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The latest offering from noted naval historian and piracy scholar Marley (*Pirates and Privateers of the Americas; Pirates: Adventurers of the High Seas*) provides a comprehensive overview of the golden age and the inevitable decline of "rovers" in the Americas. Drawing on numerous primary sources and first-person accounts, this two-volume set is a rich, academic, and fascinating examination of infamous pirates such as Bartholomew Roberts, Captain Kidd, and Henry Morgan, as well as lesser-known "gentlemen of
fortune," including Kees the Devil, Rock Brasiliano, and Thomas Maggott. Not all of the more than 500-plus entries are privateer biographies; many examine those who hunted them, while still others define terms and concepts vital to understanding piracy during this period. Each entry concludes with a list of related topics and references, and many include illustrations and maps. Appendixes at the end of each volume include a substantial section containing primary-source documents in the form of letters, proclamations, and dispatches. With the volumes divided by date range—1650–1685 and 1686–1725—some of the entries are repeated. Those based on terms such as grenade or aviso vary with examples from the appropriate date range. The biographical entries, however, are often unaltered duplicates.

**BOTTOM LINE** This work compares well to the standard tome on the subject, Philip Gosse’s *The Pirates’ Who’s Who*. Marley, however, offers numerous illustrations, not to mention the appendixes. It’s not the illustrations, but the colorful personalities that make this title so much more than an account of destruction and murder. Entertaining and scholarly, this work is a treasure for all libraries and users of many stripes.—

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