

The Stolen Village: Baltimore and the Barbary Pirates

By Des Ekin

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In June 1631 pirates from Algiers and armed troops of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, led by the notorious pirate captain Morat Rais, stormed ashore at the little harbour village of Baltimore in West Cork. They captured almost all the villagers and bore them away to a life of slavery in North Africa. The prisoners were destined for a variety of fates -- some would live out their days chained to the oars as galley slaves, while others would spend long years in the scented seclusion of the harem or within the walls of the Sultan's palace. The old city of Algiers, with its narrow streets, intense heat and lively trade, was a melting pot where the villagers would join slaves and freemen of many nationalities. Only two of them ever saw Ireland again.

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The Stolen Village: Baltimore and the Barbary Pirates By Des Ekin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1051076 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2008-12-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.70" h x 1.40" w x 5.10" l, .89 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 488 pages

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Review
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About the Author
Des Ekin is a journalist and the author of four books. Born in County Down, Northern Ireland, he began his career as a reporter. After spending several years covering the Ulster Troubles, he rose to become Deputy Editor of the Belfast Sunday News before moving to his current home in Dublin. He worked as a journalist, columnist, Assistant Editor and finally Political Correspondent for The Sunday World until 2012. His book The Stolen Village (2006) was shortlisted for the Argosy Irish Nonfiction Book of the Year and for Book of the Decade in the Bord Gais Energy Irish Book Awards 2010. He is married with a son and two daughters

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