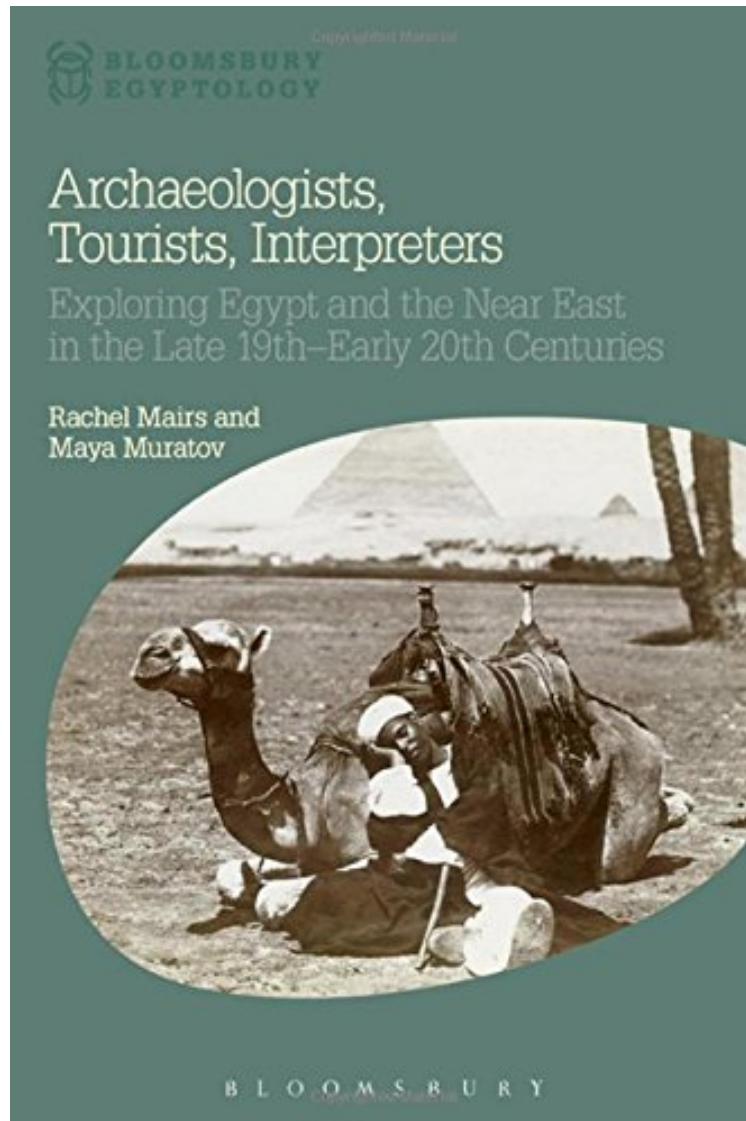


[Download] Archaeologists, Tourists, Interpreters: Exploring Egypt and the Near East in the Late 19thEarly 20th Centuries (Bloomsbury Egyptology)

Archaeologists, Tourists, Interpreters: Exploring Egypt and the Near East in the Late 19thEarly 20th Centuries (Bloomsbury Egyptology)

Rachel Mairs, Maya Muratov
*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2983022 in Books 2015-09-24 2015-09-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .36 x .34 x 6.221, .56 #File Name: 1472588800160 pages | File size: 50.Mb

Rachel Mairs, Maya Muratov : Archaeologists, Tourists, Interpreters: Exploring Egypt and the Near East in the Late 19thEarly 20th Centuries (Bloomsbury Egyptology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Archaeologists, Tourists, Interpreters: Exploring Egypt and the Near East in

the Late 19th/Early 20th Centuries (Bloomsbury Egyptology):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. scholarly but perhaps limited. By jellymoon I enjoyed the discussion of the function and idiosyncratic nature of the so-called dragoman - the Egyptian translator-guides variously employed by the archaeologists (at least until they taught themselves enough Arabic to be rid of them) and tourists (who experienced the same not necessarily contrived but certainly limited perspective of a culture as anyone utilizing an adventure travel guide of today). I found it a little skimpy on exposition - that is, I expected more revealing scholarship. There's much here about the confusion of tongues, so to say. But in general the authors are somewhat apologetic regarding lean nature of the publication. In their own words: "This book, which derives from our ongoing project on the social roles of interpreters in antiquity, is by no means an exhaustive study of language mediation, and the role of the dragoman, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It offers, we hope, some limited insight into the linguistic and cultural gaps between visitors and locals in Egypt and the Near East, and the intermediaries through which these were (sometimes) bridged (134)."

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, growing numbers of tourists and scholars from Europe and America, fascinated by new discoveries, visited the Near East and Egypt attracted by the riches and mysteries of the Land of the Bible. Almost all such visitors, no matter how esoteric or academic their pursuits, had to deal with the local authorities and the native workforce for their archaeological excavations. The vast majority of these visitors had to rely on interpreters, dragomans, translators and local guides. This study, based on published and unpublished travel memoirs, guidebooks, personal papers and archaeological reports of the British and American archaeologists, deals with the socio-political status and multi-faceted role of interpreters at the time. Those bi- or multi-lingual individuals frequently took on (or were forced to take on) much more than just interpreting. They often played the role of go-betweens, servants, bodyguards, pimps, diplomats, spies, messengers, managers and overseers, and had to mediate, scheme and often improvise, whether in an official or unofficial capacity. For the most part denied due credit and recognition, these interpreters are finally here given a new voice. An engrossing story emerges of how through their many and varied actions and roles, they had a crucial part to play in the introduction to Britain and America of these mysterious past cultures and civilizations.

This book is a fascinating read from beginning to end. It comes at a time when a post-colonial approach has finally begun to be applied to early archaeological work and not only to non-professional travellers. This new interest, however, has never taken the linguistic issue into account, and thus this book comes to complement the work of scholars engaging with early archaeological colonialism. (Arietta Papaconstantinou, Associate Professor, University of Reading, UK) This interesting and accessible book presents both new and little-known information on the social history of dragomans and interpreters in Egypt and Mesopotamia in the late 19th to early 20th centuries and casts light on and the Anglo-American aversion to learning Arabic and Turkish that made them necessary. Mairs and Muratov excavate new archival sources: a diary and curated testimonial book to discover the voice and agency of two individuals who shaped westerners' experience of the Holy Lands, thereby rescuing them from the anonymity of a client-based perspective. (Susan Heuck Allen, Visiting Scholar, Department of Classics, Brown University, USA) About the Author Rachel Mairs is Lecturer in Classics at the University of Reading, UK. Maya Muratov is Assistant Professor of Art History at Adelphi University, USA.