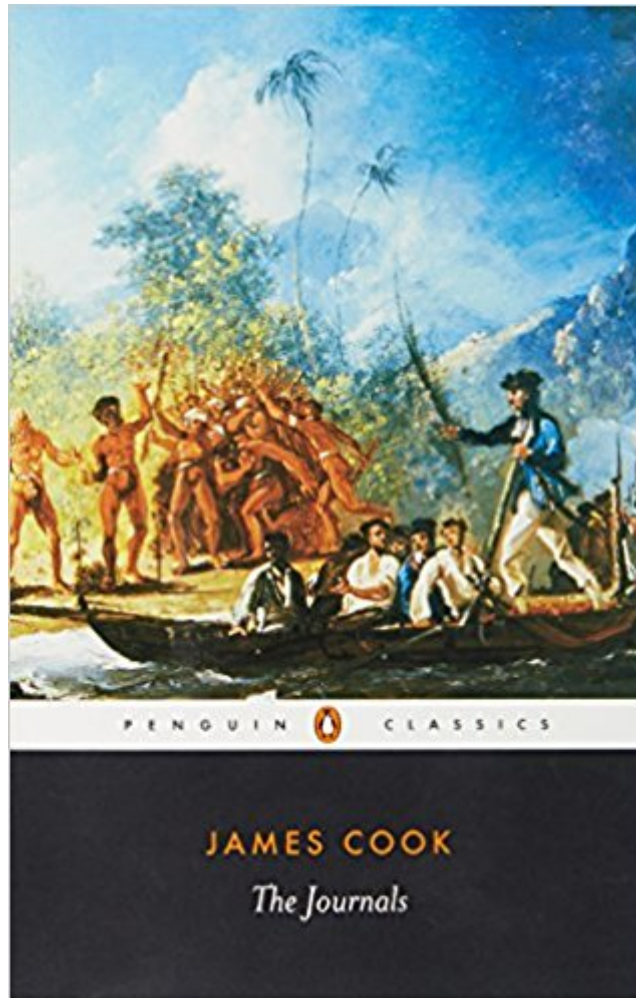




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The Journals Of Captain Cook (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

The writings of a first-rate scientist and daring adventurer, and a major inspiration for Elizabeth Gilbert's bestselling novel *The Signature of All Things* — John Cook led three famous expeditions to the Pacific Ocean between 1768 and 1779. In voyages that ranged from the Antarctic circle to the Arctic Sea, Cook charted Australia and the whole coast of New Zealand, and brought back detailed descriptions of the natural history of the Pacific. Accounts based on Cook's journals were issued at the time, but it was not until this century that the original journals were published in Beaglehole's definitive edition. His journals tell the story of these voyages as Cook wanted it to be told, radiating the ambition, courage and skill which enabled him to carry out an unrivalled series of expeditions in dangerous waters. 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

A principal source for understanding European exploration of the Pacific in the eighteenth century.

ENGLISH HISTORICAL REVIEW The most important book ever written about Cook. IAN

BOREHAM, THE CAPTAIN COOK STUDY UNIT. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable

edition of this title.

James Cook (1728-1779) was an English explorer, navigator and cartographer. He made three voyages to the Pacific Ocean, accurately charting many areas and recording several islands and coastlines on European maps for the first time.

Once you get through the navigational data Captain Cook comes through as a perceptive and caring individual both in his care of his crew and interactions with native inhabitants of the islands and Australia Felix. A great read showing the humanity of Cook and his crew.

This is listed at the kindle addition for the penguin classic version but it only has the first voyage where the penguin classic version has all three voyages. Be careful purchasing.

I am not a fast reader so reading all 4000 will take me forever.

This well prepared abridged edition of Captain James Cook's journals is a specialized book of interest to people studying the exploration of the Pacific and/or the British Navy of that time period. Other people might find sections of it dry reading. The book is recommended for oceanography students as the 17th century voyages of exploration formed the basis for later oceanographic cruises. Cook's voyages carried scientific personnel of that time period, many of whom died from the harsh conditions along with members of the crews. In addition to bad weather, there were diseases and hostile natives (including cannibals). Extensive charting was carried out and, on the second voyage, the Board of Longitude supplied Cook with Larcum Kendall's copy of John Harrison's H4 watch for determining longitude. Observations were made of prevailing winds, currents, temperature, and other things of scientific interest. Natives throughout the Pacific would go to great lengths to obtain iron, especially axes, even prostituting their wives and daughters (willing or not). Natives would attempt to steal items, if they could, leading to numerous confrontations including one in which a boat crew of the Adventure (the consort ship of the second voyage) were killed and eaten by the Maori natives of New Zealand. Cook's journal ended several weeks before his death. The editor fills in details from journals of other people who were on the voyage, and speculates on the reason he was killed by the natives in Hawaii. The book includes maps of Cook's routes on his voyages. It also has an index listing the names of the various individuals mentioned, with an indication of their positions on the voyages or their other positions if they were not active

participants. While the index mentions the later careers of a few individuals like William Bligh, it makes no mention of John Gore's career (he is listed in the Wikipedia as having died in 1790).

Captivating history

Great read

It was cool to read about Cook's journeys while staying right around the corner from where his last one tragically ended. It's amazing what a total bad*** he was, how inventive, courageous, and (at least according to him) what a moral beacon among his men he was. It is a bit sickening, of course, to see the contempt in which the British held the aboriginal peoples, but Cook seems at least a little more enlightened than most. Midway through the second voyage, there's sort of a creepy turning point where Cook seems to lose some of his acumen, treats islanders with viciousness, and brutalizes his own men for offenses as minor as refusing to drink a vulgar sort of birch beer. Being an unlearned man, Cook writes with an openness and ease that is uncommon in 18th century British lit. His iffy spelling is kept somewhat intact in this version, which slows it down a bit, but if nothing else, gives you a feel for how words sounded in the ear of a Regency-era farmer's son.

A great read,, on an amazing explorer and person, a true adventurer, it is very difficult to understand what it must have been like to experience what the group had to endure, my only complaint was the size of the print, it was just too small.

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