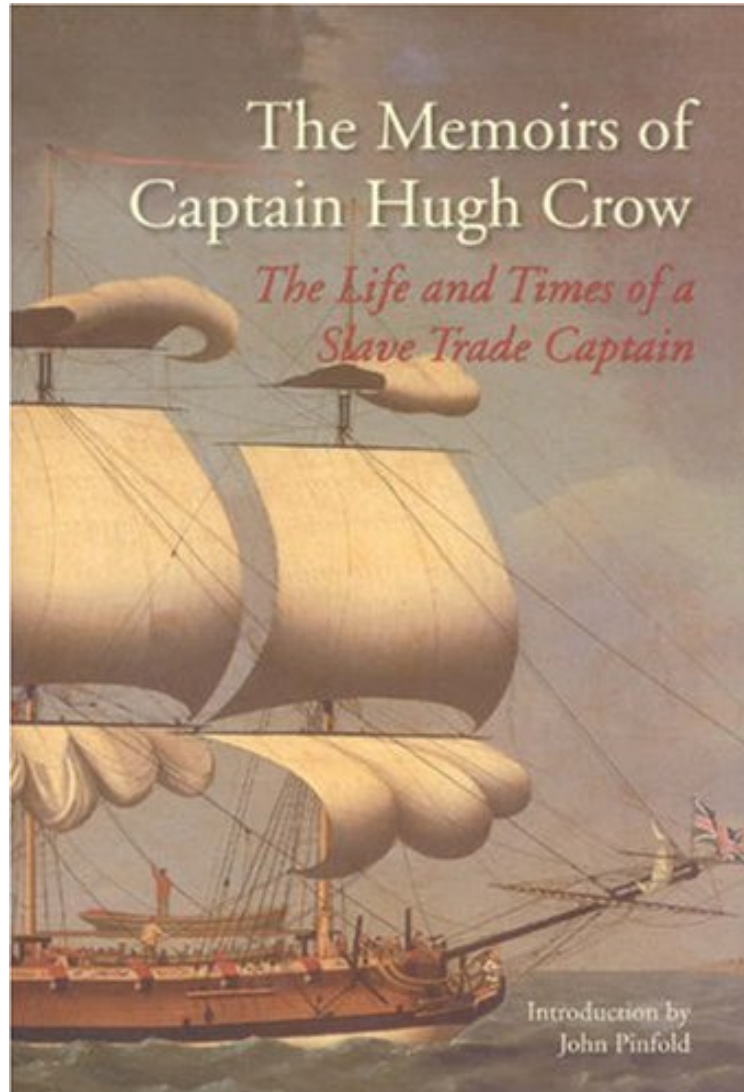


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The Memoirs of Captain Hugh Crow: The Life and Times of a Slave Trade Captain

Hugh Crow

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Hugh Crow : The Memoirs of Captain Hugh Crow: The Life and Times of a Slave Trade Captain before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Memoirs of Captain Hugh Crow: The Life and Times of a Slave Trade Captain:

Numerous documents attest to the horrific conditions endured by African slaves during the centuries of the Atlantic slave trade. Less well known is the perspective of those who wielded power during this dark time in human history. The Bodleian Library fills that gap here with the memoirs of a principal figure in the slave trade, Captain Hugh Crow. The first-hand account of a man who commanded one of the last legal slave vessels to cross the Atlantic, *Life and Times of a Slave Trade Captain* offers a revealing if frequently troubling look into the psyche of a slave trader. His chronicle leaves nothing to the imagination, as he recounts the harsh routine of daily life on a slave vessel, where on average a fifth of the crewlet alone the human cargo never survived the crossing. Crow portrays himself as an enlightened slaver, a claim he justifies through the link between his close attention to his negroes and his financial success, and the songs composed for him by the slaves. His account also includes commentary on the social propriety of the slave trade and notes about the conditions on West Indian and Caribbean plantations as well as on slave ships. John Pinfold's illuminating introduction recounts the life of Hugh Crow and sets him in the rich historical context of eighteenth-century mercantilism and its battle with the abolitionist movement. An eye-opening read, *Life and Times of a Slave Trade Captain* reveals an often overlooked facet in the complicated history of transatlantic slavery.

"This edition makes available to a wider audience a classic narrative of the slave trade. That Crow's many claims must be treated with utmost caution does not lessen its importance, for that lies in the perspective it gives into a group of men among the most reviled by history for the trade in which they were engaged."