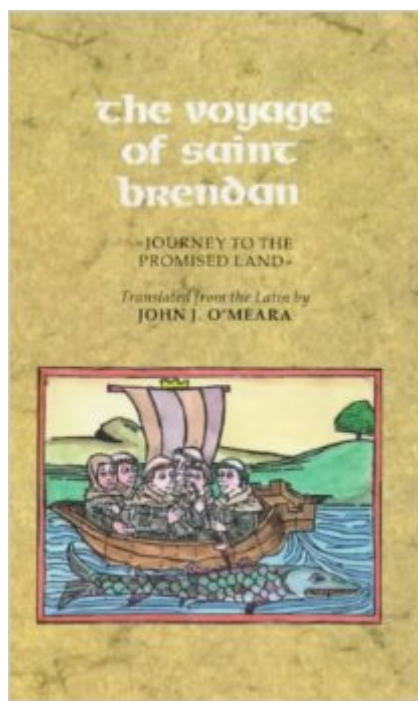


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# Voyage Of St Brendan



## Synopsis

A translation from the Latin of one of the most famous and enduring stories of western Christendom, the Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis, written in Ireland perhaps as early as the year 800. While the routes of St. Brendan's journeys remain a subject of controversy, the tale itself is of great interest - a strongly integrated text which derives from several centuries of Irish literary tradition. "A worthwhile book in every respect." - Choice. "A fascinating book." - The Irish Times.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

The book itself tells the voyage of St. Brendan from Ireland to the Promised Land of the Saints, and back home. The story was written around 900 AD, and so reads like a work from it's time period. However, it is an excellent source to read about the stories of St. Brendan. Worth reading by itself, or as a supplement to learning about this period of European, or Irish history. If you are purchasing this book, expect it to read as if it were written by a medieval monk. There are some terms that the expected audience would be very familiar with, but the average lay reader may need to do some background research into. Nothing that isn't known to many, or at least easily discoverable, but if you are not prepared with the liturgical calendar of the Church, then reading this may require some additional homework.

When Tim Severin in 1976 left Ireland in a small vessel adventurously aimed west--the trip recorded in THE BRENDAN VOYAGE (McGraw Hill, 1978)--it was just the latest (and most daring)

acknowledgement of the stubborn hold St. Brendan keeps on the Irish imagination--one still surfacing in retellings, translations, stained glass, civic sculpture and, most tellingly, in "The Disappearing Island," the lovely penultimate poem in Seamus Heaney's collection THE HAW LANTERN (Faber, 1987). The story of St. Brendan's life and voyage exists in several redactions in several European languages--his story is a meeting point of the genres of saints' lives and the native Irish tradition of the immrama, the sea voyage to fantastic places. Part of the lure is, of course, the tale's possible truth. Did Brendan reach not only Iceland, but Greenland, even Newfoundland? Is the Isle of Choirs Shakespeare's "still-vext Bermoothes"? It's a question to let your imagination run on, and run riot it has with many people. But behind all this is the Latin text, the Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis, with its Christian tone of reverence and wonderment. Where the monks go, they offer up Mass and celebrate the churchly year; it is a stability they carry within, as it must have been carried by Columcille and all the itinerant and self-exiled Irish saints. John J. O'Meara's fine translation THE VOYAGE OF SAINT BRENDAN: Journey to the Promised Land (Colin Smythe, 1976) has woodcuts from a fifteenth-century German edition--the perfect accompaniment, as Brendan's monks move through the enameled landscapes of medieval illumination. Glenn Shea, from Glenn's Book Notes, at [www.bookbarnniantic.com](http://www.bookbarnniantic.com)

Attractive paperback edition - good background in the intro, illustrated with 15th C woodcuts. Glad to add it to my collection of books on Irish history and literature, especially as companion to the book that started it all, The Brendan Voyage by Tim Severin.

It's an interesting book about the adventuresome journeys of a humble Irish Saint. It has some legendary tall tales, but also there are real elements of voyages and how St. Brendan and his crew coped with their sometimes difficult excursions.

This is a translated copy from the original Latin. It is not your typical adventure book. So, do not expect contemporary writing techniques.

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