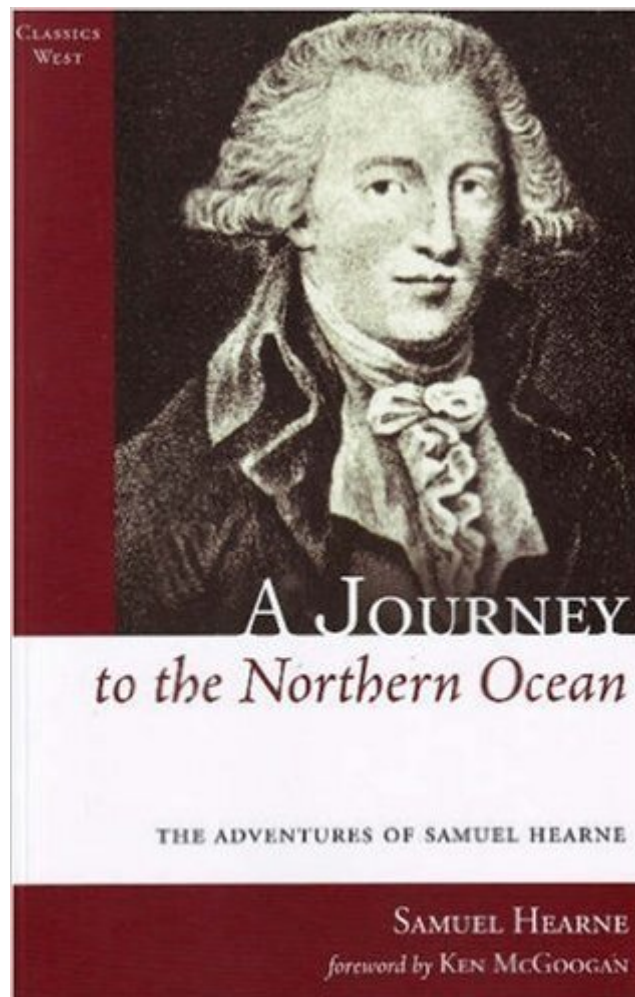


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A Journey To The Northern Ocean: The Adventures Of Samuel Hearne (Classics West Collection)



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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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

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 a 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.

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