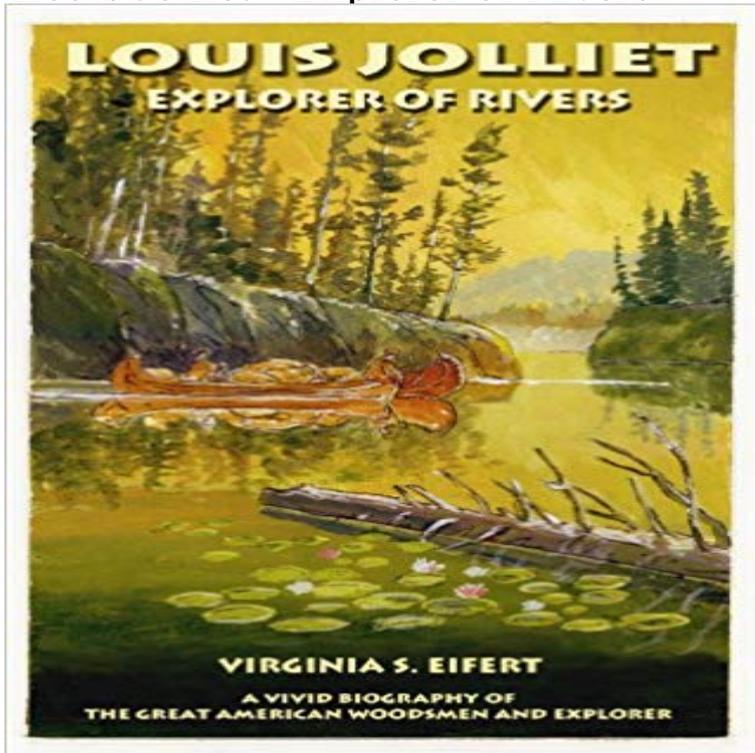


Louis Jolliet - Explorer of Rivers



This vivid 240-page biography of the great American woodsman and explorer, Louis Jolliet, is presented in the many aspects of his remarkable life, and skillfully told by the award-winning Mid-western author, Virginia S. Eifert. Two memorial collections of Eiferts work attest to the brilliance of her writing skills, and that is not lost in this book. It reads like a grand adventure, which in real life it certainly was. First published in 1961 and illustrated with maps of Jolliets world, it is now back in print here after the 50th anniversary of its first edition. Laying the foundation of his adventure-filled life, we see Jolliet first as a child in frontier Quebec during the 1600s, intent on joining the Jesuits, yet strongly drawn to the mysterious forests and the lure of the rivers and sea. We travel with him on his journeys to the western reaches of the American Great Lakes, later in his exploration of the upper tributaries and the main course of the Mississippi, and again into the north Canada tundra region. On all occasions, Jolliet was, if not THE first, then among the very earliest white explorers to see and write about these places. In a lifetime spent in this region, Jolliets unequalled familiarity with the St. Lawrence waterway and his accurate mapping of these important routes for navigation matches the life that Virginia Eifert lived as well. While Jolliet initially discovered many of these rivers, Eifert traveled 5,000 miles on towboats and riverboats passionately exploring the same region for her many books. She writes about all these places with skillful and sometimes rye commentary on the life and times of the 1600s in French America when Canada was a colony of France, but also about the wild nature that was America at the time. Jolliets last major voyage is also described in detail as he sailed along the uncharted Labrador coast, trading with the Eskimos, recording their language sounds in his journal and naming

newly discovered bays and islands. The explorers personal life receives full attention as well his happy marriage and his large family, his various commercial interests in minerals, trapping and fishing, and his association with many famous Canadians of his day, particularly the great Frontenac and even King Louis XIV in France. But it is with the supreme woodsman and map maker that this beautifully written book is chiefly interested in, and tells a good tale of America before it was a nation and Canada before it was a country. Hold on to your hat, take a canoe paddle in your hands and join Jolliet in a grand adventure.

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