Afanasy Nikitin Encyclopedia Article

Afanasy Nikitin

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Afanasy Nikitin

fl. 1466-1472

Earliest known Russian visitor to India. During the period 1466-1472, Nikitin traveled south from his homeland, through the Indian subcontinent and Persia. His account of his travels, *Khozhdeniye za tri morya* (Journey Beyond Three Seas), became one of the early classics in the then-nascent Russian literary tradition. Known as the "Russian Marco Polo," Nikitin was celebrated with a monument in his hometown of Tver on the Volga River, as well as a commemorative coin issued by the Russian government in 1997.