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Parry had accompanied Sherley for the entire trip, which enabled him to claim the status of an eye-witness account for his short book. When Parry designates his account as "New and Large", he is suggesting that his New and Large Discourse surpasses the earlier rival A True Report in both scope and novelty. Sherley was born to a wealthy landed family. Dissatisfied with the life of a scholar and lawyer, he was drawn to the more adventurous careers in the military and diplomacy. He initially fought with English regiments against Spain in several European campaigns. He managed to anger Elizabeth further by entering into a marriage of which she disapproved. When the union itself proved unhappy, he embarked on a string of ambitious if risky ventures. This undertaking failed and Sherley returned to England virtually bankrupt. When he discovered that this conflict had already resolved itself, Sherley continued to Venice, where he paused and planned out his next move. It seems that he converted to Catholicism at this point. He accumulated increasing debt and devolved into offering his services as a spy to various governments. He later managed to reinstate himself into more official diplomatic posts for the Holy Roman Empire in Morocco and for Spain in the Eastern Mediterranean but his propensity for incurring debts and overstepping the boundaries of his mandates led to his being recalled both times. After multiple failed attempts to hatch plots against his many enemies with the Jesuits, he died in poverty in Spain. Two of his brothers Robert and Thomas were also adventurers of some note and Robert accompanied him on the Persian trip. The title page of A New and Large Discourse provides all the extant facts about him: Parry was clearly beholden and subordinated to Sherley. On the whole, the authorial voice which emerges from the narrative is that of a skilled and dedicated advocate of Anthony Sherley as well as a sharp observer of foreign lands and their inhabitants, who is eager to share his experiences with his compatriots back at home. Parry prefaces his account of the journey with a bold claim for its authenticity: Parry likens the incredulous reader who will doubt the authenticity of his narrative to someone confined to a cave or a dungeon from birth and so unable to envisage the wonders of nature existing outside. If this person will read his narrative, he or she will be like a lifelong cave-dweller who is magically transported to a scenic location, such as the top of a mountain on a sunny day, or even more dramatically, to heaven. The narrative is organized chronologically. Parry includes all the cities, islands, and rivers which they see or stop at along the way but focuses on providing detailed descriptions only of the more exotic countries they pass through. At that point in the account, Parry frequently incorporates short informative vignettes on issues such as Persian economy, trade, family structure, diet, fashion, architecture, and religious practices, which together provide a cursory but engaging overview of late sixteenth-century Safavid Persia from a western perspective. To bring the narrative closer to home for his readers, Parry frequently offers English analogues for things he is describing: One instance in which the challenges posed by cultural intermediation begin to emerge occurs when Parry mentions the ban on non-Muslims entering Mosques: Sherley himself knew little or no Persian or Arabic. This is the case with his depictions of the local markets, dress, food, and buildings. He figures out that Christ plays a role in the Islamic eschatology but claims erroneously that Muslims fear that he will come back and convert them all to Christianity. Similarly, he does pick up on the divide between Sunni and Shia Islam but the details largely elude him: He also rather surprisingly claims that the Persians are an unlearned nation devoid of a scholarly tradition and libraries even though several Persians scholars and their works were known to early modern Europe. One can imagine that Parry came to this conclusion because he did not encounter any scholars, books, or libraries in or around Isfahan and could not or did not inquire what the situation was beyond what he had immediate access to. The account advocates for closer ties between Europe and Persia as well as for a military alliance between Europe and Persia against the Ottoman Turks. In the end, the envisaged large-scale shifting of alliances did not occur because the European monarchs did not see the proposed

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partnering up with Persia as particularly feasible or advantageous. Pain Collier in and it was reedited and published in modern spelling in E. Libraries holding a copy of the original edition include: Cornell University Press, Oxford University Press, [accessed 29 Aug Sir Anthony Sherley and his Persian Adventure. Iran under the Safavids. Cambridge University Press, Telling True Tales of Islamic Lands: Forms of Mediation in English Travel Writing, Susquehanna University Press, Rhetoric and Wonder in English Travel Writing, â€”

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Chapter 2 : A New and Large Discourse on the Travels of Sir Anthony Sherley

As well as including Sherley's own account of his journey into Persia in , this valuable edition includes the main works dealing with Anthony Sherley and his life.

Anthony Jenkinson of the Muscovy Co. Their reports were published at the end of the century by R. Books by Thomas Herbert and John Fryer are the most impressive of these early travelogues. Fryer, an East India Co. Because of political turmoil in Persia during much of the 18th century, British and other travelers were few. Earlier in the century two Scots in the employ of the Russians under Peter the Great had visited Persia and later wrote about their experiences: Three other members of the East India Co. George Forster, who traveled from India overland to England in ; William Francklin, who was in Shiraz in ; and Scott Waring, who spent some months in and around Shiraz in , when he made a serious study of the Persians, their government, poets, etc. Many more British wrote about their travels in Persia during the first half of the 19th century: Macdonald, Wilbraham and of exploratory expeditions Ainsworth. There were a number of adventurous individuals who, for one reason or another, traveled in Persia at this time: Money, a religiously-minded servant of the East India Co. Armstrong, traveling together, who reached Tehran shortly after the murder of the Russian ambassador Alexander Griboedov q. Stocqueler Joachim Hayward Siddons , an observant journalist from Calcutta, who wrote at length about his travels. Also in these years a number of pioneering Christian missionaries visited Persia: Many of these author-travelers were well versed in ancient Persian history and through their books contributed much new information about a country then little known in Europe. Fraser was the first European to write authoritatively about the Turkmen and Kurdish tribes, as did Austin H. Improved communications and expanding interests brought many British residents as well as travelers to Persia in the years Wolff, Gordon, Nevill, C. Macgregor, and Arnold Savage Landor contain much useful information. Lady Sheil, the observant wife of the British minister Austin Sheil to Persia, was the first woman to write about the country in a perceptive book about her stay there in the years It was not until that another lady, namely Isabella Bird q. Bishop, went into print. Clara Rice, another missionary-wife, combines both travelogue and memoir in her perceptive book on Persian women. British military intervention in Persia during the war resulted in a number of memoirs by officers about their time there, Latham S. Dickson, Martin Donohoe, Reginald E. Dunsterville, Alfred Rawlinson, Francis C. During the inter-war years, , most travelers abandoned the horse and mule for the hardy Model-T Ford, among them Ronald Sinclair, alias Teague-Jones, who was forced to change his name and disappear for fear of the Bolshevik death squads. The most interesting travelogues and letters of this period are those of Freya Stark, the irreverent art-historian Robert Byron, and the archaeologist Aurel Stein. A number of other intrepid women wrote about their travels during these years, including Mrs. Both Harold Macmillan, the future conservative prime minister, and David Owen, labor foreign secretary , write about Anglo-Persian relations. Despite the difficulties in obtaining entry visas after the establishment of the Islamic Republic, Christina Dodwell and William Dalrymple, an Oxford undergraduate, succeeded in visting Persia and writing about their experiences there, as did John Simpson of BBC. The journalist and a long time resident in Persia, Roger Cooper, has also written an intriguing account of his trial in Tehran followed by five years in the notorious Evin Prison. Idem, *The River Karun: An Opening to British Commerce*, London, Anderson, *My Wanderings in Persia*, London, Arthur Arnold, *Through Persia by Caravan*, 2 vols. Valentine Baker, *Clouds in the East*: John Bell, *Travels from St. Petersburg in Russia to Diverse Parts of Asia*, 2 vols. William Brittlebank, *Persia during the Famine*, London, Buckingham, *Travels in Assyria, Media and Persia*. Alexander Burnes, *Travels into Bokhara*, 3 vols. Boies Penrose, Philadelphia, Swainson Cowper, *Through Turkish Arabia: A Quest*, London, A Journey through Persia, London, Ernest Ayscoghe Floyer, *Unexplored Baluchistan*: Fowle, *Travels in the Middle East*: Fraser, *The Marches of Hindustan*: Idem, *Persia and Turkey in Revolt*, Edinburgh, With *Travels through Various Parts of Persia*, 2 vols. Idem, *Travels in Koordistan, Mesopotamia, etc.* Freville, *Bridge of the Maiden*, London, Grattan Geary, *Through Asiatic Turkey: Narrative*

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of a Journey from Bombay to the Bosphorus, 2 vols. Gibbs, Crescent in Shadow, London, Frederic John Goldsmid, Telegraph and Travel: Groves, Journal of Mr. Foster as Travels in Persia, , London, Hubbard, From the Gulf to Ararat: An Expedition through Mesopotamia and Kurdistan, Edinburgh, Cecil Keeling, Pictures from Persia, London, Low, The Land of the Sun. Sketches of Travel, London, Frontier of Afghanistan in , 2 vols. John Malcolm, Sketches of Persia, 2 vols. Onera Amelia Merritt-Hawkes, Persia: Romance and Reality, London, Travels and Adventures East of the Caspian during the Years , 2 vols. Parsons, Travels in Asia and Africa, ed. Pottinger, Travels in Baloochistan and Sinde, London, Gerald Reitlinger, A Tower of Skulls: Fred Richards, A Persian Journey. Rodger, Desert Journey, London, Edward Denison Ross, ed. Rodkin Sarell , Unveiled Iran, London, Idem, The Three Brothers: Teague-Jones , Adventures in Persia: To India by the Back Door, London, Sacheverell Sitwell, Arabesque and Honeycomb, London, Somerville-Large, Caviar Coast, London, Edward Stack, Six Months in Persia, 2 vols. Idem, Beyond Euphrates, London, Stewart, Through Persia in Disguise, ed. Denison Ross, London, Stuart, The Struggle for Persia, London, Tate, The Frontiers of Baluchistan: Travels on the Borders of Persia and Afghanistan, London, Tweedy, Cairo to Persia and Back, London, Ure, The Trail of Tamerlane, London, Willey, The Castles of the Assassins, London, Williams, Across Persia, London, Idem, Narrative of a Mission to Bokhara in the Years , 2 vols. Idem, Travels and Adventures of the Rev. Digby Barker, Letters from Persia and India, Lady Barker, London, Gertrude Lowthian Bell, Safar Nameh. Persian Pictures, London,

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Shirley wrote an account of his adventures, Sir Anthony Sherley: his Relation of his Travels into Persia (), the original manuscript of which is in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. There are in existence five or more accounts of Shirley's adventures in Persia, and the account of his expedition in is published in Richard Hakluyt 's.

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