



Edith Wharton Abroad: Selected Travel Writings, 1888-1920

From St. Martin's Griffin

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In EDITH WHARTON ABROAD, Sarah Bird Wright has carefully chosen selections from Edith Wharton's travel writing that convey the writer's control of her craft. Wharton disliked the generality of guidebooks and focused instead on the "parentheses of travel" - the undiscovered hidden corners of Europe, Morocco, and the Mediterranean. This collection spans a period of three decades and takes the reader with Wharton from France to Italy and to Greece. Included is an excerpt from her unpublished memoir, THE CRUISE OF THE VANDIS, as well as front line depictions of Lorraine and the Vosges during World War I.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Edith Wharton was one who gave leisure and education a good name. Writing lucidly, charmingly, and intelligently of cruising the Greek isles, staying in Italian villas, and visiting a sultan's palace in Morocco, she sets a civilized pace and tone. In *Italian Backgrounds*, Wharton asks, "Is it, in short, ever well to be elsewhere when one might be in Italy?" To which I reply, is it ever well to be reading someone else when one might be reading Edith Wharton?

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American novelist Wharton and her pal, American expatriate novelist Henry James, both traveled widely and wrote exquisitely about it. James' travel writing has been excerpted as well as gathered whole in lots of places; Wharton's, however, isn't so easily tracked down. This helpful anthology is a sampling of her seven travel works written over a 30-year period, all of which live up to editor Wright's assertion that "Wharton's genius as novelist and travel writer lay in seeing her subject clearly and having at hand the words to express what she saw." From France to Italy to Morocco to a Mediterranean cruise, Wharton came, saw, and conquered with brilliantly evocative prose. The book will have most appeal to the travel enthusiast who also claims a love of literature. *Brad Hooper*

About the Author

Edith Wharton (1862-1937) was one of America's greatest writers. The author of more than forty books, including *The Age of Innocence*, Wharton was the first woman awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Yale University, and full membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Wharton was the principal designer of her 1902 country home The Mount in Lenox, Mass. The Mount's elegant house and gardens reflect the neoclassical design principles that she espoused in her works *The Decoration of Houses* and *Italian Villas and Their Gardens*.

Sarah Bird Wright is an independent scholar.

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