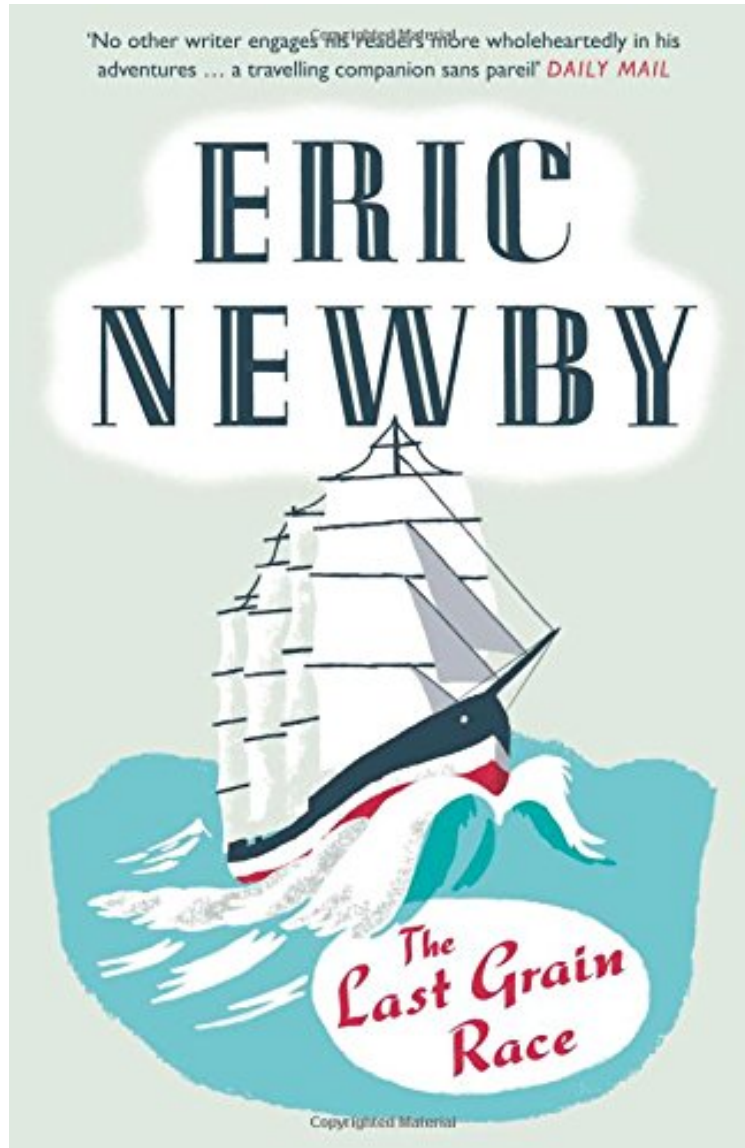


The Last Grain Race

Eric Newby

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Eric Newby : The Last Grain Race before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Grain Race:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. As one who has steamed around the world on modern ...By NamGunnerAs one who has steamed around the world on modern (20th century) ships, and sailed large sailing yachts in long distance ocean races, Newby's account of his experiences aboard one of the last commercial square riggers brings chills to my spine and palpitations to my cardio system. Nothing we mariners experience today comes close to

what he describes in dramatic detailed scenes amongst a cast of piratical characters. Regardless of the minutiae of sails, rigging and foreign language, Newby's book kept me spellbound through the final page. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Those really were the daysBy John the ReaderAnother one of this author's books that did not last nearly long enough - why oh why was Eric not as wordy as say Norman Sherry, or Simon Schama!Having gone to sea just before my sixteenth birthday, and arrived for the first time in America nine weeks later, I can attest the truth of this account, not the sailing though as by then those beauties of the seas were rarely seen at all. Eric is a strapping eighteen and ... perhaps fearing that his first ship, on a world circumnavigation, in a four masted barque would not be challenging enough ... he joins a Finnish ship with no knowledge of any of the languages the orders were issued in by his Swedish, Finnish and other polyglot officers. He joins with a wildly inappropriate and insecure Louis Vuitton "folio" sea-chest, is sent immediately up the main-mast to the very truck and trades nicknames as he acquires skills and acceptance, from "Kossuri" an aristocratic derision to match his trunk, to a respectful Strongbody" after the usual first-trip fight, that he won.The trip turns out to be (1938) the last of the `grain races' from Australia back to Europe and Moshulu sails magnificently enough to actually win - through storms of force 8 and 9 to near hurricanes. He is thrown onto the deck when "she ships them green" and nearly, more fatally, falls from the top mast when furling.On his first working day he drops a hammer over the side and his pay is docked. I was once washed off the flying bridge and onto the well-deck in a gale, surfacing from the tons of green, cold water to find myself in the scuppers hanging on with everything - teeth included. My pay was subsequently docked too - I had let go the coffee pot I was carrying, and it joined Eric's hammer.Yet the author is wistful in his goodbyes to seamanship, "I look back to my time in her with great pleasure", perhaps feeling, like me and Conrad, who wrote in Youth - "Wasn't that he best time when we were young at sea?"0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the best I have ever readBy Nirmal GhoshThis is one of the best travel/adventure books I have ever read. I must have read it 10 times as a young boy. My copy is long lost somewhere, in some dusty carton in some corner of the world. I am just about to order one from . Am delighted I found it.Last year I was in Gothenburg, Sweden, and saw a four masted barque in the harbour - apparently a tourist attraction. I was sure it was one of the barques that took part in this Last Grain Race. Subsequently I found she had indeed taken part in the grain runs (though I have to re-read the book to figure out if she was in that particular Last Grain Race. Her name is "Viking" and you can look her up on Google).Inspired, I hunted around on Google and found Moshulu; she is moored in Philadelphia and has been converted into a seemingly upmarket restaurant!I cannot recommend this hugely entertaining book too highly for anyone interested in adventure. Newby tells the tale of a lifestyle long lost to modernity, and a ship full of utter characters, with great humour.

At the age of 18, Eric Newby signed on as an apprentice on the four-masted sailing ship Moshulu of the Erikson line for the round trip from Europe to Australia and back, outwards by way of the Cape of Good Hope and round Cape Horn. This was to be an historic voyage, a dramatic personal adventure.

`Enthralling - I know of no other book about square-riggers that gives such a lively account of the daily round of men in the fo'c'sle' Sunday Times`Indescribably pungent ... impossible to read without laughing' Observer`Mr Newby proves himself to be a first-rate writer ... Years have dulled nothing of the spirit of his first voyage; he gives exactly the feel of working a tall ship in hard conditions; he did not just see these things; he felt and can convey them; the crew of "Moshulu" live, move and are real human beings - and go on living when the book is closed' Times Literary SupplementFrom the Publisher7 1.5-hour cassettesAbout the AuthorERIC NEWBY was born in London in 1919 and was educated at St Paul's School. In 1938, he joined the four-masted Finnish barque `Moshulu' as an apprentice and sailed in the last Grain Race from Ireland by way of Australia and Cape Horn. During World War II, he served in the Black Watch and the Special Boat Section. In 1942, he was captured and remained a prisoner-of-war until 1945. He subsequently married the girl who helped him escape, and for the next fifty years, his wife Wanda was at his side on many adventures. After the war, his world expanded still further - into the fashion business and book publishing. Whatever else he was doing, Newby always travelled on a grand scale, either under his own steam or as the Travel Editor for the Observer. He was made a CBE in 1994 and was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award of the British Guild of Travel Writers in 2001. Eric Newby died in 2006.