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**From Brand: Hackett Pub Co : The Mission of Friar William of Rubruck: His Journey to the Court of the Great Khan Mngke, 12531255 (Hackett Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mission of Friar William of Rubruck: His Journey to the Court of the Great Khan Mngke, 12531255 (Hackett Classics):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. translation is good..By P.H.Scholarship is impressive, translation is good ... the content itself is mind-numbingly boring. Essentially Rubruck spends 250 pages complaining about hard travel days, describing minutiae of Nestorian church services, briefly mentioning that the mission trip was a complete failure (near the end), and very rarely describing anything of interest about the daily life of the Mongols or anything else that might be insightful in any way about any topic.16 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

Fascinating and EntertainingBy GendunIn 1253, the Flemish Franciscan friar William of Rubruck made his way to the courts of the Mongol rulers Batu and Mngke bearing a letter from the French Crusader king Louis IX. This book is an annotated a translation from Latin of his subsequent report to the king. It is a fascinating and rare glimpse of the life of the Mongols during the heyday of their empire in the aftermath of the conquests of Genghis Khan, and a true masterpiece of European medieval travel literature. William is a keen observer who writes throughout with clarity and discernment of the many wonders he encounters on his journey, and we see through his eyes as he makes the enormous journey to the fabled "Tent City" capital of the Mongols, Karakorum. Along his way he frequently rubs shoulders with Muslims, Nestorian Christians, soothsayers, and Chinese and Tibetan priests and monks, and makes what is very probably the first European report of the Tibetan system of reincarnating lamas.I was certain going in that this would be a fascinating read, but I was surprised by how engaging and brisk it is. It is superbly translated and annotated by Peter Jackson and David Morgan, who unobtrusively offer excellent support in their rich footnotes, detailing the geography, politics, and cultural background with great erudition.I believe subsequent generations of historians will take for granted a fact that we seem to be in the slow process of waking up to realize now - the mobile and dynamic cultures of Central Eurasia, including but not limited to the peoples of the steppe, are not peripheral or incidental to the history of Europe and Asia, but central to it. The dynamics of the high civilizations of the landmass cannot be understood on an elementary level without attending to the rich systemic interplay between its various centers, which inevitably plays out historically through the movements of these peoples. This book offers a rare first-hand glimpse at one of the greatest of these nomadic civilizations, and is a thrilling and illuminating work of a high order.

"William of Rubruck was a Franciscan friar who wrote the first great travel book about Asia. In 125355 he made the journey from the Holy Land to the court of the Great Khan Mngke at Qaraqorum in Mongolia and back again. . . . William was interested in all that he saw. . . . His account is particularly vivid because he related to the individual people he met. This is the first annotated translation to be made from the definitive Latin text published by A. Van den Wyngaert in 1929, and Peter Jackson and David Morgan are to be congratulated on producing an exemplary edition. The historical introduction is comprehensive and succinct, the translation excellent and idiomatic, while the notes clarify the text and explain why important variant readings have been chosen." --Bernard Hamilton, Times Literary Supplement

"In short, the Jackson-Morgan work captures the excitement and illuminates the background of Rubruck's journey." -- Morris Rossabi, The Journal of Asian Studies