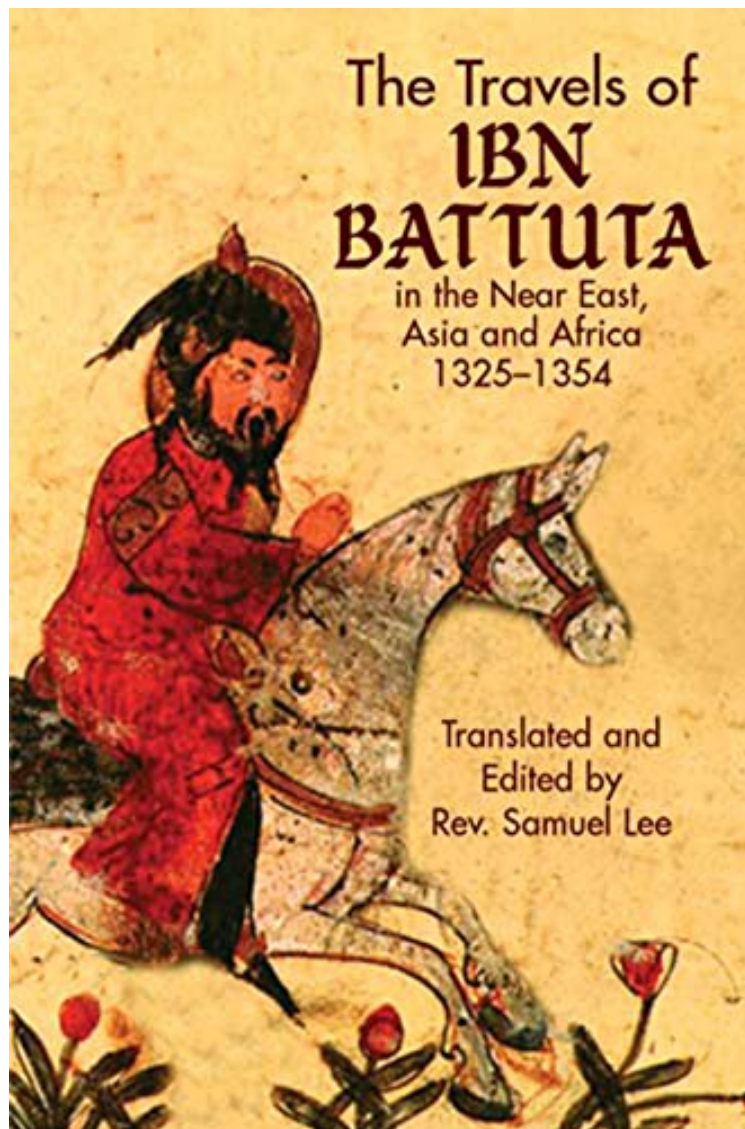


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Ibn Battuta : The Travels of Ibn Battuta: in the Near East, Asia and Africa, 1325-1354 (Dover Books on Travel, Adventure) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Travels of Ibn Battuta: in the Near East, Asia and Africa, 1325-1354 (Dover Books on Travel, Adventure):

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly but Abridged Translation By Richard T. Cummings I experienced a bit of disappointment when I compared this volume, which covers Ibn Batuta's travels in 243 pages, to the Arabic version I have "Rihla Ibn Batuta" Dar Al Beirut (1997) which describes his travels from page 14 to page 701. A lot of interesting material has been excised. It is not the fault of the translator inasmuch as he translated from an abridged Arabic manuscript. This is made clear from the back cover of the Dover publication of Rev. Lee's translation. Nonetheless, this book is an interesting historical document in itself. Interspersed throughout the translation, Rev. Lee provides valuable notes and, in his preface, provides an insightful historiography. The translation includes, in numerous footnotes, various terms and places in Arabic. The orthography is quite legible. However, some of the places are arcane and there is no attempt to decipher them. This is a minor quibble as such an exercise would require the translator to also be a historical geographer. I would ignore the review of this book that awarded this work only one star. It would appear that that reviewer is merely revealing more of his own limitations than those of the Rev. Lee. Finally, the Dover edition is aesthetically pleasing and printed on high quality paper. I found it to be good value for money. Owing to its incompleteness, however, I can only give it a qualified recommendation.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Known world traveler. By J. Webb Very good basic travelog. This 14th century traveler was 20 years away from his home in Tangier. He saw Lhasa, Colombo and Sudan. What a wealth of knowledge.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not necessary, When There is a Far Superior Alternative. By Investyr Interesting, but often boring. May be of historical interest, but Ross E. Dunn's work is far more interesting and informative.

The Arab equivalent of Marco Polo, Sheikh Ibn Battuta (1304-77) set out as a young man on a pilgrimage to Mecca that ended 27 years and 75,000 miles later. The only medieval traveler known to have visited the lands of every Muslim ruler of his time, Ibn Battuta was born into a family of highly respected religious judges and educated as a theologian. Leaving his native city of Tangier in 1326, he traveled over the next several years to East Africa, Byzantium, Iraq, southern Russia, India, Ceylon, and China. His account of the journey, dictated on his return, not only provides vivid accounts of an odyssey that took him to exotic lands, but also describes in great detail Muslim maritime activities in the Middle and Far East, fascinating elements of foreign architecture, and agricultural activities of diverse cultures. A rare and important work covering the geography and history of the medieval Arab world, this primary sourcebook will be welcomed by students and scholars for its inherent historical value.

About the Author Lee has a master's degree in third world studies and has completed a doctoral study in church and biblical leadership from the University of Leiden.