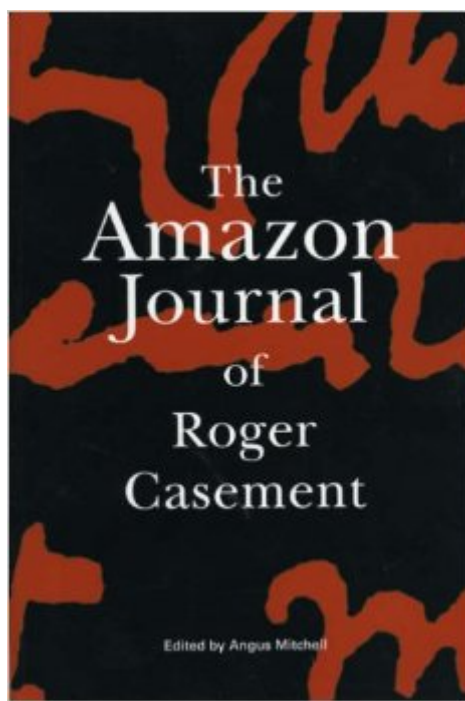


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The Journal Of Roger Casement



Synopsis

This text, derived from the manuscript in the National Library of Ireland, describes Roger Casement's journey into the South American rainforests to investigate atrocities against tribal people of the north-west. It follows Casement's transition from observer to anti-imperial revolutionary and Irish patriot, leading to his execution by the British in August 1916 after the failure of the Easter Rising.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Roger Casement, while consul in Rio de Janeiro for Britain, was asked to investigate human rights abuses by a British based company in the Putumayo river region of Peru. Casement was already by then a celebrated figure, having investigated human right abuse claims in the Congo under king Leopold of Belgium. Ultimately he would meet his fate at the hands of the British government, as an Irish revolutionary in WWI. He remains a famous and controversial figure in history. While in the , Roger Casement wrote a detailed diary of everything he saw, even before approaching the regio in question. He had a very inquisitive mind, as is clear by his descriptions of the people and places he saw. In the Putumayo region, he tirelessly interviewed a large number of people, which did indeed reveal a pattern of maltreatment beyond imagination. Indian rubber tappers were often killed or maimed for not reaching quotas, they were often whipped and imprisoned for the most minor offenses. There were attempts to hide the truth by locals, but he was quite insistent in his questioning, enough to outdo any attempts against his finding out the truth. As a result, the Peruvian Company, as the Company was known, was prosecuted in England, along with its directors, some of which were major figures in high society England at the time, as well as the infamous Julio Cesar Arana, the leader and mastermind of the company, who at the time was living in Manaus. The book

is very long and at times boring, as the author did not aim it at a leisure audience, but as an investigation. There are most certainly better descriptions of the Putumayo case, such as by Hardenburg, the first person to uncover to the outside world such abuses. If you are doing in depth research on this case, then the diary is a must. Otherwise, stick to a better storyteller than this one.

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