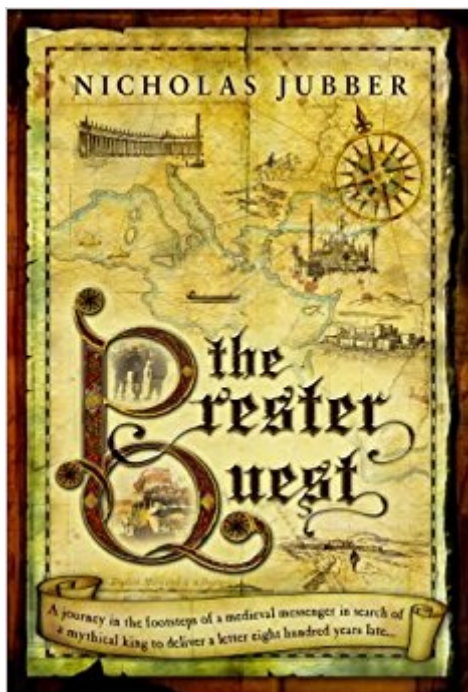


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The Prester Quest



Synopsis

In 1177, Pope Alexander III wrote a letter to the elusive King of the Indies, otherwise known as Prester John. The person who was selected and set out to deliver this letter into the hand of Prester John was never heard of again. 824 years later, armed with a copy of Pope Alexander's letter, Nick Jubber set out from Venice with the intention of somewhat belatedly completing Master Philip's mission. Over the next four months he would travel by bus, train, tractor, and horse-drawn cart around the Eastern Mediterranean, through the Middle East and North Africa before homing in on Ethiopia and the closely-guarded tomb of a medieval king who legend links with the mythical, mystical figure of Prester John.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Nicholas Jubber's search for the mythical monarch, Prester John, is quixotic to the point of madness. But his is an inspiring madness, bright with medieval fervor for the obscure, yet softened by skepticism and unflagging humor. Independent --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Nicholas Jubber was educated at Downside School and Oxford University. His travels have taken him through South America, Africa and many parts of Asia, and he has written for the 'Observer', the 'Tablet', Boston's 'Globe and Mail' and the 'Lebanese Daily Star'. THE PRESTER QUEST is his first book.

Yes, the syntax can be so twisted up as to strangle any presumably intended meaning, and yes the similes and metaphors can be obscure, impossible to comprehend, or just plain below par, and yes it does really help if one knows a LOT about the Crusades, and has travelled in Turkey, Syria, and Ethiopia, but Jubber does come up with some quite funny bon mots, and the section on the Sudan is great. And the whole read is worth it for the section on the Palestinians vs the Israelies which he gets spot on. It will linger, the scenes and well painted characters, in your mind. Lots of fascinating historical anecdote. Along with a very sympathetic narrator. Recommended.

I have just started reading this book, and am already fascinated by it. I am, by nature, always curious about ancient history and/or myths/legends such as Prester John. Whether or not he actually ever existed is anyones guess. However, this will definitely be a 'good read'. The author, Nicholas Jubber, shows his own incredibly wonderful sense of humor from the beginning. I would highly recommend this for anyone who has an inquisitive mind and enjoys exploring, via books, a long ago mysterious person who, whether in fact of myth, sparked the interest of all and sundry including Pope Alexander III in 1177.

An excellent book concerning the story of the quest to find the fabled Prestor John and the Garden of Eden. Great book at a great price with fast ship, thanks.

Funny and informative about halfway through. After that it was just more of the same. Don't buy unless your idea of fun is watching grass grow!

Fun and enlightening!

The participants in this mission, Nicholas Jubber and Mike Hirst set out to deliver a letter written by Pope Alexander III in 1177 to Prester John. On their journey to deliver (albeit 824 years late) Nicholas Jubber manages to combine historical knowledge and legend with contemporary reality in a way which is simultaneously eccentric, amusing and highly informative. There are a number of different journeys being depicted in this novel, and they are each worth reading about. Read it as a contemporary travelogue on a medieval mission, read it as a commentary on some of the issues that are as topical today as they were when the original 12th century missive was written. You choose! I recommend this to anyone with an interest in the legendary Prester John, as well as to anyone who likes reading about the travails of travel. Jennifer Cameron-Smith

In 1177 Pope Alexander III wrote a letter to the Priest-King of the Indies and chose his physician to deliver it -even though the legendary monarch's kingdom was hidden. Master Philip set out to find it and deliver the letter and vanished: centuries later author Nicholas Jubber found a copy of the pope's original letter and decided to deliver it himself. THE PRESTER QUEST blends history with an adventure travelogue to make for an extraordinary odyssey. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch

This is a terrible book that could be a good book. The IDEA for the book was solid, and some of the historical tidbits are interesting. It COULD have been an entertaining quest, but there is one enormous problem: the author is a pretentious, self-centered, pseudo-intellectual child with a very high opinion of himself and the most irritating writing style known to man. Don't waste your time with this book unless you enjoy being patronized. Shame.

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