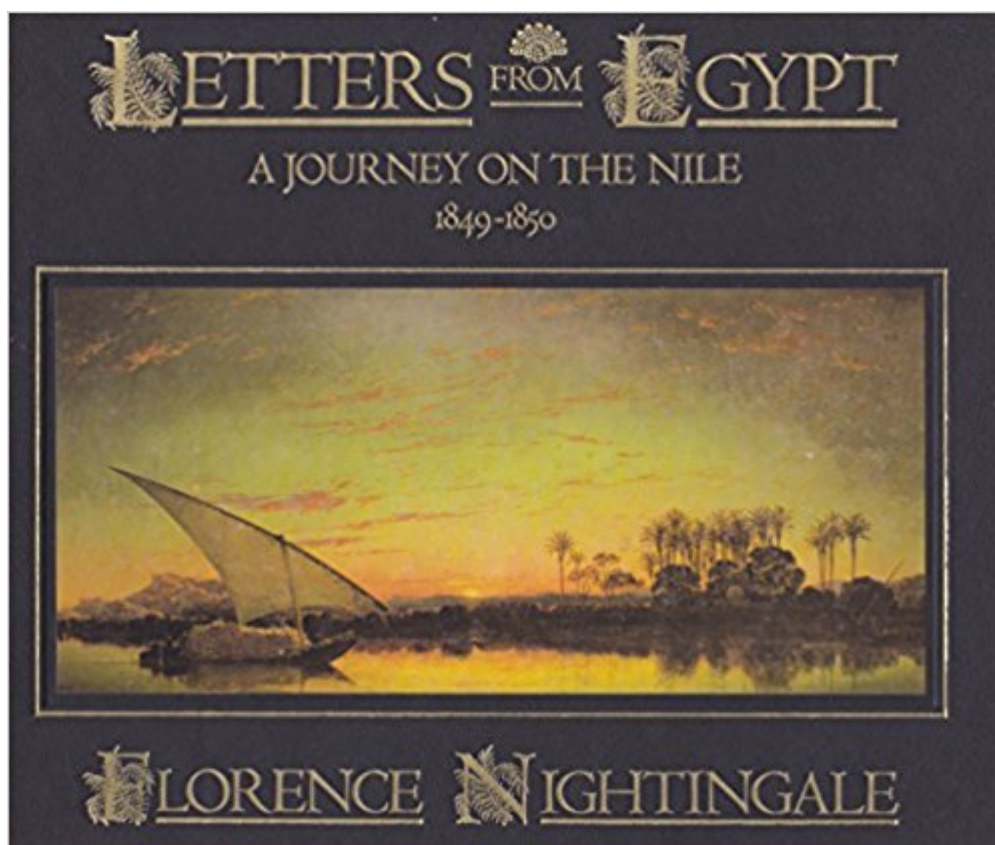


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# Letters From Egypt: A Journey On The Nile, 1849-1850



## Synopsis

Letters from Egypt: A Journey on the Nile, 1849-1850 223 pp. "Yes, my dear people, I have set my first footfall in the East, and oh! that I could tell you the new world of old poetry, of Bible images, of light, and life, and beauty which that word opens." Florence Nightingale was twenty-nine when she visited Egypt in the winter of 1849-50 with her friends Charles and Selina Bracebridge. A journey to the fabled land of the Arabian Nights was a fantastic adventure at that time, and Florence wrote long, picturesque letters to her family describing her visit and her views of the country, its history and its people. These letters were edited and privately printed by her sister, Parthenope, in 1854 and were greatly admired by those who read them, but they have never before been published. Attractive, intelligent and extremely well read, Miss Nightingale was one of the earliest women to make such a journey, and she researched her subject well. Her letters are a fascinating account of life in a country whose greatest asset, its past, had only recently been discovered. They are also a valuable record of a way of life that has now vanished. And they are an extraordinary account into the character of a woman who within five years was to become a legend. The brilliant landscapes and unimaginable colors of Egypt also drew artists from all over Europe, and Letters from Egypt is illustrated throughout with the glorious paintings and lithographs of David Roberts, Theodore Frere, Edward Lear and others." Keywords: FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE LETTERS FROM EGYPT TRAVEL NILE

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nightingale, well known for her dedication to and reform of nursing, was also a prolific letter writer.

In November 1849 she spent five months sailing from Alexandria to Abu Simbel and back. On that journey she wrote many letters to her family in England, vividly and in great detail describing the ruins, the environment, the lives of the people, and the politics of Egypt. The letters were "circulated" by her sister in 1854 and are now published for the first time. Many sketches and colored paintings of 19th-century Egypt appropriately illustrate the narrative. A visually and intellectually satisfying book recommended to academic and large public libraries. Kathleen Farago, Lakewood P.L., Ohio Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Yes, my dear people, I have set my first footfall in the East, and oh! that I could tell you the new world of old poetry, of Bible images, of light, and life, and beauty which that word opens." Florence Nightingale was twenty-nine when she visited Egypt in the winter of 1849-50 with her friends Charles and Selina Bracebridge. A journey to the fabled land of the Arabian Nights was a fantastic adventure at that time, and Florence wrote long, picturesque letters to her family describing her visit and her views of the country, its history and its people. These letters were edited and privately printed by her sister, Parthenope, in 1854 and were greatly admired by those who read them, but they have never before been published. Attractive, intelligent and extremely well read, Miss Nightingale was one of the earliest women to make such a journey, and she researched her subject well. Her letters are a fascinating account of life in a country whose greatest asset, its past, had only recently been discovered. They are also a valuable record of a way of life that has now vanished. And they are an extraordinary account into the character of a woman who within five years was to become a legend. The brilliant landscapes and unimaginable colors of Egypt also drew artists from all over Europe, and *Letters from Egypt* is illustrated throughout with the glorious paintings and lithographs of David Roberts, Theodore Frere, Edward Lear and others. Anthony Sattin, who has an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia, is a writer and journalist who lives in London. He discovered and edited *An Englishwoman in India: Memoirs of Harriet Tyler*, published in 1986, and among his other published works are *Lifting the Veil: The British in Egypt 1768-1956*, and *The Pharaoh's Shadow*, which discusses how ancient Egyptian practices have influenced modern customs in that country. He has also written travel guidebooks to Egypt and the Greek Islands for AAA Essential Guides and Fodor's with his wife Sylvie Franquet. He is a regular contributor to the travel and book sections of *The Sunday Times* (London). --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I often imagine what it must have been like to explore Egypt before life became as it is today in that

area of the world. Florence Nightingale's diaries of her travels down the Nile in this book make the imagining come to life. She was very young when she wrote this book, yet thoroughly researched the thousands of years of Egyptian history which she articulately shares in her diary entries, along with her often humorous personal critiques about the people and architecture. This is a wonderful escape book written by a very intelligent woman.

After reading 'Down the Nile' which had many quotes from this amazing compilation of letters from Florence Nightingale which always begin 'my Dear People', I was amazed at her life. This was a young woman who was highly educated & wrote beautifully & honestly about what she saw. She spent 3 months traveling with a married couple on the Nile. Not on a luxury boat but in a dahabieh which would enable them to go thru the cataracts. The editor of this fine book has included many of the art works that she mentions. These are beautiful color pictures portraying Egypt & its people at approximately the time she lived. Florence was not one to just 'look'. She rode a donkey to many of the tombs & places of interest & then scrambled up & thru the tombs, often on her belly. She & her friend vowed that they would not take a European carriage on the streets of Cairo.....they wanted to see the real Cairo & the people....so they walked or rode a donkey. She put up with fleas, mosquitoes & even learned to not swat flies as it was a useless endeavor! Yes, she was quite religious but I thought she spoke only truthfully about the religions.....Muslim & Coptic....& sometimes giving her opinion that in some ways they performed better than Christian religions. I was quite surprised at this as it takes an open & inquisitive mind to not be dogmatic about one's own religion. It was the height of popularity to 'do Egypt' but I doubt any traveler spent as much time as she did preparing to go. She spent 3 months studying prior & mentioned that she had already taken a flat for 6 months in London to study Egypt when she returned. This was a time when young girls with money spent their time frivolously traveling with one's own people of status. It was evident that she had greater plans for her life. Her writing is as beautifully descriptive as any I have read. And her knowledge of subject matter is amazing. She was very lucky to have traveled in this time period. They visited many tombs & just walked in! I have researched some of these on my iPad to see them as she traveled along....many have iron gates barring the entries now. She climbed all of the pyramids arriving at the top before her companions. I would have greatly enjoyed being her traveling companion...my kind of woman! After reading this I have ordered her 'Letters From the Crimea' as I know I will feel like I am with her on the next evolution of her life.

Extremely interesting if you are interested in this era and part of history. I found it an easy read and

learned a great deal. The prints are stunning as well.

Gorgeous illustrations and writing

Very impressive insight from 1850 of Egypt. Great read. Loved it.

perfect, thank you

Love this book and the drawings.

Dated point of view, but very interesting from an historical perspective and I found the impressions of foreign perspective refreshing. I would have liked the author.

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