

= Richard Hakluyt =

Richard Hakluyt (/ ˈhæklɪt / , / ˈhæklɪt / , or / ˈhækˈlɪt / ; 1553 ? 23 November 1616) was an English writer . He is known for promoting the British colonisation of North America by the English through his works , notably *Divers Voyages Touching the Discoverie of America* (1582) and *The Principal Navigations , Voiages , Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation* (1589 ? 1600) .

Hakluyt was educated at Westminster School and Christ Church , Oxford . Between 1583 and 1588 he was chaplain and secretary to Sir Edward Stafford , English ambassador at the French court . An ordained priest , Hakluyt held important positions at Bristol Cathedral and Westminster Abbey and was personal chaplain to Robert Cecil , 1st Earl of Salisbury , principal Secretary of State to Elizabeth I and James I. He was the chief promoter of a petition to James I for letters patent to colonize Virginia , which were granted to the London Company and Plymouth Company (referred to collectively as the Virginia Company) in 1606 . The Hakluyt Society publishes scholarly editions of primary records of voyages and travels .

= = Family , early life and education = =

Hakluyt 's patrilineal ancestors were of Welsh extraction , rather than Dutch as is often suggested ; they appear to have settled in Herefordshire in England around the 13th century , and , according to antiquary John Leland , took their surname from the " Forest of Cluid in Randnorland " . Some of Hakluyt 's ancestors established themselves at Yatton , and must have ranked amongst the principal landowners of the county . A person named Hugo Hakelute , who may have been an ancestor or relative of Richard Hakluyt , was elected Member of Parliament for the borough of Yatton in 1304 or 1305 , and between the 14th and 16th centuries five individuals surnamed " de Hackluit " or " Hackluit " were sheriffs of Herefordshire . A man named Walter Hakelut was knighted in the 34th year of Edward I (1305) and later killed at the Battle of Bannockburn , and in 1349 Thomas Hakeluyt was chancellor of the diocese of Hereford . Records also show that a Thomas Hakeluytt was in the wardship of Henry VIII (reigned 1509 ? 1547) and Edward VI (reigned 1547 ? 1553) .

Richard Hakluyt , the second of four sons , was born in Eyton in Herefordshire in 1553 . Hakluyt 's father , also named Richard Hakluyt , was a member of the Worshipful Company of Skinners whose members dealt in skins and furs . He died in 1557 when his son was aged about five years , and his wife Margery followed soon after . Hakluyt 's cousin , also named Richard Hakluyt , of the Middle Temple , became his guardian .

While a Queen 's Scholar at Westminster School , Hakluyt visited his guardian , whose conversation , illustrated by " certain bookes of cosmographie , an universall mappe , and the Bible " , made Hakluyt resolve to " prosecute that knowledge , and kind of literature " . Entering Christ Church , Oxford , in 1570 with financial support from the Skinners ' Company , " his exercises of duty first performed " , he set out to read all the printed or written voyages and discoveries that he could find . He took his Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) on 19 February 1574 , and shortly after taking his Master of Arts (M.A.) on 27 June 1577 , began giving public lectures in geography . He was the first to show " both the old imperfectly composed and the new lately reformed mappes , globes , spheares , and other instruments of this art " . Hakluyt held on to his studentship at Christ Church between 1577 and 1586 , although after 1583 he was no longer resident in Oxford .

Hakluyt was ordained in 1578 , the same year he began to receive a " pension " from the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers to study divinity . The pension would have lapsed in 1583 , but William Cecil , 1st Baron Burghley , intervened to have it extended until 1586 to aid Hakluyt 's geographical research .

= = At the English Embassy in Paris = =

Hakluyt 's first publication was one that he wrote himself , *Divers Voyages Touching the Discoverie of America and the Ilands Adjacent unto the Same , Made First of all by our Englishmen and Afterwards by the Frenchmen and Britons* (1582) .

Hakluyt 's Voyages brought him to the notice of Lord Howard of Effingham , and Sir Edward Stafford , Lord Howard 's brother @-@ in @-@ law . At the age of 30 , being acquainted with " the chieftest captaines at sea , the greatest merchants , and the best mariners of our nation " , he was selected as chaplain and secretary to accompany Stafford , now English ambassador at the French court , to Paris in 1583 . In accordance with the instructions of Secretary Francis Walsingham , he occupied himself chiefly in collecting information of the Spanish and French movements , and " making diligent inquirie of such things as might yield any light unto our western discoverie in America " . Although this was his only visit to Continental Europe in his life , he was angered to hear the limitations of the English in terms of travel being discussed in Paris .

The first fruits of Hakluyt 's labours in Paris were embodied in his important work entitled *A Particuler Discourse Concerninge the Greate Necessitie and Manifold Commodities That Are Like to Growe to This Realme of Englande by the Western Discoveries Lately Attempted* , Written in the Yere 1584 , which Sir Walter Raleigh commissioned him to prepare . The manuscript , lost for almost 300 years , was published for the first time in 1877 . Hakluyt revisited England in 1584 , and laid a copy of the Discourse before Elizabeth I (to whom it had been dedicated) together with his analysis in Latin of Aristotle 's *Politicks* . His objective was to recommend the enterprise of planting the English race in the unsettled parts of North America , and thus gain the Queen 's support for Raleigh 's expedition . In May 1585 when Hakluyt was in Paris with the English Embassy , the Queen granted to him the next prebendary at Bristol Cathedral that should become vacant , to which he was admitted in 1585 or 1586 and held with other preferments till his death .

Hakluyt 's other works during his time in Paris consisted mainly of translations and compilations , with his own dedications and prefaces . These latter writings , together with a few letters , are the only extant material out of which a biography of him can be framed . Hakluyt interested himself in the publication of the manuscript journal of René Goulaine de Laudonnière , the *LivreL 'histoire notable de la Floride située ès Indes Occidentales* in Paris in 1586 . The attention that the book excited in Paris encouraged Hakluyt to prepare an English translation and publish it in London under the title *A Notable Historie Containing Foure Voyages Made by Certayne French Captaynes unto Florida* (1587) . The same year , his edition of Peter Martyr d 'Anghiera 's *De Orbe Nouo Decades Octo* saw the light at Paris . This work contains an exceedingly @-@ rare copperplate map dedicated to Hakluyt and signed F.G. (supposed to be Francis Gualle) ; it is the first on which the name " Virginia " appears .

= = Return to England = =

In 1588 Hakluyt finally returned to England with Douglas Sheffield , Baroness Sheffield , after a residence in France of nearly five years . In 1589 he published the first edition of his chief work , *The Principall Navigations , Voiages and Discoveries of the English Nation* , using eyewitness accounts as far as possible . In the preface to this he announced the intended publication of the first terrestrial globe made in England by Emery Molyneux .

Between 1598 and 1600 appeared the final , reconstructed and greatly enlarged edition of *The Principal Navigations , Voiages , Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation* in three volumes . In the dedication of the second volume (1599) to his patron , Robert Cecil , 1st Earl of Salisbury , Hakluyt strongly urged the minister as to the expediency of colonizing Virginia . A few copies of this monumental work contain a map of great rarity , the first on the Mercator projection made in England according to the true principles laid down by Edward Wright . Hakluyt 's great collection has been called " the Prose Epic of the modern English nation " by historian James Anthony Froude .

On 20 April 1590 Hakluyt was instituted to the clergy house of Wetheringsett @-@ cum @-@ Brockford , Suffolk , by Lady Stafford , who was Dowager @-@ Baroness Sheffield . He held this position until his death , and resided in Wetheringsett through the 1590s and frequently thereafter . In 1599 , he became an adviser to the East India Company , and in 1601 he edited a translation from the Portuguese of Antonio Galvão 's *The Discoveries of the World* .

= = Later life = =

In the late 1590s Hakluyt became the client and personal chaplain of Robert Cecil , 1st Earl of Salisbury , Lord Burghley 's son , who was to be Hakluyt 's most fruitful patron . Hakluyt dedicated to Cecil the second (1599) and third volumes (1600) of the expanded edition of *Principal Navigations* and also his edition of Galvão 's *Discoveries* (1601) . Cecil , who was the principal Secretary of State to Elizabeth I and James I , rewarded him by installing him as prebendary of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster on 4 May 1602 . In the following year , he was elected archdeacon of the Abbey . These religious occupations have occasioned reconsideration of the role played by spiritual concerns in Hakluyt 's writings on exploration , settlement , and England 's relations with its Catholic rivals .

Hakluyt was married twice , once in or about 1594 and again in 1604 . In the licence of Hakluyt 's second marriage dated 30 March 1604 , he is described as one of the chaplains of the Savoy Hospital ; this position was also conferred on him by Cecil . His will refers to chambers occupied by him there up to the time of his death , and in another official document he is styled Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) .

Hakluyt was also a leading adventurer of the Charter of the Virginia Company of London as a director thereof in 1589 . In 1605 he secured the prospective living of Jamestown , the intended capital of the intended colony of Virginia . When the colony was at last established in 1607 , he supplied this benefice with its chaplain , Robert Hunt . In 1606 he appears as the chief promoter of the petition to James I for letters patent to colonize Virginia , which were granted on 10 April 1606 . His last publication was a translation of Hernando de Soto 's discoveries in Florida , entitled *Virginia Richly Valued , by the Description of the Maine Land of Florida , Her Next Neighbour* (1609) . This work was intended to encourage the young colony of Virginia ; Scottish historian William Robertson wrote of Hakluyt , " England is more indebted for its American possessions than to any man of that age . "

Hakluyt prepared an English translation of Dutch jurist Hugo Grotius ' *Mare Liberum* (1609) , a treatise that sought to demonstrate that the Dutch had the right to trade freely in the East Indies , contrary to Spanish and Portuguese claims of sovereignty over the seas , in the early 17th century . Helen Thornton has suggested that the translation was commissioned by Thomas Smythe who became treasurer of the Virginia Company in 1609 and was also Governor of the East India Company . In that year , Hakluyt was a consultant to the Company when it was renewing its charter . Grotius ' arguments supported England 's right to trade in the Indies . The translation may also have been part of the propaganda encouraging English people to settle in Virginia . In *Mare Liberum* , Grotius denied that the 1493 donation by Pope Alexander VI that had divided the oceans between Spain and Portugal entitled Spain to make territorial claims to North America . Instead , he stressed the importance of occupation , which was favourable to the English as they and not the Spanish had occupied Virginia . Grotius also argued that the seas should be freely navigable by all , which was useful since the England to Virginia route crossed seas which the Portuguese claimed . However , it is not clear why Hakluyt 's translation was not published in his lifetime . George Bruner Parks has theorized that publication at that time would have been inconvenient to England because after England had successfully helped Holland and Spain to negotiate the Twelve Years ' Truce during the Eighty Years ' War , the work would have supported English claims for free seas against Spain , but not its claims for closed seas against Holland . Hakluyt 's handwritten manuscript , MS Petyt 529 , in Inner Temple Library in London was eventually published as *The Free Sea* for the first time in 2004 .

In 1591 , Hakluyt inherited family property upon the death of his elder brother Thomas ; a year later , upon the death of his youngest brother Edmund , he inherited additional property which derived from his uncle . In 1612 Hakluyt became a charter member of the North @-@ west Passage Company . By the time of his death , he had amassed a small fortune out of his various emoluments and preferments , of which the last was the clergy house of Gedney , Lincolnshire , presented to him by his younger brother Oliver in 1612 . Unfortunately , his wealth was squandered by his only son .

Hakluyt died on 23 November 1616 , probably in London , and was buried on 26 November in Westminster Abbey ; by an error in the abbey register his burial is recorded under the year 1626 . A

number of his manuscripts , sufficient to form a fourth volume of his collections of 1598 ? 1600 , fell into the hands of Samuel Purchas , who inserted them in an abridged form in his *Pilgrimes* (1625 ? 1626) . Others , consisting chiefly of notes gathered from contemporary authors , are preserved at the University of Oxford .

Hakluyt is principally remembered for his efforts in promoting and supporting the settlement of North America by the English through his writings . These works were a fertile source of material for William Shakespeare and other authors . Hakluyt also encouraged the production of geographical and historical writings by others . It was at Hakluyt 's suggestion that Robert Parke translated Juan González de Mendoza 's *The History of the Great and Mighty Kingdom of China and the Situation Thereof* (1588 ? 1590) , John Pory made his version of Leo Africanus 's *A Geographical Historie of Africa* (1600) , and P. Erondelle translated Marc Lescarbot 's *Nova Francia* (1609) .

= = Legacy = =

The Hakluyt Society was founded in 1846 for printing rare and unpublished accounts of voyages and travels , and continues to publish volumes each year .

In May 2008 , a major interdisciplinary conference called *Richard Hakluyt 1552 ? 1616 : Life , Times , Legacy* , examining the significance of Hakluyt 's work , was jointly organized by the National Maritime Museum , the Centre for Travel Writing Studies , Nottingham Trent University and NUI Galway . A major aim of the conference was to lay the groundwork for and establish a network of scholars to prepare a new edition of Hakluyt 's *Principal Navigations* . Those leading this group include Nigel Rigby , Will Ryan (President of the Hakluyt Society) , and the project 's editors Daniel Carey (NUI , Galway) , Andrew Hadfield (University of Sussex) and Claire Jowitt (NTU) .

Westminster School named a house after him as recognition of achievement of an Old Westminster .

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