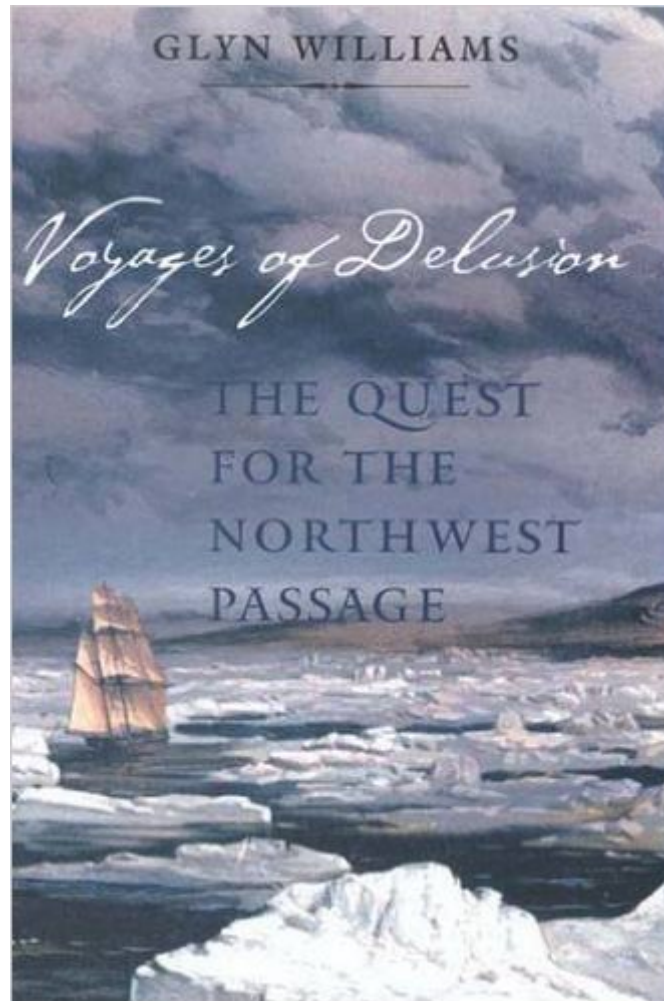


The book was found

Voyages Of Delusion: The Quest For The Northwest Passage



Synopsis

In this gripping work of narrative history, Williams describes the adventures and mishaps of the misguided expeditions of the Age of Reason--the 18th century--in search of the maritime philosopher's stone. 51 illustrations.

Book Information

Hardcover: 467 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; 1st edition (February 8, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300098669

ISBN-13: 978-0300098662

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,121,548 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 inÂ Books > History >

Americas > Canada > Exploration #713 inÂ Books > History > Arctic & Antarctica #2042

inÂ Books > History > World > Expeditions & Discoveries

Customer Reviews

Writing about the search for the Northwest Passage seems almost as obsessive as the quest itself. Williams' entry in the growing stack of these works has the advantage of tight focus. He limits his survey to the 18th Century - Enlightenment Europe. He illuminates a time when the Royal Navy hadn't yet gained control of the seas. The vivid accounts of 19th Century Empire building have obscured the hesitant beginnings of earlier eras. The 18th Century explorers were hesitant pioneers, largely unknown today. Williams conveys their voyages with the domestic political dramas as background. With accomplished style, this book traces the debates as it follows the early explorations into Hudson's Bay and the North Pacific. Three figures take central stage in this narrative. The first is Arthur Dobbs who set the tone and topics in support of the search. Dobbs, an MP from Ireland, saw the promise of increased trade, finding mineral riches and nationalist expansion through finding the Passage. A major aspect was his goal to demolish the monopolistic grip of the Hudson's Bay Company on trade and exploration in the North American Arctic. In Williams' account, Dobbs maintained his campaign over many years, as an open advocate and anonymously. Dobbs was instrumental in helping turn over exploration from private hands and put it under the aegis of the Royal Navy. Dobbs was convinced [or convinced himself] that fur trading

profits would be purely secondary to the potential mineral wealth to be found in the Arctic. Over the years, Williams recounts, fluctuating relationships with other European powers prodded Dobbs into more purely nationalistic reasons for pursuing the Passage.

This is a great read - a true time-travel for arm-chair-travelers. By now you already know what this book is about from the product description and the other reviews, so I won't bore you with details regarding the scope of the book. The tales of exploration of the coasts of northern North America provided in this book read like a screen play of a very exciting movie (along the lines of Master and Commander), but they are REAL LIFE experiences, not Hollywood fiction. (Imagine your brandy freezing solid in Hudson's Bay, or trying to dig a ship free from 10 feet of ice beneath 13 feet of snow.) Prof. Williams has done extensive research on the subject (everything from then-current newspaper articles to explorers' journals), and includes many useful maps and drawings to illuminate the text. While the title suggests a limited scope (i.e., the search for the Northwest Passage), the narrative actually touches on a much wider range of topics. In fact, this book motivated me to pursue further reading regarding the explorations and achievements of Magellan, Drake and Mackenzie. Being a resident of the Pacific Northwest, I was also surprised to discover (from this book) the origin of many of the place-names I grew up with (but never appreciated), such as Puget Sound and Vancouver Island. The narrative of this book is concise, exceedingly well written, and includes enough anecdotes and Welsh dry humor to keep the reader engaged (and possibly amused, depending on your sense of humor). While we all know the outcome of the story (i.e., no easy NW Passage was found - sorry if that's a spoiler for some readers), it's simply just fascinating to see how the tale evolved to those involved at the time.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Voyages of Delusion: The Quest for the Northwest Passage Across the Top of the World: The Quest for the Northwest Passage The Arctic Grail: The Quest for the Northwest Passage and the North Pole, 1818-1909 On there's Voyages: A late 9th Century Account of Voyages along the Coasts of Norway and Denmark and its Cultural Context (Maritime Culture of the North) These Are the Voyages: Tos: Season 3 (Star Trek: These Are the Voyages) These are the Voyages - TOS: Season Two (These Are The Voyages series Book 2) The Twelve (Book Two of The Passage Trilogy): A Novel (Book Two of The Passage Trilogy) Alone in the Passage: An Explorers Guide to Sea Kayaking the Inside Passage Breaking Ice for Arctic Oil: The Epic Voyage of the SS Manhattan through the Northwest Passage The Man Who Ate His Boots: The Tragic History of the Search for the Northwest Passage Arctic Explorers: In Search of the Northwest Passage (Amazing Stories

(Heritage House)) Ordeal by Ice: The Search for the Northwest Passage (Top of the World Trilogy, Vol 1) Resolute: The Epic Search for the Northwest Passage and John Franklin, and the Discovery of the Queen's Ghost Ship The Northwest Passage (The Seafarers) The The New Northwest Passage: A Voyage to the Front Line of Climate Change The Man Who Ate His Boots: Sir John Franklin and the Tragic History of the Northwest Passage Daylighting Design in the Pacific Northwest (Sustainable Design Solutions from the Pacific Northwest) Cataclysms on the Columbia: A Layman's Guide to the Features Produced by the Catastrophic Bretz Flood in the Pacific Northwest (Scenic Trips to the Northwest's Geologic Past, No. 2) Northwest Exposures: A Geologic Story of the Northwest Northwest Foraging: The Classic Guide to Edible Plants of the Pacific Northwest

[Dmca](#)