

Name:

Georg Shelvocke. *A Voyage Round the World by the Way of the Great South Sea*

Introduction

Loved your presentation. It was really cleverly framed as well as thoroughly researched. You began by telling us that Coleridge based his “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” on this travel narrative. I liked your physical description, “I tried to imagine how he might have handled the book, how the pages might have sounded to him, what he might have felt” and then told us Coleridge probably never did actually hold that book.

Nice explanation: “Then I read that Wordsworth is the one who read the book, not Coleridge. Wordsworth suggested the albatross.” This gets at an interesting authenticity question, that also has implications for travel narratives.

Good—explaining the letter of marquis—“legitimate right to be pirates.”

Biography and Context

You explained how the narrative was part expedition. Shelvocke joined navy at 15 in the British fight against Spanish. The Navy beached him when war was over—he was living in poverty when a guy who had known Shelvocke in the navy commissioned him through the Gentlemen’s Club of Adventurers. While waiting for the next war to come along, these people became privateers along coast of Spain.

I like the way you combined characterization and historical contexts: Clipperton (*Success*); Shelvocke (*Speedwell*). They were supposed to go marauding through Spanish ports and villages but they got separated by a storm. Shelvocke didn’t like Clipperton—drunk, abusive.

Great story about Clipperton and the battle near China. Clever way to show his character.

Critical/Popular Reception

Expectations of book. Good move, showing images—Sea lion with sharp teeth. Natives of California.

Published in 1728, but it was so popular it was reprinted. Shelvocke made quite a bit of money on the royalties.

Nice comparison to other narrative of the time: At first it seems like a Cook’s voyage. You thought it was going to be scientific, not just pirates. It’s like a *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

This edition was in circulation in Holland until 1950s.

Influence

How was it the influence on the “Rime”? The *Speedwell* goes through all kinds of rough encounters—close to Antarctica. After they got around Cape Horn, and they had not seen anything for days, Hatley shoots the black albatross—took several shots at it with a musquette.

I wondered if you might want to read some parts of the narrative and then parts of Coleridge’s poem to show how travel narrative can be turned into imaginative journey? This narrative is especially ripe for such a discussion.

Shelvocke tried for piracy.

Grade: A