

Eothen: Traces of Travel Brought Home from the East

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Reviews

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(Dr. Reta Murphy)

EOTHEN: TRACES OF TRAVEL BROUGHT HOME FROM THE EAST



Dover Publications Inc., United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 203 x 125 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. My favorite travel book. Sparkling, ironic, and terrific fun. -- Jan Morris Eothen (From the East) recaptures a bold young Englishman s exploits in the Middle East during the 1830s. Alexander William Kinglake recounts his rambles through the Balkans, Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt in a style radically different from other travel books of his era. Rather than dwelling on art or monuments, Kinglake s captivating narrative focuses on the natives and their cities. His adventures ? populated by Bedouins, pashas, slave-traders, monks, pilgrims, and other colorfully drawn personalities ? include crossing the desolate Sinai with a four-camel caravan and a sojourn in plague-ridden Cairo. A contemporary of Gladstone at Eton and of Tennyson and Thackeray at Cambridge, Kinglake offers a frankly imperialistic worldview. As I felt so have I written, he declares in his preface, and his forthright expressions of his thoughts and impressions range in mood from confessional, to comic, to serious, to romantic. Victorian readers were captivated by Kinglake s chatty tone and his uncompromising honesty, and two centuries later this remarkable travelogue remains funny, fresh, and original.

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