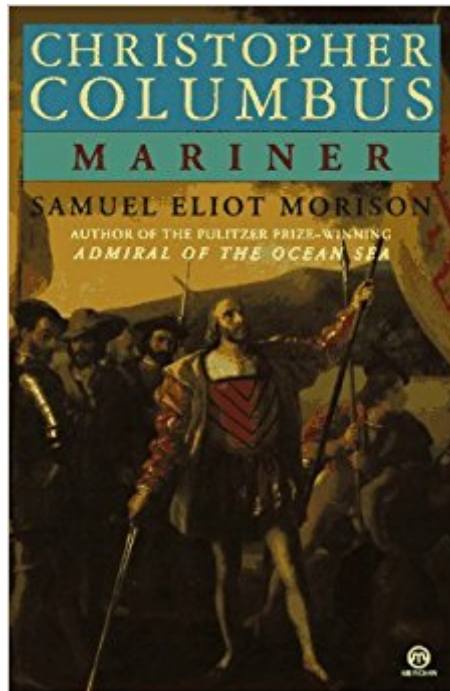




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Christopher Columbus Mariner (Meridian)



Synopsis

Christopher Columbus's first journey across thousands of miles of unknown ocean, amid a mutinous crew, was not only one of the most significant achievements of recorded human history but also a demonstration of his supremacy as mariner and navigator. This is the story of Columbus the seaman, told by a skilled navigator who has actually followed Columbus's original courses under sail. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Most complete and accurate biography of Columbus.

It was a good price to purchase this to go along with the other books on the same man by the author.

Well written.

A great read!

The author made both his academic and his popular reputation in the early 20th century by sailing around the Caribbean himself, retracing the several voyages of Columbus. This book is much much smaller than the many weighty tomes the author published on the subject. Great for those of us with some interest but not much time. Considering when this book was written, it is of course politically

incorrect. Its picture of the man rings true for me. He had a genuine desire to benefit the natives according to his lights (i.e. to Christianize them) but when that collided with his ambition, the results were genocidal.

Morison's book has been roundly decried for any number of baseless reasons. The work is certainly not an apology for Columbus, but it doesn't start off with the currently in vogue premise that the European discovery of America was the work of the devil. Morison's book remains the foundation of any approach to the life of the great explorer. Over-flowing with data and acute observations, it is world's - and oceans - away from the finicky over-intellectualized stuff that passes as 'serious' biography today. Morison clearly appreciates just those features of Columbus that would be anathema in person to most modern published biographers, generally academics, and not men of action. Morison set out to trace the actual voyages by duplicating the voyages himself. The result remains fascinating, insightful and engaging. The book's greatest value, apart from this investigation, is the authorial voice - commanding and not afraid to speak out. I found it the right voice for a discussion of Columbus, but many today don't like this, finding it presumptuous. Given Morison's scope and knowledge perhaps they are the ones who are presumptuous. For another fine book by Morison see *His History of the U.S. Navy in World War II*. A newer edition of this work is available in paperback.

Christopher Columbus, Mariner, is a very enlightening novel concerning Christopher Columbus and his travels that made him immortal. By reading this book, I discovered many interesting facts about Columbus. Columbus, known by many different names, was not the Mr. Perfect that some people make him out to be. In fact, his life was far from perfection. As Morison's epic story unfolds, the reader becomes more and more connected with the hero. He was a normal person, seeking a place in the world. The readers also get the chance to balance on the edge of their seats as Columbus deals with mutiny, battles with cannibals, befriends natives, and rescues beautiful girls. He faces diseases, mosquitoes, storms, and quicksand. This wonderful, interesting work of art certainly does old Chris justice. Unfortunately, Columbus isn't here to read it, nor did he receive the respect or the recognition he deserved at the time that he lived. But, like many renowned people- Mozart, Beethoven, and Van Gogh to name a few- he received his due credit after death.

This is one of several books I have been reading to answer the currently raging debate over Christopher Columbus, explorer or Indian slaughterer? Written in the late 1940's, the author Morison

spends the first pages of this book hailing Columbus as the "Discoverer of the New World", which we know is not true. Page 1 also states that "This was the most spectacular and most far-reaching geographical discovery ever recorded in human history." This and other terms of unbridled honor almost turned me off, but I later found that Morison balances his opinions well with candid observations of what Columbus did poorly. He clearly points out that Columbus was a terrible scientist and mathematician, poor governor over people, a self defeating negotiator, and an absolute failure as a colony planner. Although Columbus was generally very compassionate toward the natives, his short comings eventually lead to absolute bedlam in the "Indies" and when faced with this strife, Columbus and his two brothers responded by killing both natives and Spaniards, which further lead to the expulsion of the Columbus brothers from the region. I found the book to be extremely informative and it gave me a clear picture of how Columbus came to be a hero, victim and tyrant at the same time. Morison makes the conclusion that Columbus was an extraordinary seaman and mariner, and he would have been best served if he had stuck with only that. Every other enterprise Columbus tried only lead to failure and shame. I highly recommend the book despite its antiquated writing style. Buy it.

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