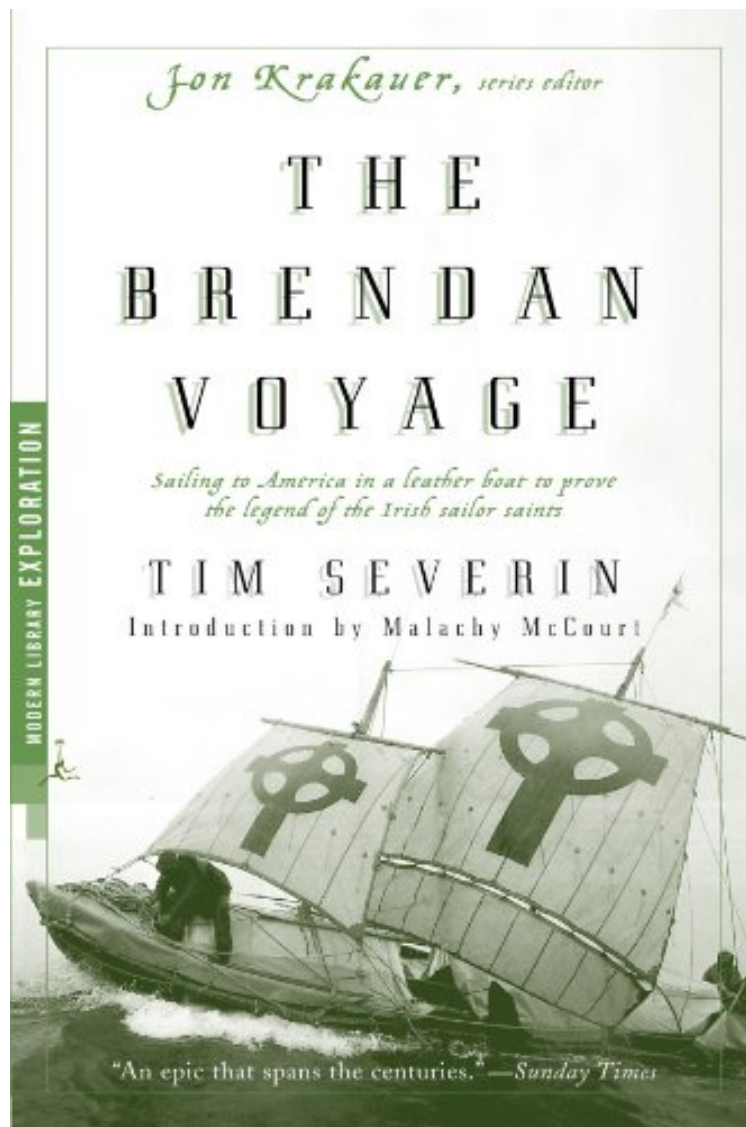


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The Brendan Voyage: Sailing to America in a Leather Boat to Prove the Legend of the Irish Sailor Saints (Modern Library Exploration)

Tim Severin

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8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A keen adventure whale of a tale!By Erin MQI learned about this book when I was at the place in Ireland from whence this Brendan Crew departed. I found the story to be incredibly intriguing. After I finished it, I bought a copy for my father-in-law. He builds model ww1 bi-planes so I thought he might appreciate how much attention to detail the author gave to building a boat as St. Brendan would have done. Anyone with an appreciation for authentic, high quality, craft reproduction and nautical adventure may well enjoy this book. I am so glad that the author was able to find true craftsmen to help build the Brendan boat before the art was lost to death (of such men.)And I love all I learned about whales sea life.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Adventure in my arm chair.By Andrea FortnerI just finished this ebook today and loved it. I'm of an adventurous spirit, but only in my armchair. I actually bought this book because of my dad. Although he was an air force veteran, he was a sailor at heart. He came from the Portsmouth, VA, area, and always loved the water. I bought him "Kon-tiki" years ago. I don't know if he ever heard of this adventure, but when I read the reviews, I thought of him and ordered it for myself. I enjoyed reading about how the trip came together as much as the trip itself. Thought it was very well documented, and, having actually lived in Newfoundland myself as a child, was quite excited when they finally made landfall. Would recommend the book to anyone who likes low-key adventure, with a good bit of danger thrown in to spice it up.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's like Kon-Tiki, but in the North Sea.By L. A. NicholasI'm a sucker for books and TV shows that recreate the ancient world. The Brendan Voyage is a great true story about a man who tried to recreate the legendary travels of St Brendan to the as-yet-undiscovered New World. The author's adventures don't *quite* match the mythic voyage of the intrepid sixth century Irish monk, but he recounts plenty of real-life adventures along the way that make this account a fascinating read. Especially recommended for anyone who enjoys maritime tales and modern experiences with ancient technology.I first read this in paperback when it was selected by my book club. Later gave it to a friend who loves tales of the high seas, and then regretted letting go of it, so when BookBub advertised a sale on the Kindle version, I bought it again. Now I'll never have to let go of it.

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

"Enthralling!"--The Guardian"An extraordinary explorer." --The IndependentFrom the Inside FlapCould 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 SwimmingFrom the Back Cover"Enthralling!"--The Guardian"An extraordinary explorer." --The Independent