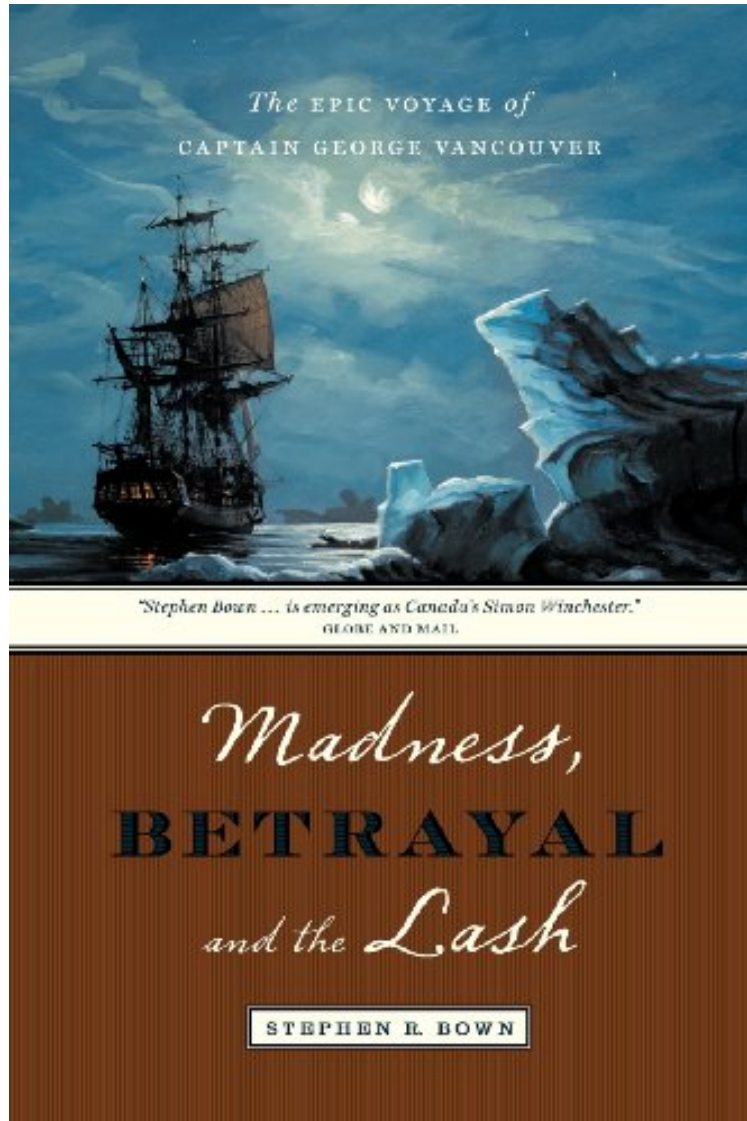


(Mobile book) Madness, Betrayal and the Lash

## Madness, Betrayal and the Lash

*Stephen Bown*

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**Stephen Bown : Madness, Betrayal and the Lash** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Madness, Betrayal and the Lash:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Triumph and Tragedy: The Life of George Vancouver By John A Meyer A fascinating picture of the battle for dominance of the Northwest and Hawaiian Islands during the late 18th century. England had lost the colonies but was still active in exploring and settling the areas from southern Oregon to Vancouver and the trade routes to the Orient. Spain was in decline and the US was adventurous but inexperienced at

colonizing. George Vancouver had at the age of thirteen accompanied Captain James Cook on his epic voyage to the south seas. Now he was the commanding officer of a ship charged with exploring and charting the west coast of the U.S. This history recounts the grueling life at sea from long passages between ports with rotting food, to scurvy and other illnesses to cold wet sleeping conditions. Bown says the life of a sailor in the those days was brutal and short. Vancouver's life itself was a tragedy. After an unprecedented voyage, he returned home expecting to be famous, but was overshadowed by war and a rival who dedicated his life to destroying him. A good read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Some Madness maybe, Betrayal in part, and a lot of Lash. Life in the Royal Navy in 1790. By Mark T. Patterson II This is a refreshing account of a man who history has forgotten notwithstanding all the names given by him and other people encountered in the book to places on the Pacific Northwest Coast. The work also gives one a glimpse into life in the Royal Navy at the time of the American Revolution, the mutiny on the Bounty, and the commencement of the Napoleonic wars. Captain Vancouver also played a role in the British relationship across the Pacific as well, according to Brown, who clearly has researched his topic well. For the historian who prefers to look at a period of time as a slice and compare what was going on this book works well. Not everything from 1770 to 1800 is covered of course, but the reader can get a sense of the forces and knowledge that lead Vancouver to make the decisions he did during his voyages. I drop a star because the title is apparently chosen to sell the book. He could leave out the three elements mentioned; Madness et. al, and I still would have purchased the book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Madness, Betrayal and the lash: the epic voyage of George Vancouver By Geo Jim I have always enjoyed accounts of exploratory expeditions such as the Lewis and Clark expedition. This book is exactly an exploratory expedition story! Exactly what interests me. The reason that I became particularly interested in Vancouver is because I saw a small monument citing his travels. This monument is on Maui along the south shore between a major thoroughfare and the beach. Jim

A revealing and fresh take on the extraordinary story of Captain Vancouver, one of history's greatest explorers. From 1791 to 1795, George Vancouver sailed the Pacific as captain of a major expedition of discovery and imperial ambition. Under orders to stake Britain's claim to western North America, he valiantly charted the byzantine coastline from California to Alaska. His voyage was one of history's greatest feats of maritime daring, scientific discovery, marine cartography and international diplomacy, involving Spain, Russia, the United States and indigenous Hawaii. But the young captain was harbouring within him the kernels of an illness, not evident when he departed but growing daily like a cancer, that, before killing him, would drive him into uncontrollable rages, leaving him shamed, exhausted, and bedridden. And his triumphs were overshadowed by bitter smear campaigns initiated by enemies he made on board-well-connected gentlemen who were set on destroying his reputation. How could Vancouver have known that his actions on the far side of the world were being secretly reported on, debated and judged by the aristocratic elite? Madness, Betrayal and the Lash is a tale of adventure at sea, the struggle of empires and of one man's battle against illness, the isolation of command and Britain's polarizing class system. In it, Stephen R. Bown offers a long-overdue re-evaluation of one of the greatest explorers of the Age of Discovery. Stephen R. Bown studied history at the University of Alberta. He is the author or co-author of numerous articles and several books, including *A Most Damnable Invention*, which was shortlisted for the Wilfred Eggleston Award for Non-Fiction and the Canadian Science Writers Association Science in Society Book Award. He lives in the Canadian Rockies.

From Publishers Weekly Though mostly forgotten, the 1791-95 voyage of Capt. George Vancouver and his crew rivaled Columbus and Cook's for long-term impact; Vancouver's painstaking navigation through the uncharted Pacific set the path for modern North Pacific history. Bown (*Scurvy*, *A Most Damnable Invention*) provides a thorough, engaging account of a journey remarkable for its time and even more so in retrospect. Essential background information is flawed by excessive foreshadowing, but Bown's vivid account of Vancouver's work-mapping the labyrinthine coast between Northern California and southern Alaska, stopping off in Hawaii and Spanish California-proves fascinating. Plans for the voyage changed repeatedly; the end of the American Revolution, Britain's long rivalry with Spain, the pressure for new trade routes, manipulation by British politicians and fur traders, and the obsession with finding a Northwest Passage made a difficult, vague assignment nearly impossible. The last chapters read like a thriller, as Vancouver's health declines, his relations with the crew sour, and Britain and France go to war. Any fan of the Great Age of Sail, the history of the Royal Navy, or European voyages of exploration will enjoy rediscovering this almost-forgotten hero. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Stephen R. Bown has been writing about adventurers, travellers and explorers for many years. His book *Scurvy: How a Surgeon, a Mariner and a Gentleman Solved the Greatest Medical Mystery of the Age of Sail* was an international critical success and was selected as one of the *Globe and Mail* Top 100 books of 2004. His next book, *A Most Damnable Invention*, was shortlisted for the Wilfred Eggleston Award for Non-Fiction and the Canadian Science Writers Association Science in Society Book Award. *Madness, Betrayal and the Lash* was shortlisted for the Lela Common Award for Canadian History and won the BC Book Prizes Booksellers Choice Award. His most recent book, *Merchant Kings*, was also shortlisted for the Wilfred Eggleston Award for Non-Fiction.

Bown is, according to the Globe and Mail, emerging as Canadas Simon Winchester. Bown was born in Ottawa. He  
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