

The Journal of Christopher Columbus

Cecil (translator) Jane

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Cecil (translator) Jane : The Journal of Christopher Columbus before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Journal of Christopher Columbus:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful book, 1989 editionBy CustomerWell, what can I say? It's the Journal of Christopher Columbus, as advertised!For anybody looking for an up-to-date copy or translation, I might suggest looking a little harder than I did. This is the 1989 edition -- I'm sure there's a more recent one out there, but I didn't need the most cutting-edge scholarly material, so this worked perfectly well for me!Because of the history of the book (all explained in the preface, and I'll spare you the long explanation), Las Casas, as one of the first translators of the piece, actually abridged a lot of it. Which of course brings up some complications when you're trying to get a detailed account from Columbus himself - because the text has been not only elided, but also filtered through Las Casas' personal point of view regarding what is and isn't important to include. He also adds a few comments which the plethora of footnotes explain in full.Still, a great deal of this book is interesting and pokes you just hard enough with tales untold to really send your imagination back to the discovery of the New World. The fact that Portugal actually sent their own caravels in pursuit of Columbus for the first short leg of the journey is interesting and speaks to the politics of the time. Likewise, the fact that Columbus actively lies to his crew on how far they had sailed speaks to just how hard he was trying to keep his crew from mutinying and turning back. If, for example, they sailed 28 leagues that day, Columbus would report 19 and keep the real record in a private log. Really neat.This book makes a marvelous addition to any Columbus collection for cross-reference, or for somebody who's just curious about the man and is trying to explore all sides of the Columbus story.1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Original sources

matter!By Tim OvertonIf you want to understand history, then reading original sources is important. Columbus was not a monster. Anyone who chooses to read his writings will understands this.

Bramhall House - New York