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COLIN WELLS

SAILING FROM BYZANTIUM: HOW A LOST EMPIRE SHAPED THE WORLD

A gripping intellectual adventure story, *Sailing from Byzantium* sweeps you from the deserts of Arabia to the dark forests of northern Russia, from the colorful towns of Renaissance Italy to the final moments of a millennial city under siege....

Byzantium: the successor of Greece and Rome, this magnificent empire bridged the ancient and modern worlds for more than a thousand years. Without Byzantium, the works of Homer and Herodotus, Plato and Aristotle, Sophocles and Aeschylus, would never have survived. Yet very few of us have any idea of the enormous debt we owe them.

In *Sailing from Byzantium*, Colin Wells tells of the missionaries, mystics, philosophers, and artists who against great odds and often at peril of their own lives spread Greek ideas to the Italians, the Arabs, and the Slavs. Their heroic efforts inspired the Renaissance, the golden age of Islamic learning, and Russian Orthodox Christianity, which came complete with a new alphabet, architecture, and one of the world's greatest artistic traditions.

Within a few decades, the light of Byzantium would be extinguished forever by the invading Turks, but not before the humanists found a safe haven for Greek literature. The controversy of rationalism versus faith would continue to be argued by some of history's greatest minds.

Fast-paced, compulsively readable, and filled with fascinating insights, *Sailing from Byzantium* is one of the great historical dramas—the gripping story of how the flame of civilization was saved and passed on.

Hardcover: July 28, 2006 Delacorte Press

PRAISE FOR *SAILING FROM BYZANTIUM*

"A superb survey of Byzantium's many cultural bequests.... In this deft synthesis of scholarship, classicist Wells shows how the Byzantines exerted a profound influence on all neighboring civilizations." —*Publisher's Weekly* ★ Starred Review

"This history is a needed reminder of the debt that three of our major civilizations owe to Byzantium. Highly recommended." —*Library Journal* ★ Starred Review

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



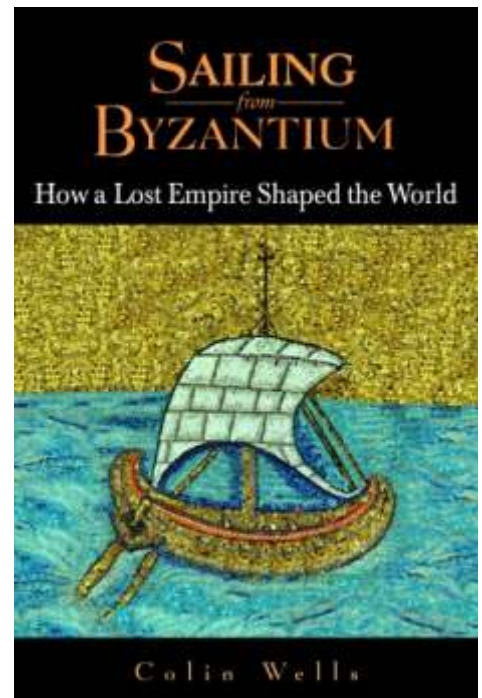
COLIN WELLS has studied with eminent Byzantinist Speros Vryonis Jr. at UCLA and holds an M.A. from Oxford University in Greats (Greek and Latin language and literature). He has written numerous articles on world history and culture for over a decade. He lives in upstate New York.

ABOUT THE NARRATOR



Winner of four AudioFile magazine Earphones awards **SEAN PRATT** has recorded over 200 audiobooks. Including many *New York Times* bestsellers such as *Heavier Than Heaven* and *The Red Badge of Courage* "(Pratt's) narration, is always true and affecting."—Audiofile Magazine

Library Journal ★ Starred Review
Publishers Weekly ★ Starred Review



Read by Sean Pratt

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CATEGORY: HISTORY

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