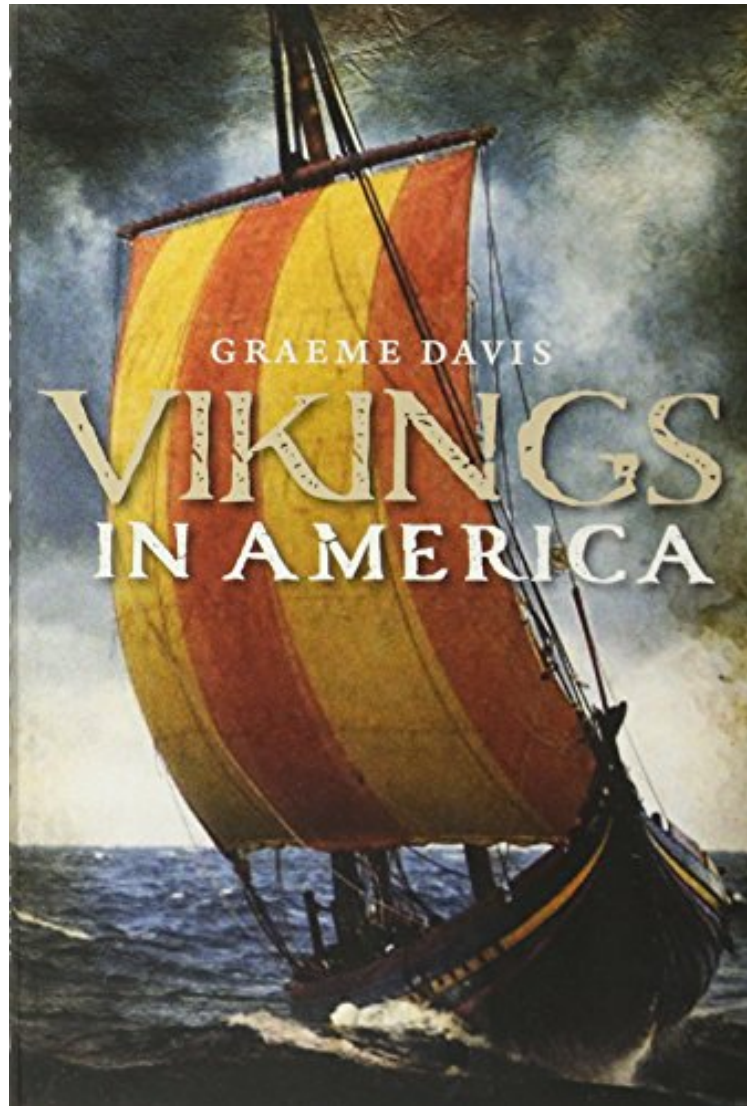


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Vikings in America

Dr. Graeme Davis

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Dr. Graeme Davis : Vikings in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vikings in America:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. An open-minded survey of evidence for Vikings in AmericaBy Bruce TrinqueIn "Vikings in America" Graeme Davis, an academic scholar specializing in linguistics of the medieval North Atlantic, has crafted a multi-discipline survey of the evidence for the presence of Vikings in North America from circa 1000 through at least the 14th century. Davis notes: "The style of this book is as a continuous narrative free from a heavy critical apparatus. Researchers will readily find corroboration for factual material in major libraries or

online. My contribution has been to put the whole together. There is little here that is original or primary research, save for the etymology proposed for 'America'." [Davis proposes that the name "America" came not from the Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci but rather from a Romance language distortion of the Old Norse term "merki" or "merik", meaning an undeveloped border country, i.e, the lands beyond Vinland.]The author considers the various famous of "hard" evidence for Viking North American presence (Yale's Vinland Map, the Kensington Runestone, the Newport Tower) and concludes that although there are in each case substantial reasons for accepting the validity of that evidence, ultimately none of them can be conclusively shown to be genuine. But Davis believes that the evidence in sum -- archaeological, literary, philological, genetic, etc. -- supports a view that "the Vikings were in North America in large numbers and for a long time." He stresses a need to move beyond "an unproductive reworking of the Vinland Map, Kensington Runestone and Newport Tower" and instead "accept that we should be able to find traces of the Vikings, and actively search for them."Davis does not identify a specific candidate for the precise location of Vinland -- he evidently concludes it was a considerable area perhaps along the New England coast and even beyond -- and rejects the notion that equates L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland with either being identical with Vinland, or even simply the "Leif's Booths" site known from the Norse sagas. Rather, Davis views L'Anse aux Meadows as a temporary (perhaps for a period of twenty years) gateway from Greenland to the lands to the west and south, "best regarded as a travellers' inn, a staging post for people on their way somewhere else."The author devotes considerable attention to the Viking presence in the High Arctic to the northwest of Greenland, most particularly on Ellesmere Island, postulating not merely a very occasion, perhaps single, exploring voyage, but a longterm presence, at least seasonal in nature for hunting narwhals, although perhaps a permanent settlement that might have outlasted the Greenland Viking settlements."Vikings in America" is a fresh, open-minded examination of an old topic. It does not provide final answers, but surely points the way for further exploration.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Viking Book History has been Waiting ForBy PastAgesandFutureWorldsFinally, a detailed and solid book on Viking exploration of America. Even though we have absolute proof they were in North America, scholars continue to ignore their explorations and impact. Davis explores all of the Viking landfalls from Greenland to Vinland. He also takes a clear look at controversies such as the Vinland Map and Kensington Rune Stone. His theory about the Narragansett Indians needs explored further, as does the Newport Tower. Why do archaeologists ignore something right in their own backyard? There is clear evidence that it predates colonial times. I'm not sure if Davis' Viking name for America holds up, and on page 160 he refers to Columbus as Hispanic, but overall this is the book on Vikings that all students of early American history and exploration have been waiting for. See also New England's Viking and Indian Wars .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Decent book.By A. MeyerAn excellent look at the history of the Greenland Vikings and the possible evidence of their presence in America. There is alot of newer finds that I was not aware of in the High Arctic which he talks about, which is exciting because if we are able someday to get more archaeological digs up there we may find alot more evidence of their being there. His explanation of the Kensington Runestone is interesting and linking it to an expedition that was sent out at the same time from Europe I think gives an aura of truth to the whole thing. I just wish that academia would stop being so dismissive of the Vikings and their achievements and be more open to their being in America long before Columbus for centuries uninterrupted.

When Columbus claimed to have discovered America in 1492, and the Borgia Pope claimed it as a New World for Catholic Spain, the Vatican started a 500 hundred year conspiracy to conceal the true story of Viking America. In this groundbreaking new work by the author of *The Early English Settlement of Orkney and Shetland*, the true extent of the Viking discovery and colonisation of the eastern seaboard of America is fully examined, taking into account the new archaeological, linguistic and DNA evidence which supplements the historic account. For four centuries or more, from their first visits around AD 1000 to the eve of the Columbus voyages, the Vikings explored and settled thousands of miles of the coasts and rivers of North America. From New York's Long Island to the Canadian High Arctic the New World was a playground for Viking adventurers. And the name the Vikings gave to this New World - America.

About the AuthorDr Graeme Davis is a specialist in the mediaeval world, its language, literature and culture. Recent books include studies of the language and literature of Anglo-Saxon, Old High German and Old Icelandic cultures. He is a lecturer in the History of the English Language with the Open University, previously a British Academy funded researcher at the University of Iceland, and an enthusiast for the North Atlantic region, where he has travelled extensively.