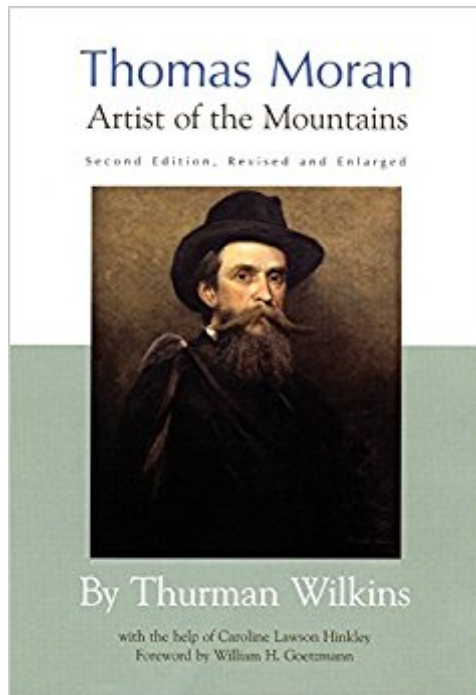




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# **Thomas Moran: Artist Of The Mountains**



## Synopsis

This extensively revised edition of Thurman Wilkins's masterful and engaging biography - well illustrated in color and black-and-white - draws on new information and recent scholarship to place Thomas Moran more securely in the milieu of the Gilded Age. It also portrays more fully the controversies that surrounded the art of Moran's time, as he became "the Dean of American Painters." The American West was the subject of Thomas Moran's greatest artistic triumphs - Yosemite, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, Zion Canyon, the Virgin River, Colorado's Mountain of the Holy Cross, and the Grand Tetons - but his travels with Ferdinand V. Hayden's geological surveys of the Upper Yellowstone were matched by trips to his native Britain and to Venice, Florida, the Spanish Southwest, and Old Mexico. These scenes inspired memorable landscapes and seascapes, as did the sojourns of the Moran family in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and East Hampton, Long Island, when they retreated from the demands of the New York art scene. In the 1880s Moran and his artist wife, Mary Nimmo Moran, also threw themselves into the etching craze of the period, creating some of the finest prints produced in the United States. Moran was an artist happy in his work. He wrote, "I have always held that the grandest, most beautiful, or wonderful in nature, would, in capable hands, make the grandest, most beautiful, or wonderful pictures." The New York Times said of the first edition of this unique account of his life, "Moran's mastery comes through clearly and awesomely and often, pleasurably." Readers will find the new edition equally enjoyable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Thurman Wilkins, Professor Emeritus of English of New York's Queens College, was also the author of widely acclaimed biographies of the geologist-surveyor Clarence King and the artist Thomas Moran. William H. Goetzmann is a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian who has authored and edited more than a dozen volumes. Before his retirement he was the Jack S. Blanton Chair in American Studies and History at the University of Texas, Austin.

This is a major biography for the serious art historian, student, or artist with a background in history. It greatly exceeded my expectations. The writing moves beautifully, and the reader gains an amazing breadth of the times and British and American culture that surrounded Moran. However, it is a deep book, requiring careful reading, as the author assumes that you know other artists well, like Turner, and can understand some obscure words, not commonly used in the 21st century. The author has included a huge bibliography, which is easy to follow. There are only 7 color plates, so one should read this along with a book which includes color plates, or a website, such as the [atheneum.org](http://atheneum.org). He often refers to paintings which are not pictured, and this would be frustrating to a reader who did not know Moran's work. The author's descriptions are in depth for many paintings which a regular reader would find distracting. If you are an artist or art historian, however, you would love the verified notes, and the completeness of the research, which will give you insights into your own areas of interest, be it American history or art. I would have loved to meet the author. He had vision and put together a complete biography with many insights. As a landscape painter, and Art Professor, I am in awe of both Moran, and now of the author Mr. Thurman Wilkins and those who assisted him. This would be enjoyed by a mature reader, who has also read early American history. It could be used by an upper division student in art history, or American studies or history for a thesis research, or by anyone who would enjoy the truly great story of Thomas Moran. His life would

make a fantastic movie: screen writers would LOVE this book. Poor immigrant, hard work, adventures by horse and canoe to unexplored vast wilderness, and of course, his role in the creation of the first National Park in the world, Yellowstone. His life is a movie waiting to be made. This would NOT be a good book for general reader, for a high school project, or for pictures, as most pictures are black and white, and the text is a dense 314 pages with over 100 pages in notes at the end. For a very interesting DVD, which explains Moran well, as well as his role in making Yellowstone a park, Drawn to Yellowstone DVD. I have shown it to college students, and it would also be good in sections for high school, or for any group. It was produced by PBS and available from . You may also like Artist of the West VHS by PBS, which cover Moran, Russell and Remington as artists and also available from .

GREAT book. The author is knowledgeable and communicates clearly, with an obvious personal enjoyment of the life and times of Moran. There is a trove of interesting information in every chapter... I turned to Google several times to follow up by exploring deeper into some of the people and events that the author touched upon to place Moran in context of his era. I love this book !

Incredibly thorough !

Great sale. Speedy delivery

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