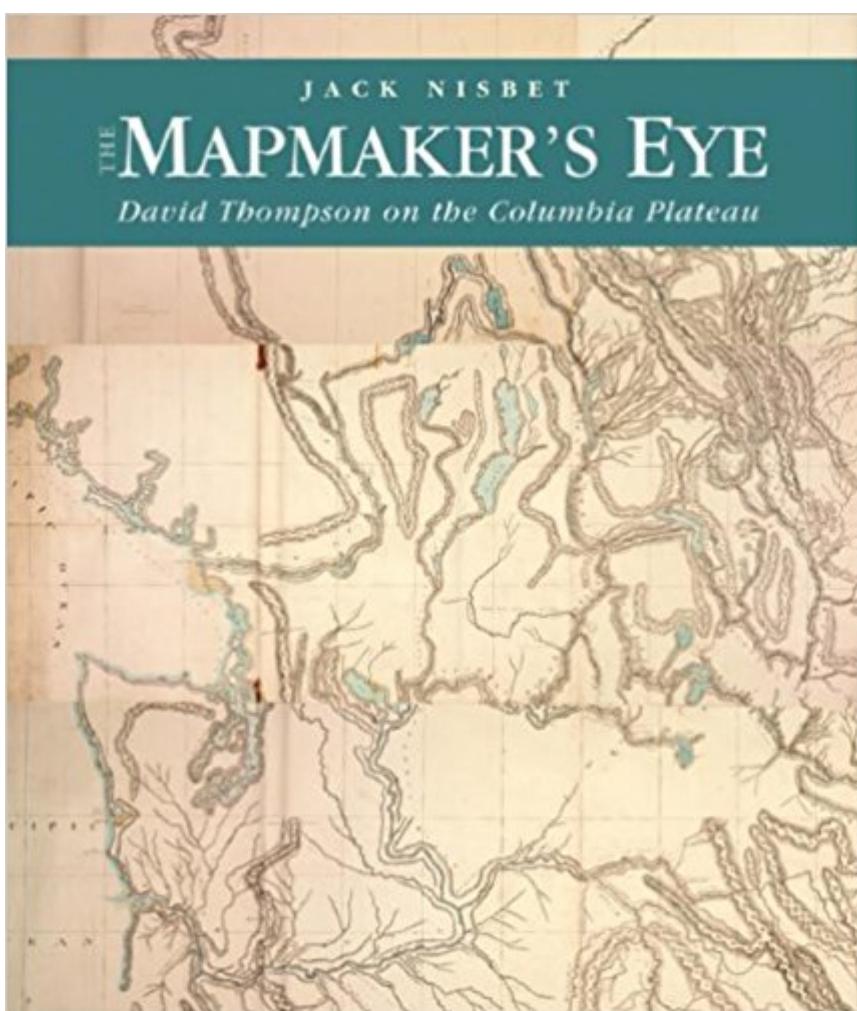


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# The Mapmaker's Eye: David Thompson On The Columbia Plateau



## **Synopsis**

pp. 180, b/w and colour photographs, paperback edition, Signed by the author on title page

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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A great follow up to Sources of the River. David Thompson was an amazing person in all respects.

This is the journal of an explorer and a mapmaker of western Canada in the very early 1800s.. As a Montanan I have read a lot about the Lewis & Clark expedition, but knew nothing about this similar and just as monumental one that took place just a few hundred miles north in Canada.

I got this book for my wife as a gift. She loves reading about explorers and is never without a map when we hike. This book scored a lot of points with her. She learned quite a bit about maps and David Thompson. A little after we got it, we were out driving in Montana and came across an historical marker about one of the places mentioned in the book and she was able to give me lots of details about it. So, if you want to sound and look smart, like my wife, buy this book :)

I have met him at my own library where he talked about his book on David Thompson. It's great too.

David Thompson was a fur trader, explorer, and meticulous geographic surveyor. He was, and is,

the English and Canadian counterpart of Lewis and Clark. He visited the Mandan villages on the Missouri River in 1798. He crossed the Continental Divide in 1807 and spent five winters on the west side of the divide trading with the Indians. He explored the Columbia River from its origin to the Pacific Ocean. He kept complete journals. He was a better writer than Meriwether Lewis, although not Lewis' equal as a naturalist. He took astronomical readings and did his own computations of both latitude and longitude. Because of this, his maps were much more accurate than those of William Clark. Later in his life, Thompson helped survey the boundary between Canada and the United States. Thompson's story is also the story of Charlotte, his half-Indian wife of 57 years who bore him 13 children. She and the first few children traveled with him in his explorations, including his first crossing of the Continental Divide. Jack Nisbet is also the author of "Sources of the River," another book about David Thompson. "The Mapmaker's Eye" is a bit more readable and is better illustrated

Mapmaker's Eye is the amazing biographical chronicle of the adventures of David Thompson, a Canadian fur trader, explorer, and cartographer respected as a hero in Canada yet largely unknown in the United States. From 1801 to 1812, Thompson established two effective trade routs across the Rocky Mountains in Canada and surveyed the 1,250 mile course of the Columbia River. Following his exploration days he transformed the mathematical notations from his dozens of journal notebooks into the first accurate maps of the northwest quadrant of North America. Some of his mapwork was even used by the Lewis and Clark expedition. Award-winning author Jack Nisbet presents Thompson's story in detail yet fully accessible to lay readers, along with a handful of black-and-white and color illustrations. Amazing epic tale of a life rich with discovery and analysis.

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A real pleasure to read. Modern reader flow to the writing. Recommended.

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