

# The Enotated Two Years Before the Mast: A Literary Journey



## The eNotated Two Years before the Mast by Chris Thomerson

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1758 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 1308 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Richard Henry Dana, Jr.'s *Two Years Before the Mast* is a classic of American literature, a vivid and harrowing account of a young man's two-year voyage around the world as a common sailor. First published in 1840, the book has captivated readers with its gripping narrative, evocative descriptions of life at sea, and insights into the social and economic conditions of the time.

The Enotated *Two Years Before the Mast*, published in 2011, is a definitive edition of this beloved work. Extensively annotated and illustrated, this edition provides a rich context for Dana's memoir, deepening our understanding of its literary, historical, and cultural significance.

## Literary Analysis

The Enotated *Two Years Before the Mast* offers a wealth of insights into the literary qualities of Dana's memoir. The annotations provide detailed commentary on the book's structure, style, and language, highlighting Dana's use of literary devices such as foreshadowing, symbolism, and irony. They also explore the book's themes, including the challenges of life at sea, the complexities of human nature, and the search for identity.

In addition to the annotations, the edition includes an by literary scholar Douglas Brinkley, which provides a comprehensive overview of the book's literary merits and its place in American literature. Brinkley discusses Dana's influences, his writing style, and the book's enduring legacy.

## **Historical Context**

The Enotated *Two Years Before the Mast* also provides a rich historical context for Dana's memoir. The annotations include detailed information on the ships Dana sailed on, the ports he visited, and the people he encountered. They also provide insights into the economic, social, and political conditions of the time, helping readers to understand the challenges and opportunities that Dana faced during his voyage.

The edition also includes a timeline of Dana's life and voyage, as well as a glossary of nautical terms. These resources help readers to place Dana's memoir in its historical context and to understand the complexities of life at sea in the 19th century.

## **Cultural Significance**

The Enotated *Two Years Before the Mast* also explores the cultural significance of Dana's memoir. The annotations provide insights into the ways in which the book has influenced American literature, art, and music.

They also discuss the book's role in shaping perceptions of the American West and the Pacific Ocean.

The edition also includes a selection of essays by scholars and writers who explore the book's impact on American culture. These essays provide a diverse range of perspectives on the book's meaning and its lasting legacy.

## Critical Reception

The Enotated *Two Years Before the Mast* has received widespread critical acclaim. Reviewers have praised the edition's comprehensive annotations, its rich historical context, and its insightful literary analysis. They have also noted the book's beautiful design and its high-quality illustrations.

The edition has been recognized with several awards, including the 2012 National Book Award for Nonfiction and the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for History.

The Enotated *Two Years Before the Mast* is a definitive edition of one of America's most beloved travel narratives. Extensively annotated and illustrated, this edition provides a rich context for Dana's memoir, deepening our understanding of its literary, historical, and cultural significance. It is a must-read for anyone interested in American literature, maritime history, or the American West.

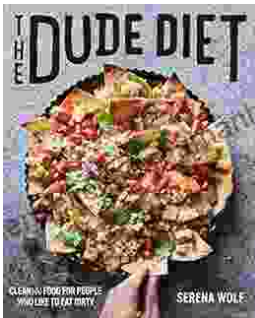


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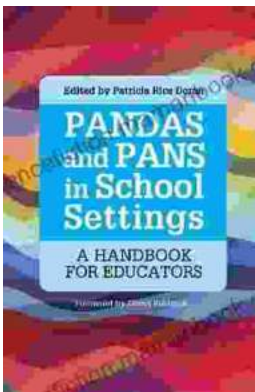
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