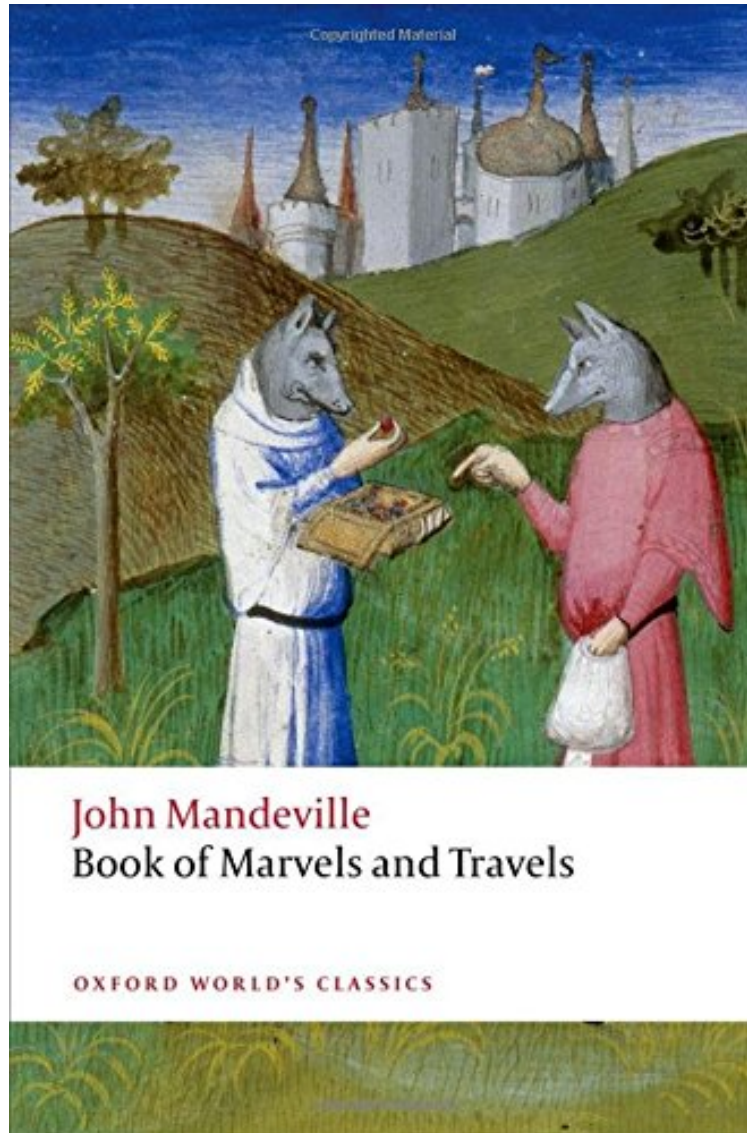


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The Book of Marvels and Travels (Oxford World's Classics)

John Mandeville, Anthony Bale

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John Mandeville, Anthony Bale : The Book of Marvels and Travels (Oxford World's Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of Marvels and Travels (Oxford World's Classics):

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly modern edition of foundational literary textBy Rachel D.This book was probably the preeminent travel narrative for centuries, and it was surprising to see just how relevant it remains. This edition is eminently readable, with useful notes to illuminate how surprisingly knowledgeable the

Middle Ages was about the East. Of course, much shows a fantastical ignorance, yet Mandeville's portrayal of China and other areas far removed from Europe is remarkable nonetheless. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. AlrightBy MikeAs far as medieval travelogues go, this is pretty standard. Some clear exaggerations but a good source text and inspiration for thinking about how medieval Europeans saw the rest of the world, especially the mysterious "Orient." Good to browse and flip through occasionally but unless you're a heavy medievalist I don't think I can honestly recommend this. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy ElizabethInteresting read

In his *Book of Marvels and Travels*, Sir John Mandeville describes a journey from Europe to Jerusalem and on into Asia, and the many wonderful and monstrous peoples and practices in the East. Written in the fourteenth century, the Book is a captivating blend of fact and fantasy, an extraordinary travel narrative that offers some revealing and unexpected attitudes towards other races and religions. It was immensely popular, and numbered among its readers Chaucer, Columbus, and Thomas More. Here Mandeville tells us about the Sultan in Cairo, the Great Khan in China, and the mythical Christian prince Prester John. There are giants and pygmies, cannibals and Amazons, headless humans and people with a single foot so huge it can shield them from the sun. Forceful and opinionated, the narrator is by turns learned, playful, and moralizing, with an endless curiosity about different cultures. Anthony Bale provides a lively new translation along with an introduction that considers questions of authorship and origins, the early travel narrative, Crusading and religious difference, fantasy and the European Age of Discovery, and Mandeville's pervasive popularity and influence. The book includes helpful notes on historical context that provide insights into medieval culture and attitudes. There are also three maps, an index of places and a general index, and a note on medieval measurements. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

Bale shows a lightness of touch in translation, which remains close to the syntax of the Middle English while avoiding archaism. Bale's introduction offers a pithy and elegant overview of current scholarship on the nature of the text. --Kim M. Phillips, *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* About the Author Anthony Bale is Professor of Medieval Studies, Birkbeck College, London. He has published widely on various medieval topics, including Anglo-Jewish history, the poetry of Chaucer and Lydgate, the cult of St Edmund and fifteenth-century literature. His most recent book is *Feeling Persecuted: Christians, Jews and Images of Violence in the Middle Ages*.