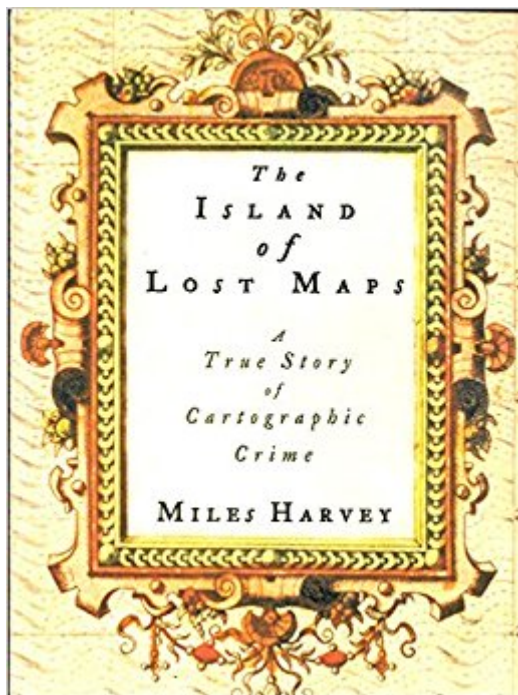


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The Island Of Lost Maps



Synopsis

The Island of Lost Maps: a True Story of Cartographic Crime

Book Information

Paperback: 408 pages

Publisher: Random House; 4th edition (January 1, 2000)

Language: English

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Best Sellers Rank: #688,014 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #118 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Cartography #4299 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Criminology #6593 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime

Customer Reviews

The Island of Lost Maps: a True Story of Cartographic Crime

Maps, old books, orientation in space and time: these topics endlessly fascinate us all. Harvey's account of a late 20th century map thief's brief career is a compelling read. I've noted a few hostile reviews and am puzzled just why others found the book wanting. Harvey takes risks, to be sure. The book is highly idiosyncratic, in part an effort to recount Gilbert Bland's crime spree, but in equal parts an introduction to cartography and those who are fascinated by it. Perhaps the autobiographic twist put people off: Harvey asks himself again and again why he is drawn to Bland, especially since Bland refused all cooperation in the research. I loved this book, and recommend it to anyone trying to understand better the lore of old documents.

This book is one man's meandering through the world of maps, map collecting, and ultimately map stealing and selling. There's a lot of interesting information here, written in a plain style that holds your attention but that's about it. The story of the map thief at the book's heart is ultimately unconvincing and is, in my view, the weakest part of the book. But you get a lot of interesting information about maps, map makers, and maps along the way. And I liked the Island of Lost Maps seen as a brother to the mythical islands often shown on ancient maps. Not the greatest book in the

world, but you learn a lot about maps!

A good narratives and historical account of a little-known, but very serious problem affecting the cultures of Western civilization. Morrison time to read and the price was right

...this a must. I heard about this book when it came out and so glad I finally arrived to it on my 'to read' list. As someone who uses rare book reading rooms often, it was upsetting to read what happened at these research libraries. But glad to hear some good (better security, awareness) came out of it.

I very much enjoyed this book selection. There was an interesting true crime story and the book gave lots of interesting detail about map history and the making of maps. It felt like I was revisiting a high school history class in some cases and I liked the refresher course on some of the explorers.

Enjoyed all the history and information on maps of antiquity. Interesting read about fist maps, explorers, their sponsors as well as libraries that house these invaluable works. Intriguing characters add depth to a fascinating topic.

Great service and product.

This is one of my favorite books. Miles Harvey has such an easy writing style. He is magical in taking a seemingly dull true crime story and turning it into one of the most informative and satisfying reads, I hated to put it down.

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