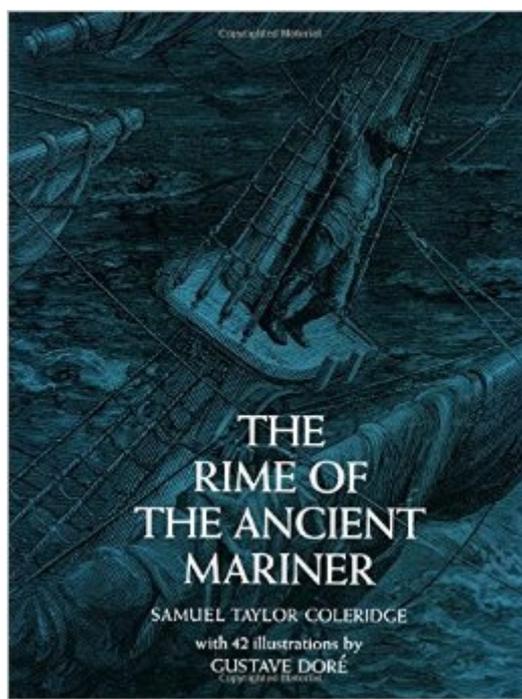


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# The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner



## Synopsis

Gustave Dore's magnificent engravings for *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* are among the later works of the great French illustrator. The intensely evocative poem provided Dore with the long-awaited opportunity to convey limitless space on a gigantic scale, and he exploited the poem's fantastic range of atmosphere to the limits of its possibilities. The terrifying space of the open sea, the storms and whirlpools of an unknown ocean, the vast icy caverns of Antarctica, the hot equatorial sea swarming with monsters, all of the amazing visual elements that make Coleridge's masterpiece one of the most exciting and most memorable poems in the English language are unforgettably engraved in Dore's plates. This edition reproduces all of the plates to perfection, in their original size. The illustrations and the text of the poem appear on facing pages, so that the imaginative kinship of Dore and Coleridge is delightfully evident on every page: the illustrations capture all the moods of the poem in their full intensity, bringing the images evoked by the words into clear visual focus. Unabridged and slightly rearranged republication of the 1878 American edition. Text slightly amended to conform to the authoritative 1834 edition of the poem.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This small volume is a treasure. In hardcover, the pages are silver, the dark blue typography is a beautiful old-style Roman, perhaps Garamond or Times, good-sized and leaded out for easy readability. And the illustrations are unsurpassed. First, the illustrator: Gustave Dore was born in 1832, sixty years after the birth of Coleridge. He died in 1883. Coleridge preceded him in death by 49 years. Coleridge was born in 1772 and died in 1834. Dore was born in Strasbourg, and was a

renowned illustrator who was doing lithographs at the age of thirteen. The fact that Dore was a near contemporary of Coleridge is important because we can be assured that the characters' costumes in his illustrations reflect the actual dress of the time Coleridge was describing. The ships also are correctly drawn and beautifully detailed. To say that his illustrations complement this classic epic poem is an understatement. As to the poet, some wag said once of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, that "a half-great poet had a wholly great day." I have also heard that Coleridge is supposed to have written his epic in one sitting, in a great burst of inspiration. I can't vouch for that, but it is truly a masterpiece--of that there can be no doubt. I recall trying to memorize it when I was in high school, about sixty years ago. I loved it then, and I still do now. For the price, this book is an absolute steal. No library is complete without this poem, and of all the renditions I've seen of it, this is by far the most beautiful.

I read and memorized portions of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* as a school boy. I thoroughly enjoyed my first reading and I still like it today. I only wish I had encountered these Dore illustrations years ago. This oversized edition by Dover Publications reproduces all 42 Dore engravings in their original size. Gustave Dore's illustrations are absolutely mesmerizing. I enjoy slowly turning the pages and examining the phenomenal detail in these famous Dore engravings. Every aspect of this edition is great. *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* is an imaginative, haunting, and captivating narrative poem that has no parallel in the English language. The engravings by Gustave Dore - the open and endless sea, the vast icy reaches of Antarctica, the calm tropical sea with monsters swirling about, and the dead seamen sprawled on the ship's deck all translate the evocative words of Coleridge into unforgettable images. And the introduction by Millicent Rose is excellent. Buy a copy. You won't be disappointed.

This review is just to point out that this edition is basically the same as the *The Dover Edition* with the following exceptions: 1. This edition is hardcover. 2. The Dore engravings are very slightly reduced in size in this edition. 3. This edition's introduction focuses mostly on Coleridge and the *Dover edition's* is all about Dore. 4. This edition has a few additional selections of Coleridge poetry at the end. These are nice and have engravings by a different artist. I bought this version just so I would have a hardcover copy but appreciate the additional material.

I bought this for *Christabel* and I'm glad I finally got a chance to read it. I found it to be a bit racier than I expected! A quick (non-racy) excerpt to peak your interest:-----Hush,

beating heart of Christabel! Jesu, Maria, shield her well! She folded her arms beneath her cloak, And stole to the other side of the oak. What sees she there?-----But of course The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is the star of this show. It is loaded with familiar lines, lines that take on real meaning in context of the overall poem. Best I can do is an excerpt:-----I closed my lids, and kept them close, And the balls like pulses beat; For the sky and the sea, and the sea and the sky Lay like a load on my weary eye, And the dead were at my feet. The cold sweat melted from their limbs, Nor rot nor reek did they: The look with which they looked at me Had never passed away. An orphan's curse would drag to hell A spirit from on high; But oh! more horrible than that is the curse in a dead man's eye!----- (And you thought that was from some pirate movie!) That is far from the most famous line in the poem, and if the poem is new to you, you may be surprised by familiar lines as you come across them. There are other poems in this volume with lines as memorable, if not as famous. There is quite a lot in this little volume and for \$2 it is a steal, especially if you qualify for free shipping!

This is an incredible book, a collaboration, really, featuring reproductions of the wood engravings that were created by Gustave Dore in 1875, inspired by this epic poem by Samuel Coleridge. (the editorial reviews are confusing, because they describe books by different artists) There are 42 magnificent illustrations, on 9 x 12 pages no less, for just six bucks and change. You won't find a better bargain here.

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