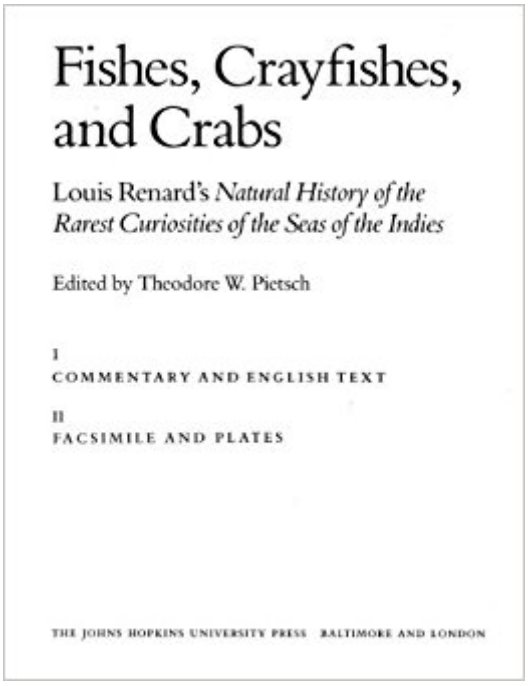
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Fishes, Crayfishes And Crabs: Louis Renard's Natural History Of The Rarest Curiosities Of The Seas Of The Indies (Foundations Of Natural History)


Fishes, Crayfishes, and Crabs

Louis Renard's *Natural History of the Rarest Curiosities of the Seas of the Indies*

Edited by Theodore W. Pietsch

I
COMMENTARY AND ENGLISH TEXT

II
FACSIMILE AND PLATES

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS BALTIMORE AND LONDON

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Synopsis

First published in 1719 and exceptional in its day for its 460 brilliantly colored copper engravings, Louis Renard’s treatise on the marine life of the East Indies was dismissed in the 19th and 20th centuries because of its apparent embellishment, exaggeration, and even falsification. Ichthyologist Theodore W. Pietsch here reexamines this classic work and its almost surrealistic renderings and discovers a work of considerable scientific and historical interest.In addition to its importance as one of the rarest natural history books known -- and one of the very few pre-Linnaean works on marine organisms to be published in color -- Renard’s book provides a description of the marine fauna of the East Indies that can be interpreted in light of modern scholarship.In Fishes, Crayfishes, and Crabs, Pietsch places Renard’s original book fully in its historical and scientific context. He supplies a facsimile of the original text, a full translation with extensive historical notes, and 100 extraordinary color plates with their legends translated and annotated. Pietsch also includes an examination of Renard’s life and how he came to write his remarkable book along with a detailed taxonomic chart that identifies most of Renard’s illustrated specimens.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

""The quality of the reproduction is excellent, and Pietsch has painstakingly compiled what appears to be every scrap of evidence that exists concerning..Renard.. Looking through the striking plates and curious comments, we can better understand the background from which modern natural

history emerged in the second half of the eighteenth century." -- Isis

Text: English (translation) Original Language: French

Absolutely astounding! The author is more curator of a limited edition European book from the dawn of natural history -- fantastic(al) drawings of supposed fish and crabs from the Australia reefs from the time before cameras. Many of the drawings look like they were simply made up with out any reference to the real, to satisfy the publisher and make a few dollars, but Professor Pietsch, is an ichthyologist, and has been able to trace the factual basis behind most of the figures. This book is so enjoyable from so many perspectives: the history, the figures as natural history, the figures simply as graphic art, the meta story of Dr. Pietsch's efforts. If you have a well educated, somewhat nerdy, loved one who loves nature, art, science, and you -- this book is the perfect gift.

My sister is very lucky I love her so much. This two volume set is unlike anything I have ever seen outside a museum. This book first published in 1719 was a landmark of hand colored beauty to be had only by the most serious collectors of natural history. To this day,in spite of the strides made illuminating the life of sea creatures, these volumes still stand as a masterpiece of scholarship, passion and artistic ability. Renard's FISHES,CRAYFISHES AND CRABS meticulously drawn and captured in the brilliant watercolors of the eighteenth century has induced a VERY bad case of book lust. This is strictly heirloom quality and yet can still be had for a song. Reissued as a rare book By John Hopkin's University Press in 1995, The volumes are covered in blue green linen over board and slipcased. They are printed on archival acid free cream colored stock and preserve the eighteenth century print and text. The original text in Renard's French is published in facsimile, though each fish is also identified in English. A full translation is provided by the editor as well as Renard's biographical background and notes on natural history of the period and the Indies where Renard created this important book.So my sister's getting reaaaaaally old. I guess she will get it for her birthday!

my sister, Very well. will buy next time. The good thing about this product is that I can now cut thin slices of my homemade fresh bread! the speed is so amazing

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