his subject. As is the case with any

great biography, Morison has become enamored with his subject, highlighting his strengths and successes while downplaying his weaknesses and failures, but you know that going into any biography and can adjust your interpretation accordingly. The story here is told very well, keeping the reader engaged and turning pages. Additionally, the book dispels many of the myths and common misconceptions about Columbus and really fills in a complete picture of the man. Well worth reading for any fan of history or biography.

An excellent book delivered rapidly and as advertised.

My quick summary of Morison's Columbus... Politician -- useless Administrator -- dismal Navigator and Seaman -- heroic I tried to tackle this book in chunks, which made it much longer to read. But it gave me the time to really read it. Morison set out to resail the Columbus voyages in 2 boats very similar in draft (if not tonnage) to what Columbus used. He pinpointed the bays, harbors, and landfalls as described in Columbus's journals (and the letters and journals of others who sailed with Columbus), and as a result, the book is entirely credible on the sailing portions of the book. Morison's admiration for Columbus's feats of navigation seems boundless. There is quite a lot of sailing terminology to absorb throughout the book, and it takes time. Morison has included excellent maps for each Voyage, as well as coastline maps that illustrate very well what Columbus accomplished. The book makes clear that, while Columbus was a plain genius on the sea, in port was entirely another story. His attempts at administering New World colonies were disastrous (for natives and Spaniards, alike), and his efforts to win favor at Court first in Portugal and then in Spain were lame. Morison likens Columbus to the Biblical David trying to please Saul and always falling further into disfavor (p. 516). The beginning of the book (about Columbus's origins and early years) addresses controversies about the man that I didn't even know existed. Morison essentially pooh-poohs rumors about Columbus's origins, effectively pins his family down in Genoa for several generations, and explains how Columbus became an ocean-going man and chart-maker. The book is convincing that Columbus is who he is. Morison's style can be grating. At times, it was like having the M*A*S*H character Charles Emerson Winchester III read aloud some tedious part of his own diary. Bleah. You get the impression that Morison is one of those snobbish, ivory-tower academic elitists until you remember that this guy MADE THESE OCEAN CROSSINGS, which is not a wimpy undertaking. And then you read his perspective on America's coming war with the Axis powers (this book was done in 1939 and 1940), and it puts him in a more favorable light. For example, p. 493 has this (discussing the native Taino population of Hispaniola): "The fate of this gentle and almost

defenseless people offers a terrible example to Americans who fancy they will be allowed to live in peace by people overseas who covet what they have." [My note: if you are one of the people whose wealth is going to get "spread around" by new American policies, then this goes double for you.] And this gem, when discussing Columbus's mishandling of the rebellion of some of his own men: "The only way to handle tough fellows is to be a little tougher than they are." This biography honors Columbus as a man of action, a heroic mariner, and an expert seaman. That is enough for me.

I learned a lot about the life of Christopher Columbus, and the discovery of America reading this book. Excellent history literature..

I was interested in navigational aspects but it has much more (maybe too much!)

This is the ground-breaking story of Columbus and his religious courage in setting sail, discovering the new world. It goes against the British-centric view of colonisation and the development of America..

An excellent account of his several voyages. Well documented.

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