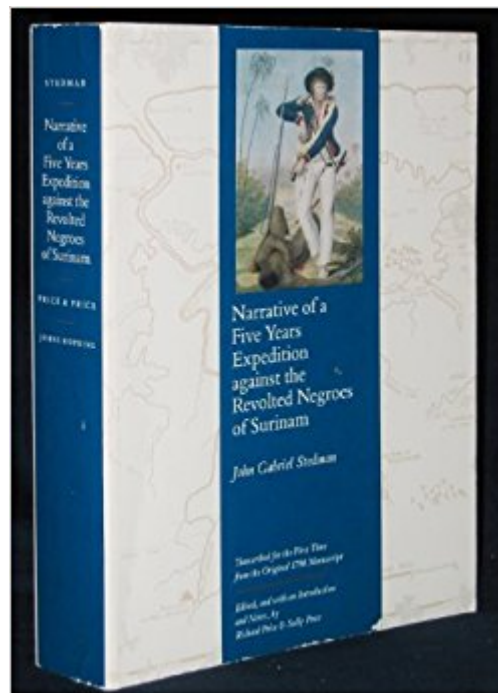


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Narrative Of A Five Years Expedition Against The Revolted Negroes Of Surinam



Synopsis

Book by Stedman, Professor John Gabriel

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The 1790 Narrative is mostly written in direct, earthy prose that evokes the emotional response of a young European captain to the naked breasts of 'beautiful Negroe Maids,' to the clouds of ravenous 'muskitos,' to the tremors of tropical fever... After the passage of two centuries, we now have a superbly edited critical edition of the book Stedman actually wrote." -- David Brion Davis, New York Review of Books

Stedman, an English officer in a mercenary force hired to end the depredations of escaped slaves, is an exemplar of the 18th century naturalist, complete with botanically or zoologically accurate descriptions and paintings which grace this handsome volume. He was more unusual in his social perspectives, and maintained close friendships with people at literally every level of Surinam society. He had considerable sympathy for those at the bottom, including those he'd been hired to eliminate. This sympathy appears in some grisly images of slave punishment which his contemporary and friend, the poet and artist William Blake, engraved for the Narrative's original publication. Stedman's graceful writing style, his obvious humanity, his wealth of scientific information, his artistic achievements, his jungle or social adventures, and his modern angst, all contribute to a lengthy and fascinating experience for the reader. Richard Price's introduction ably sets the scene.

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