This series includes accounts, by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, of voyages by Europeans to the Americas, Asia, Australasia and the Pacific during the colonial period. Driven by the military and commercial interests of powers including Britain, France and the Netherlands, particularly the East India Companies, these expeditions brought back a wealth of information on climate, natural resources, topography, and distant civilisations. Their detailed observations provide fascinating historical data for climatologists, ecologists and anthropologists, and the accounts of the mariners’ experiences on their long and dangerous voyages are full of human interest.

A Voyage Round the World, in the Years MDCCXL, I, II, III, IV.

Compiled by the naval chaplain Richard Walter (1717–85), though the extent of his editorial contribution is not certain, this 1748 publication documents the extraordinary circumnavigation accomplished by the British naval officer George Anson (1697–1762) between 1740 and 1744. During the Anglo-Spanish conflict which Thomas Carlyle later described as the War of Jenkins’ Ear, Anson was chosen to command a squadron to raid and plunder the Pacific coast of South America. After a delayed departure, the expedition struggled with terrible weather, rough seas and outbreaks of scurvy as it rounded Cape Horn. Hundreds of men were lost and eventually only the warship Centurion remained, badly battered and undermanned. Despite the disaster, the expedition became famous for its capture in 1743 of a Spanish treasure galleon laden with silver. Anson won much acclaim for this feat, and he entered into politics. This account, meanwhile, became a bestseller.
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of the Right Honourable George Lord Anson,
and Published under his Direction,
by Richard Walter, Chaplain
to his Majesty's Ship the Centurion

George Anson
Edited by Richard Walter
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In the Years MDCCXL, I, II, III, IV.

BY GEORGE ANSON, Esq;
Commander in Chief of a Squadron of His Majesty’s Ships, sent upon an Expedition to the South-Seas.

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By RICHARD WALTER, M. A.
Chaplain of his MAJESTY’s Ship the Centurion, in that Expedition.

Illustrated with Forty-Two COPPER-PLATES.

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EARL of BEDFORD,

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BARON RUSSEL of Thornhaugh,

AND

BARON HOWLAND of Streatham;

One of His Majesty’s Principal Secretaries of State; and Lord-Lieutenant, and Custos Rotulorum of the County of BEDFORD.

My LORD,

THE following Narrative of a very singular naval atchievement is addressed to Your Grace, both on account of the infinite obligations which the Commander in Chief at all times professes to
DEDICATION.

to have received from your Friendship; and also, as the Subject itself naturally claims the patronage of One, under whose direction, the British Navy has resumed its ancient Spirit and Lustre, and has in one summer ennobled itself by two victories, the most decisive, and (if the strength and number of the captures be considered) the most important, that are to be met with in our Annals. Indeed, an uninterrupted series of successes, and a manifest superiority gained universally over the enemy, both in commerce and glory, seem to be the necessary effects of a revival of strict discipline, and of an unbiased regard to merit and service. These are marks that must distinguish the happy period of time in which Your Grace presided, and afford a fitter subject for history, than for an address of this nature. Very signal advantages of rank and distinction, obtained and secured to the naval profession by Your Grace’s auspicious influence, will remain a lasting monument of Your unwearied zeal and attachment to it, and be for ever remembered with the highest gratitude, by all who shall be employed in it. As these were the generous rewards of past exploits, they will be likewise the noblest incentives, and surest pledges of the future. That Your Grace’s eminent talents, magnanimity, and disinterested zeal, whence
DEDICATION.

whence the Public has already reaped such signal benefits, may in all times prove equally successful in advancing the prosperity of Great-Britain, is the ardent wish of,

My LORD,

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ERRATA.

Page 40, line 6, for about, read about to. P. 88, l. 34, f. height, r. height.

P. 97, l. 20, f. rout, r. route; l. 21, 22, 27, f. track, r. track. P. 114, l. 32, f. A r. a; l. 33, f. B r. b; f. C r. c; l. 34, f. D r. d. P. 115, l. 1, f. E r. e. P. 100, l. 34, f. Cur. r. Our. P. 216, l. 9, f. East-end Island, r. East end of the Island. P. 254, l. 33, f. D, r. C. P. 255, l. 12, f. 11, r. H H. P. 267, l. 33, f. no, r. a. P. 282, l. 3, f. longitude, r. latitude. P. 305, l. 17, f. lower, r. four. P. 355, l. 6, f. metamorphosis, r. metamorphosis.—In the plan of Cheoperian, r. Bath, r. Bath. In some impressions of the Chineſe vesſels, the fore-ſheet in the veſsel A is placed on the wrong ſide of the maſt.

The Reader is desired to excuse the severall false spellings in the Plates, as they are none of them of moment; and the erasing and correcting them would have cost much time and trouble.

INTRO
INTRODUCTION.

NOTWITHSTANDING the great improvement of navigation within the last two Centuries, a Voyage round the World is still considered as an enterprize of a very singular nature; and the Public have never failed to be extremely inquisitive about the various accidents and turns of fortune, with which this uncommon attempt is generally attended: And though the amusement expected in a narration of this kind, is doubtless one great source of this curiosity, and a strong incitement with the bulk of readers, yet the more intelligent part of mankind have always agreed, that from these relations, if faithfully executed, the more important purposes of navigation, commerce, and national interest may be greatly promoted: For every authentic account of foreign coasts and countries will contribute to one or more of these great ends, in proportion to the wealth, wants, or commodities of those countries, and our ignorance of those coasts; and therefore a Voyage round the World promises a species of information, of all others the most desirable and interesting; since great part of it is performed in seas, and on coasts, which we are as yet but very imperfectly acquainted, and in the neighbourhood of a country renowned for the abundance of its wealth, though it is at the same time stigmatized for its poverty, in the necessaries and conveniences of a civilized life.

These considerations have occasioned the publication of the ensuing work; which, in gratifying the inquisitive turn of mankind, and contributing to the safety and success of future navigators, and to the extension of our commerce and power, may doubtless vie with any narration of this kind hitherto made public: Since the circumstances of this undertaking already known to the world, may
INTRODUCTION.

be supposed to have strongly excited the general curiosity; for whether we consider the force of the squadron sent on this service, or the diversifid difficulties that each single ship was separately involved in, or the uncommon influences of varying fortune, which attended the whole enterprise, each part, I conceive, must, from its rude well known outlines, appear worthy of a completer and more finished delineation: And if this be allowed with respect to the narrative part of the work, there can be no doubt about the more useful and instructive parts, which are almost every where interwoven with it; for I can venture to affirm, without fear of being contradicted on a comparison, that no voyage I have yet seen, furnishes such a number of views of land, soundings, draughts of roads and ports, charts, and other materials, for the improvement of geography and navigation, as are contained in the ensuing volume; which are of the more importance too, as the greatest part of them relate to such islands or coasts, as have been hitherto not at all or erroneously described, and where the want of sufficient and authentic information might occasion future enterprises to prove abortive, perhaps with the destruction of the men and vessels employed therein.

And besides the number and choice of these marine drawings and descriptions, there is another very essential circumstance belonging to them, which much enhances their value; and that is, the great accuracy they were drawn with. I shall express my opinion of them in this particular very imperfectly, when I say, that they are not exceeded, and perhaps not equalled by any thing of this nature hitherto made public: For they were not copied from the works of others, or compos'd at home from imperfect accounts, given by incurious and unskillful observers, as hath been frequently the case in these matters; but the greatest part of them were drawn on the spot with the utmost exactness, by the direction, and under the eye of Mr. Anson himself; and where (as is the case in three or four of them) they have been done by less skilful hands, or were found in possession of the enemy, and consequently their justness...