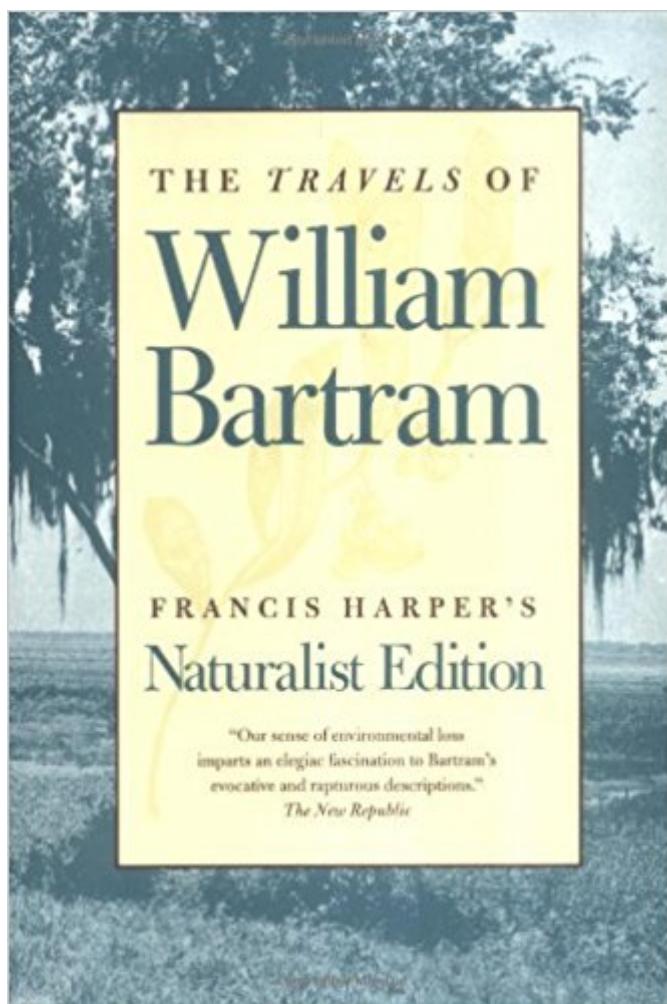


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The Travels Of William Bartram: Naturalist Edition



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is the visionary quality which gives Bartram's writing its special radiance: the passionate, wonder-struck, daring, and very personal scientism, the repeated acts of rapt, total absorption. (James Dickey) This is much more than a new edition of *The Travels*; it is really two books in one. . . . Harper has traveled the routes followed by John Bartram in the 1760's and William in the 1770's. The study is a labor of love, but also a labor of great scholarly value . . . Superb [and] indispensable. (American Quarterly) In the southeastern forests and savannahs, Bartram experienced a wild that we can no longer know in our mechanized and urbanized present. Our sense of environmental loss imparts an elegiac fascination to his evocative and rapturous descriptions. (New Republic)

William Bartram (1739-1823) is renowned as one of the first early American naturalists. Francis Harper (1886-1972) was a noted field biologist and the author of many books, including "Okefenokee Album" (Georgia).

The book itself was in good condition. I found the botanical information a bit overwhelming because no common names were there for anything, which I wasn't expecting. I'll try to slug through the rest of the book but I think I'm going to be on the internet a lot to find out the names I'm used to on these things. I forgot William's dad was a botanist and would look at all plants with the Latin names. I'm very glad that someone printed it though. And I wonder if his father's books are available.

Amazing historical account

This book was a journal of Bartram's travels through the southeast. Being a journal and not written for reading like a story, I lost interest and didn't finish the book.

Very interesting book on early America.

Type color is faded, tiny. Too difficult to read for my old eyes. I think it could have been presented better.

Great read, even better if you do it while hiking his trail.

We just returned from the "Carolina's" and I found this book very informative and beautifully written.

I wish I would have purchased it before our holiday.

Fascinating reading of our former Florida and Southeast terrains and people. A classic text anyone interested in nature should read.

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