The Brendan Voyage

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an account of the 1976 voyage of tim severin and his crew from ireland to north america in a small leather boat

in an extraordinary attempt to recreate st brendan's journey to america tim severin and his crew embarked on an epic voyage across the vast north atlantic brilliantly written this is their story

recounts the harrowing voyage of timothy severin and his crew from dingle ireland across the north atlantic in a thirty six foot leather boat to prove that a sixth century irish monk st brendan could have reached north america as legend claims

could an irish monk in the sixth century really have sailed all the way across the atlantic in a small open boat thus beating columbus to the new world by almost a thousand years relying on the medieval text of st brendan award winning adventure writer tim severin painstakingly researched and built a boat identical to the leather curragh that carried brendan on his epic voyage he found a centuries old family run tannery to prepare the ox hides in the medieval way he undertook an exhaustive search for skilled harness makers the only people who would know how to stitch the three quarter inch thick hides together he located one of the last pieces of irish grown timber tall enough to make the mainmast but his courage and resourcefulness were truly tested on the open seas including one heart pounding episode when he and his crew repaired a dangerous tear in the leather hull by hanging over the side their heads sometimes submerged under the freezing waves to restitch the leather a modern classic in the tradition of kon tiki the brendan voyage seamlessly blends high adventure and historical relevance it has been translated into twenty seven languages since its original publication in 1978 with a new introduction by malachy mccourt author of a monk swimming

the brendan legend texts and versions deals with the vast textual tradition relating to the irish saint brendan known as the navigator stories about brendan have been popular in the whole of western europe from the seventh to the twentieth century the themes of the book are the interrelated problems of the textual and literary embedding of brendan texts for the first time researchers in celtic german latin and romance languages and literatures have co operated on the brendan tradition and they have mapped the changes in textual traditions according to different circumstances and audiences this book will be important to those studying the influence of celtic literature on the european continent and more generally to those interested in the versatility of textual traditions in western europe

the legend of st brendan is one of the greatest legends of the middle ages this volume presents numerous versions of brendan's journey in translation with supporting notes and commentary

the legend of st brendan is a study of two accounts of a voyage undertaken by brendan a sixth century irish saint the immense popularity of the latin version encouraged many vernacular translations including a twelfth century anglo norman reworking of the narrative which excises much of the devotional material seen in the ninth century navigatio sancti brendani abbatis and changes the emphasis leaving a recognisably secular narrative the vernacular version focuses on marvellous imagery and the trials and tribulations of a long sea voyage together the two versions demonstrate a movement away from hagiography towards adventure studies of the two versions rarely discuss the elements of the fantastic following a summary of authorship audiences and sources this comparative study adopts a structural approach to the two versions of the brendan narrative it considers what the fantastic imagery achieves and addresses issues raised with respect to theological parallels

a myth is reviving in the usa which recent research validates that saint brendan voyaged over three thousand miles from ireland to america to evangelize it but when the indians near the mississippi welcomed him he realized jesus was already there in humility he returned home in contrast usa missions have taken a colonial approach to evangelizing native american tribes requiring converts to rubbish their culture and accept white culture as christian this book discerns the creator s imprints in indigenous tribes it identifies some fault lines in usa and western society and church e g white supremacy manifest destiny and the twin towers of empire building and separatism churches need to repent of these false gods they need to break free from the prison of consumerism and become open to the prophetic spirit the book also explores the creator s imprints in white american culture and the christian spirituality of the euro americans indigenous forbears the celts the book outlines ways in which in these fading decades of western supremacy and despite polarization indigenous settler and immigrant peoples may journey together as modern followers of the way those who rise to this challenge undertake a new brendan's voyage and create a new american dream

for fifteen hundred years popular audiences have loved tales of the brendan voyage and have turned to them for

inspiration never have their gentleness intimacy with nature amusement and redemptive themes been more relevant than today this fresh version of a christian classic recaptures long forgotten poetry history and drama in this sixth century irish voyage to the new world take a deck chair and cruise the mysterious dark ages from palestine to labrador with st brendan

an original and wide ranging study of the pilgrimage theme in literature

the role of library and information sciences lis in for and about arctic and northern studies is underexplored this book examines the intersection of lis and arctic northern scholarship research and study by considering the arctic and north as a global information knowledge society demonstrates practical and applied ways that librarians archivists curators and other information scholars and professionals can participate and have participated in real activities within arctic and northern environments explains how lis as a discipline focused on data information and knowledge has a significant role to play in arctic and northern endeavours and emphasises the inter multi disciplinary nature of what are arctic studies and northern studies and the placement of lis into that structure even though lis has historically been overlooked in northern and arctic matters this book suggests that lis is in a remarkable position to add value to future arctic northern studies thisbook is of interest to scientists researchers scholars educators professionals and students globally working in northern and arctic contexts and or with northern and arctic pursuits in mind

in the voyage of st brendan a b jackson tells the tale of the legendary seafaring irish abbot after burning a book of fantastical stories brendan is compelled to sail the ocean with a crew of six monks in a leather skinned currach his task to prove the existence of wonders in the world and create a new book of marvels discoveries include jasconius the island whale a troop of arctic ghosts a hellmouth of tortured souls a rock bound judas and the magical castle of the boar headed walserands although the roots of this legend lie in early irish immrama and the latin navigatio sancti brendani abbatis of the ninth century jackson has taken the fourteenth century middle dutch version of brendan s voyage as the template for this engaging and spirited interpretation making it recommended reading for scholars of medieval literature and lovers of fantasy adventure alike the book includes a series of black and white linocuts by the american artist kathleen neeley

this book seeks to provide illustrations of arctic mysteries and fictions which often occur as a result of misconceptions of arctic geography the chapters are extremely varied in subject matter and conclusions are in the domain of speculation the book begins with very early examples of northern travels starting with the probable adventures of pytheas the greek brendan the irish monk and the four medieval odysseys of adam of bremen nicolas of lynn prince henry sinclair and zeno of venice no account of polar enigmas would be complete without reference to the franklin expedition the possible fate of his lost ships and the debate over whether his men committed cannibalism the book concludes with a deliberation on whether cook or perry actually did reach the north pole hinting that perhaps neither of them reached their objective

the books that we read whether travel focused or not may influence the way in which we understand the process or experience of travel this multidisciplinary work provides a critical analysis of the inspirational and transformational role that books play in travel imaginings does reading a book encourage us to think of travel as exotic adventurous transformative dangerous or educative do different genres of books influence a reader s view of travel in multifarious ways these questions are explored through a literary analysis of an eclectic selection of books spanning the period from the eighteenth century to the present day genres covered include historical fiction children s books westerns science fiction and crime fiction

one of the most persistent themes in myth and legend from the world's many cultures is the story of the journey the quest in mythical journeys legendary quests moyra caldecott shows the connection between the sacred mythic journeys as found in legend and story and the real journey of the individual soul towards enlightenment this perennial quest for reassurance in the face of human mortality is spread as wide as our existence on the planet and throughout history indeed carl jung and joseph campbell have shown us that myth and legend are not just fantasy tales for children they are powerful expressions in code of a deep yearning towards an understanding of human existence moyra caldecott has selected material from many cultures to illustrate this from ancient egypt and sumeria to aboriginal australia pre columbian america vietnam india africa and europe for each legend she provides background on its origin and detailed analysis of its meaning and significance

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