

The Journal of Etienne Mercier

David Bouchard Gordon Miller Illus.

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In March 1853, Etienne Mercier, a 28-year-old explorer and trapper, is hired by the Hudson Bay Co. to explore the Queen Charlotte Islands. Mercier sets out most enthusiastically on this voyage in a canoe with the additional hope of finding an old friend, Clement. The two had been separated the year before, in the same territory during bad weather. Mercier scripts a journal in mesmerizing detail of words, illustrations and lyrics. His deep respect for the land, water, wildlife and the Haida Indians is present throughout.

Author David Bouchard takes us on this unique and fascinating adventure not to be forgotten. The choice of specially aged paper lends an authentic appeal. Artist Gordon Miller brings the story to life with rich, detailed paintings of pristine beauty and breathtaking scenery only to be found on Canadian shores. As a tremendous bonus, Bouchard has included a CD in the back of the book. The sound of splashing waves, the cry of birds and songs of long ago truly take the reader back to a time forgotten. After listening to the story a time or two, one may find themselves humming the tunes or perhaps speaking a little French.

LISA SALISBURY (July / August 1998)

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