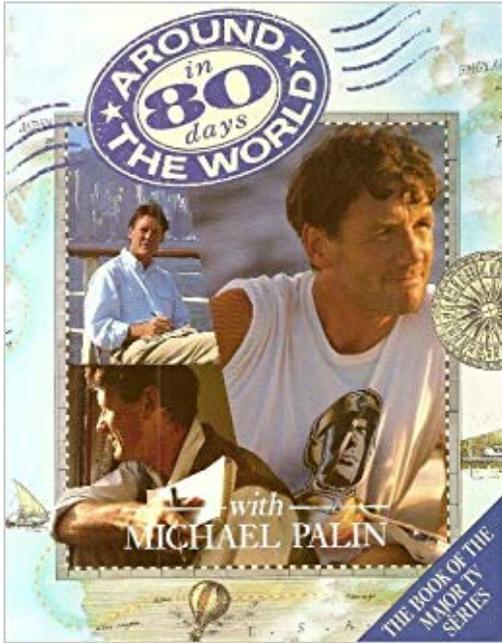


Around the world in 80 days *by* Michael Palin



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ISBN: 0563208260

ISBN13: 978-0563208266

Author: Michael Palin

Book title: Around the world in 80 days

Pages: 256

Publisher: BBC Books (1990)

Language: English

Category: Genre Fiction

Size PDF version: 1701 kb

Size ePUB version: 1178 kb

Size FB2 version: 1350 kb

Other formats: lit docx azw mbr

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Reviews of the *Around the world in 80 days* *by* Michael Palin

Freaky Hook

Now I know why this is a classic. Thought I'd give some of the classics a try and picked this one. I think they made a Disney movie of it but I never saw that one. So I didn't know what to expect. Was very pleasantly surprised, great characters and an exciting story that had me hooked right from the start and kept me reading late a couple of nights as I had to know how it would turn out. I'll be checking out the author's other works as well.

Sharpbringer

This was one classic I just didn't get around to reading for the longest time -- I was familiar with its premise and had even seen bits and pieces of the mediocre Jackie Chan film based on it, but never actually read it myself. Ironically, I ended up finally picking up the book on a trip of my own, and read it on the plane. And while it comes across as a travelogue of its era at times, it's an entertaining story nonetheless, and a testament to one man's determination to traverse the globe in 80 days.

Phileas Fogg is a practical, logical man with very predictable habits... so it comes across as a shock to both his newly hired servant, Passepartout, and the gentlemen's club he belongs to when he takes up a wager that will have him seeking to circumnavigate the world in no fewer than 80 days! With the long-suffering but eager to please Passepartout and a lovely Indian woman in tow, Fogg sets out to circle the world by train, steamship, elephant, sled, and any other means he can. But his journey is not without its mishaps or complications... the worst being a detective who suspects the journey is a ploy by Fogg to get away with a crime, and seeks to stop his journey at all costs...

The writing in this book can come across as a little stilted, especially to modern-readers. I attribute this partly to the common writing style of the time period and partly to the fact that this book is a translation -- often writing styles get lost in the shift from one language to the next. The story still manages to move at a fairly steady pace, though occasionally it gets bogged down in odd places. The story comes to a screeching halt at one point to deliver a history of the Mormon church in Utah, for example -- interesting, but hardly pertinent to the story -- and at other points pauses to make copious notes about the geography and architecture of wherever they happen to be. This makes it come across almost as a travelogue at times.

Fogg is a hard character to get to like at first -- so logical and seemingly without feeling that he's hard to relate to. His valet, Passepartout, is a much more relatable character, a hapless everyman dragged along in his master's footsteps but still willing to please. And as the story progresses Fogg reveals a warmer side to his personality, and gradually shows himself to be heroic as well as determined and not without sympathy toward others. And even Fix, the detective doggedly pursuing Fogg and his servant, is shown to be a decent character just trying to do justice as he sees it. The Indian woman who travels with them for much of the trip has little personality of her own, though -- she seems tossed in just to serve as a romantic interest. Ah well.

Also, a few bits included in this book are a little harsher in hindsight. An offhand remark about the number of bison blocking the train tracks and wishing they could just shoot them all can make the reader wince when they realize that bison were nearly driven to extinction in just such a manner...

While a little dated and slow to start, "Around the World in 80 Days" is still an entertaining adventure story, and while today one can traverse the world in a much shorter time, this is still a fascinating look at how it was done in centuries' past. And it's certainly a LOT better than the Jackie Chan film...

Nern

A much enjoyed classic of Jules Verne. Though, I have found Butcher translations of Verne not the best version of translations. Butcher, in my opinion, does not 'hold true' to basic commonly used verbiage. He uses MANY words when he could have and should have used fewer. (In other words, he is long winded). Again, this is just my opinion on That topic. On the whole, a very very good book

Aradwyn

This is the original version with a few corrections in grammar or spelling.

I bought this to compare it to Michael Todd's movie of the same name. An informational video I had seen about the movie made some extravagant claims, so I bought this to check out those claims. Todd had wanted the cast as you see them because they fit Verne's description. The book proved that. Todd had wanted most everything that the book has (all of the story line). It does. Then on top of that, the story is truly wonderful. It is uplifting and fun at times, and harrowing and suspenseful at others. I was very pleased with this book. You will be too, especially if you've seen Michael Todd's production of this in his 1950s movie. Hell. Buy this book and buy the movie too. Both are delightfully entertaining!

Cordanara

I loved this book so much! Phileas Fogg makes a wager he can travel the world in 80 days. The book follows his journey, which is so fun. Along the way he travels by train, boat, elephant, and more. The dialogue is excellent, and the story is so fun!

I would recommend this book to pretty much everyone. It's a classic adventure story. Who doesn't love a good adventure? The plot is fast-paced, and the dialogue is well-written. The book is also very descriptive, which makes the journey seem very believable.

Phileas is such a great English hero. He never gets flustered or shows worry. He just does what he has to do to succeed. Passpartout, his servant, is a great character, too. He doesn't initially want to travel the world, but he quickly becomes very enthusiastic for the journey.

Qus

Not only does this book give us a vivid look at travel in 1870, it is character-driven. I'm so often disappointed by modern novels whose authors seem to have forgotten that you need more than a clever structure to keep a story moving along. In this book, I also love that a French author made his protagonist English, and while quirky, he has integrity and depth. A fabulous and fun adventure.

Anardred

Yes we do get some of Jules Verne constant obsession with pointing out where his actors are in regard to the world map, but not as bad as many (what 20,000 leagues under the Sea seemed to be nothing but endless Latitudes, Longitudes and depths) so we get a story that is a good read..need to point out there is no balloon ride in the book even if the cover and movie many times use that picture...

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