

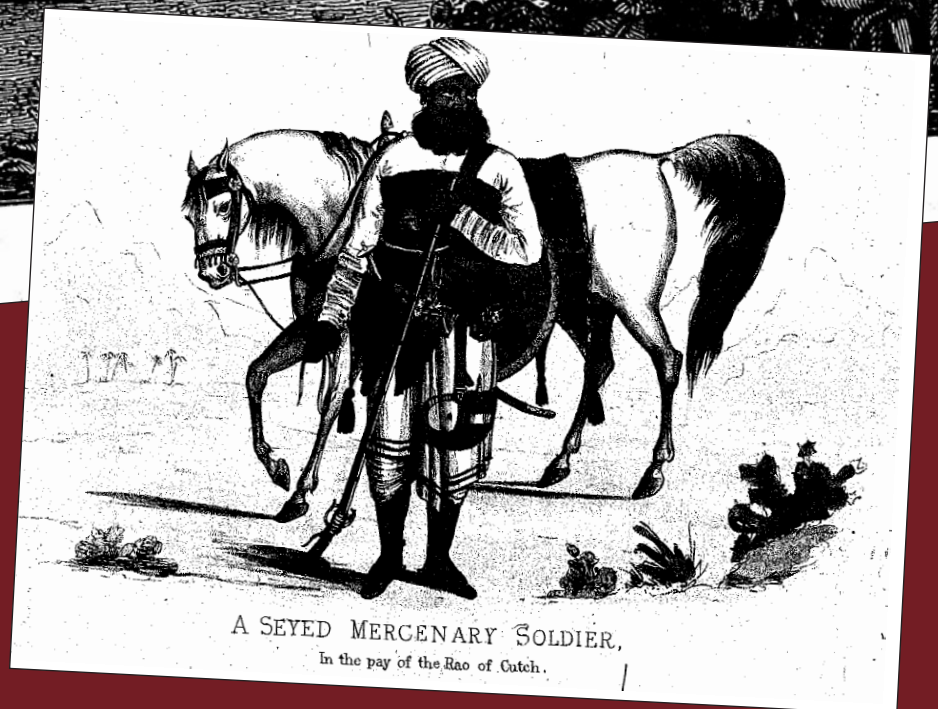
Colonial Discourses

Series One: Women, Travel & Empire

Part 1: Early travel accounts by women

Parts 2 & 3: Women and 'the Orient'

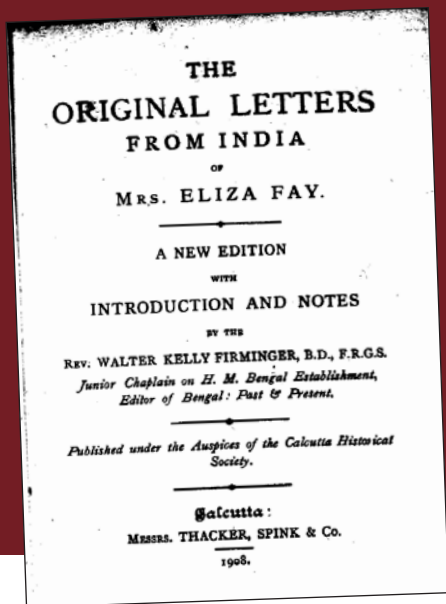
Part 4: Women, the Americas and world travel



A SEYED MERCENARY SOLDIER,
In the pay of the Rao of Cutch.



Adam Matthew Publications



“ In coming to this place, we were in great peril... the bar of the Nile is exceedingly dangerous. Fourteen persons were lost there the day before we crossed it. Our only alternative to this hazardous passage was crossing a desert notorious for the robberies and murders committed on it... The night after, we were alarmed by perceiving a boat making after us, as the people said, to plunder and, perhaps, to murder us. At length, thank God, we outsailed them; and nothing of the kind occurred again during our stay on board; though we passed several villages said to be inhabited entirely by thieves.”

Eliza Fay, 1817



Fanny Kemble

This collection facilitates the exploration of themes such as:

- The development of women's travel literature, 1662–1914
- The evolution of a female aesthetic sensibility
- Travel as a form of escape from traditional gender roles
- The ideology of Empire
- Issues of identity: contrasts between imperial settlers and first and second generation 'colonials' who begin to develop a new national consciousness
- Narratives of Empire and Anti-Empire
- Gender and colonialism

Part 1: Early travel accounts by women, and women's experiences in India, Africa, Australasia and Canada brings together 121 rare printed volumes by 51 women writers.

Eliza Fay (1756-1816) left England for India in 1779. Her *Original Letters from India* (1817) describes her journey, depicting her views of suttee and her imprisonment in Calicut, her legal separation from her husband, and her many schemes to make money and survive. Mary French Sheldon's *Sultan to Sultan, adventures among the Masai and other tribes of East Africa* (1892) shows the tenacity of women explorers. This 41-year-old American punted around lakes in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro and braved primeval forests witnessing incredible sights. More writers

include Mary Kingsley, Flora Annie Steel, Maria Callcott and Charlotte Marie Tucker.

Parts 2 & 3, Women and 'the Orient', feature women travellers' experiences in the Middle East, India, China and Japan. For instance, how did women's views conflict with those of their male counterparts who were often imperial agents? How did women view local customs? Was the veil a liberating device? Were harems dens of iniquity or places of refuge?

Writers include archaeologists, explorers, missionaries, novelists and tourists. Some were travelling in the company of their fathers or husbands, some chose to travel alone. Titles include *Chow Chow: Being selections from a journal kept in India, Egypt and Syria* (1857) by Amelia Cary and *Behind the Veil in Persia and Turkish Arabia* (1909) by ME Hume-Griffith.

Part 4: Women, the Americas and world travel looks at women's travels to the Americas and on round-the-world voyages. Frances Trollope, Fanny Kemble and Isabella Bird are perhaps the best known women travellers who have left records of their journeys to the Americas - but there are dozens of equally insightful, but lesser known works and these are reproduced here.

Women travelled for many reasons. Frances Trollope (1780-1863), mother of Anthony, set off for America at the age of 48 to find a fortune. Her commercial ventures in America didn't prosper, but her writing did. Isabella Bird

(1831-1904) travelled on doctor's orders. She suffered back pains and insomnia, and she was advised that a sea voyage and a 'change of air' would restore her health. For the next thirty years she scarcely had time to unpack, visiting Canada, Japan, China, Korea, Tibet, Russia, Persia, Australia, New Zealand, India, Malaysia, and many other places, writing bestselling tales of her adventures.

COLONIAL DISCOURSES Series One

Part 1: Early Travel Accounts by Women, and women's experiences in India, Africa, Australasia and Canada
25 reels plus guide • Available

Part 2: Women and 'the Orient'
25 reels • Available

Part 3: Women and 'the Orient'
26 reels • Available

Part 4: Women, the Americas and World Travel
25 reels • Forthcoming

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