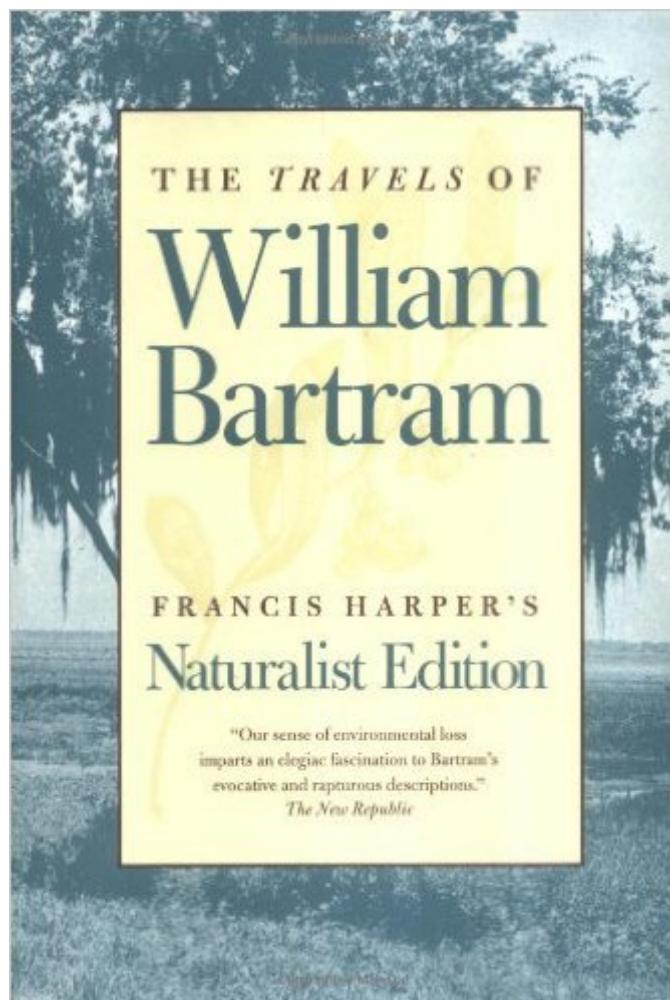


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The Travels Of William Bartram: Naturalist Edition



Synopsis

For years, serious naturalists have treasured their copies of Francis Harper's naturalist's edition of The Travels of William Bartram as the definitive version of Bartram's pioneering survey. Complete with notes and commentary, an annotated index, maps, a bibliography, and a general index, this classic is now back in print for the first time in decades. Harper's knowledge of natural history transforms Bartram's accounts of the southern states from a curious record of personal observation from the past into a guidebook useful to modern biologists, historians, ornithologists, and ethnologists. In 1773 the naturalist and writer William Bartram set out from Philadelphia on a four-year journey ranging from the Carolinas to Florida and Mississippi. For Bartram it was the perfect opportunity to pursue his interest in observing and drawing plants and birds. Combining precise and detailed scientific observations with a profound appreciation of nature, he produced a written account of his journey that would later influence both scientists and poets, including Wordsworth and Coleridge. Bartram was among the first to integrate scientific observations and personal commentary. Unlike most of his contemporaries, he condemned the idea that nature was simply a resource to be consumed. Instead, he championed the aesthetic and scientific values of an "infinite variety of animated scenes, inexpressibly beautiful and pleasing." From his field journals he prepared a report for his benefactor and a larger report for the public. The former was rediscovered much later and published in 1943; the latter was published in 1791 and became the basis for the modern Bartram's Travels.

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Customer Reviews

"...So it is the varied and mutable scenes of human events on the stream of life. The high powers and affection of the soul are so blended and connected with the inferior passions, that the most painful feelings are excited in the mind when the latter are crossed, thus in the moral system, which we have planned for our conduct, as a ladder whereby to mount to the summit of terrestrial glory and happiness, and from whence we perhaps mediated our flight to heaven itself at the very moment when we vainly imagine ourselves to have obtained its point, some unforeseen accident intervenes, and surprises us; the chain is violently shaken, we quit our hold and fall: the well contrived system at once becomes a chaos; every idea of happiness recedes; the splendor of glory darkens, and at length totally disappears; every pleasing object is defaced, all is deranged, and the flattering scene moves quietly away; a gloomy cloud pervades the understanding, and when we see our progress retarded, and our best intentions frustrated, we are apt to deviate from the abominations and convictions of virtue, to shut our eyes upon our guide and protector, dought of his power, and despair of his assistance. But, let us wait and rely on our GOD, who in due time will shine forth in brightness, dissipate the envious cloud, and reveal to us how finite and circumscribe in human power, when assuming to itself human wisdom..." Excerpt from Dover Publications -copyright 1928 (Part 1, Ch. 5 pgs. 66-670 (born-April 9, 1739, Kingsessing, Pa. - died July 22, 1823, Kingsessing) The son of John Bartram, considered the 'father of American botany', self-educated, and a friend of Benjamin Franklin and the botanist for the American colonies to GEORGE 111.

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