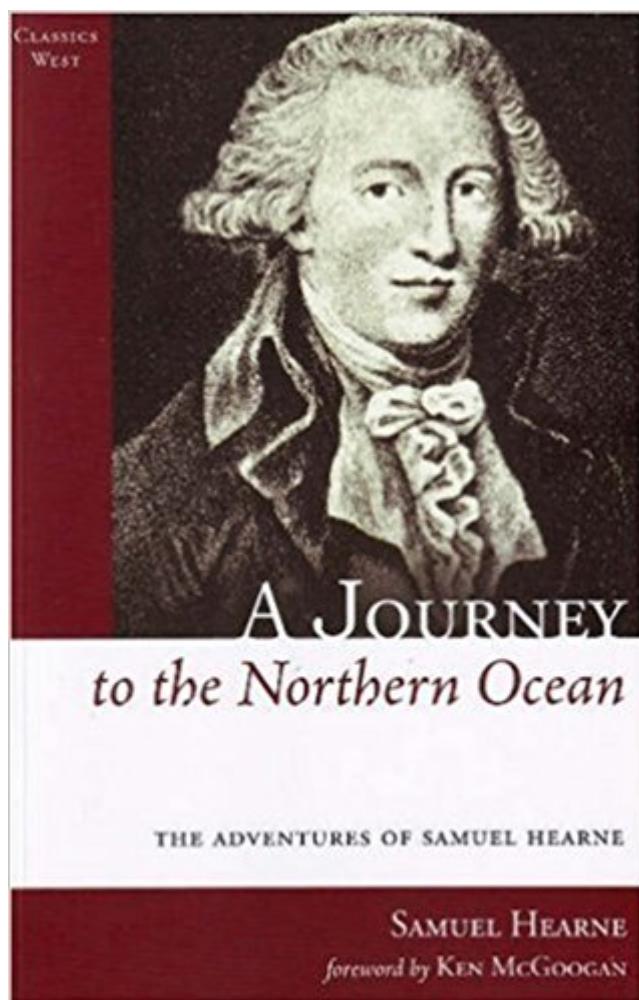


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A Journey To The Northern Ocean: The Adventures Of Samuel Hearne (Classics West Collection)



Synopsis

Widely recognized as a classic of northern-exploration literature, *A Journey to the Northern Ocean* is Samuel Hearne's story of his three-year trek to seek a trade route across the Barrens in the Northwest Territories. Hearne was a superb reporter, from his anguished description of the massacre of helpless Eskimos by his Indian companions to his meticulous records of wildlife, flora and Indian manners and customs. As esteemed author Ken McGoogan points out in his foreword: Hearne demonstrated that to thrive in the north, Europeans had to apprentice themselves to the Native peoples who had lived there for centuries-a lesson lost on many who followed. First published in 1795, more than two decades after Hearne had completed his trek, the memoir was originally called *A Journey from Prince of Wales's Fort in Hudson's Bay to the Northern Ocean* in the years 1769, 1770, 1771, and 1772. This Classics West edition brings a crucial piece of Canadian history back into print.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Born in London in 1745, Samuel Hearne joined the Royal Navy at the age of 12 and served under Captain Samuel Hood during the Seven Years War. In 1766, seeking adventure, he joined the Hudson's Bay Company to work as first mate on a whaling ship. He was based at the HBC's northernmost outpost, Prince of Wales fort, and was only 24 when he set out on the quest described in this book.

An amazing journal. Hearne's trek makes Lewis and Clark's jog look like a walk in a park. I cannot imagine taking off from the Hudson Bay in the middle of December with only one pair of buckskins, a rifle, a blanket and an extra pair of shorts and walking along the Arctic Sea for two years. This journal should be required reading in all schools.

This is a very good book if you are deep into Canadian History. It helps if you are familiar with Samuel Hearne before you start it. It isn't written like a novel, it is more technical in nature. I enjoyed it and thought it gave a very good account of Hearne's travels.

This is a very interesting book. Samuel Hearne undertook a very difficult journey with some very unreliable guides. He was a greenhorn, and you watch him gain skills and knowledge. A very courageous man.

Very detailed descriptions of the north and the people of that region. Most people might be surprised by the truth of how those people were. The first half is the adventure and the second part is details on the people and the plants/animals of the area.

I recommend this book for it's about a truly remarkable young man that most British people would know little about as it wasn't taught when I went to school. Samuel Hearne is certainly worthy of praise as a brilliant incredibly brave explorer with determination and vision and rightly stands out in Canadian history.

Good read about an interesting adventurer

This guy is a real character and his narrative is a real joy to read. He expresses himself so passionately and emphatically. And he doesn't mince words. The description on the front cover of it saying it's "adventures" isn't that accurate. It's more like an account of living with a big group of Indians as they slowly, methodically drifted to the area Hearne was interested in. There's just not that much rough-and-tumble to this to qualify as adventures. You get a real feel for living with the Indians, though. They're presented warts-and-all. It's obvious Hearne both admired and despised them. Another big plus is these Indians were relatively uncontaminated or cramped by white settlements, so you get a view of them in a fairly natural state. There were quite a few typos in the text, maybe 40 in all. Not huge, but still noticeable. It's a real pity, because the text is so beautifully

presented. It's real shame they couldn't have spent a little more money and hired a proof-reader to give the text a good, close reading. There are a number of archaic spellings, as well, but they're no problem. There's one spot in the last third of the book where a whole sentence is badly garbled by what looks like a cut-and-paste error. Bummer. The reason I took off one star from rating this is because the narrative only takes up two thirds of the book. The final third is devoted to exposition about the Indians and the wild life of the area and tends to be pretty dry. The last 40 pages is devoted to birds and is a real drag. There are 6 pages devoted to geese, which was a real chore to get through. Another peculiar aspect of this book are the author-written end notes for each chapter. Apparently Hearne couldn't be bothered to revise the main text and so he just slapped end notes on in the places where he had something additional to say. It's a little awkward, but not a serious detraction. It does have a nice index in the back. All in all, highly recommended if you're a fan of this kind of writing.

Amazing condition! Book is a classic, one that anyone would enjoy

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