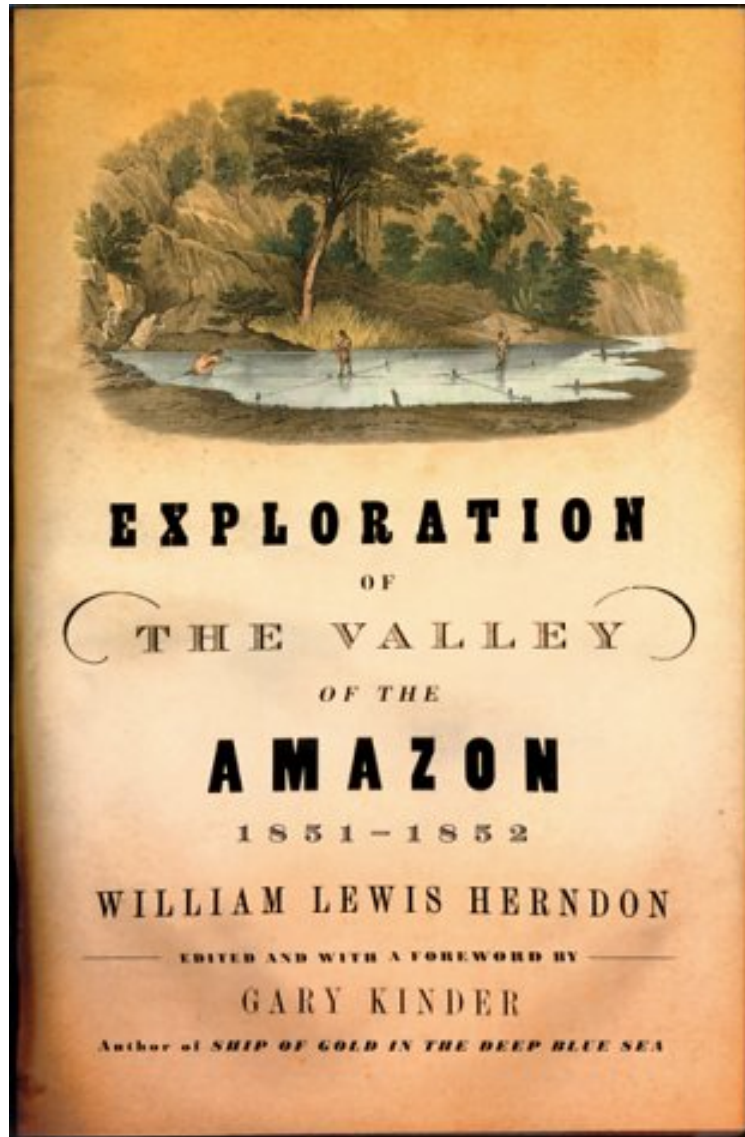


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## Exploration of the Valley of the Amazon

*William Lewis Herndon*

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**William Lewis Herndon : Exploration of the Valley of the Amazon** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Exploration of the Valley of the Amazon:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not the original textBy West HanseThis is not the original edition by William Lewis Herndon, but the version edited by Hamilton Basso 100 years after Herndon's expedition and 98 years after Herndon's manuscript, which I thought I was ordering. There was nothing in the product description that indicated that this was the Basso edited edition. I'm unaware of whether the seller knew that this wasn't the original

publication; however, the cover clearly states that it was edited by Hamilton Basso - which, as I mentioned, was not noted in the product description. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By dmginazas expected 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Many words barely readable, many others unreadable. By Chris Hall An ok text if you have already read the book and just want an e-book version, but it has been digitized without proofreading so contains many errors, requiring the reader to constantly guess the meanings of words.

In 1857, Captain William Lewis Herndon sacrificed his life trying to save 600 passengers and crew when his ship foundered in a hurricane off the Carolina coast. Memorialized in Gary Kinder's best-selling book *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea*, Herndon, with this final courageous act, epitomized a lifetime of heroism. Seven years earlier, the secretary of the Navy had appointed Herndon to lead the first American expedition into the Amazon Valley. Herndon departed Lima, Peru, on May 20, 1851, and arrived at Para, Brazil, nearly a year later, traveling 4,000 miles by foot, mule, canoe, and small boat. He cataloged the scientific and commercial observations requested by Congress, but he filed his report as a narrative, creating an intimate portrait of an exotic land before the outside world rushed in. Herndon's report so far surpassed his superiors' expectations that instead of printing the obligatory few hundred copies for Congress, the secretary of the Navy ordered 10,000 copies in the first print run; three months later, he ordered 20,000 more. Herndon described his adventures with such insight, such compassion and wit, and such literary grace that he came to symbolize the new spirit of exploration and discovery sweeping mid-nineteenth-century America. For the next hundred years, Herndon's report languished out of print before being revived briefly in 1951. Now, for the first time in nearly fifty years, Gary Kinder and Grove Press bring to readers one of the greatest chronicles of travel and exploration ever written.

From *Library Journal* Herndon, a U.S. Navy captain, was ordered by the government to explore the in 1851 and write down his observations. Within a year he and his group had traveled more than 4000 miles by canoe, by mule, and often on foot at the peril of disease, hostiles, and being chomped by snakes (and today's trekkers carp because they can't plug in their hair dryers). His notes proved so marvelously written that the Secretary of the Navy ordered 10,000 copies printed. They went fast, and 20,000 more followed. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Herndon sacrificed his life in 1857, trying to save six hundred passengers and crew when his ship, the *Central America*, foundered in a hurricane off the Carolina coast. Naval officers erected a monument to his memory, which still stands at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis.