

The Role of New Scientific Discoveries and Enlightenment in Enhancing the Victorian Travelers' Interest in the Middle East

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The Role of New Scientific Discoveries and Enlightenment in Enhancing the Victorian Travelers' Interest in the Middle East Abstract

This research is divided into three parts: introduction and the main plot under the title of the *Victorian Expeditions* and a conclusion.

The aim of this research is to discuss in detail the scientific motives that stood behind the Victorian travelers' journeys to the East, particularly the Arab world or the heart-land of Islam to these Europeans. We shall notice that this land had ever been the myth they were trying to penetrate into, in hope of gaining new knowledge and information about the exotic land and its people. The Victorian travelers felt, as we shall read, an irresistible

desire to explore the ruins of Arabia from which they intended to acquire historical knowledge.

We shall notice that these Victorian travelers included the scientist and scholar, the missionary and trader, the politician and the soldier, all had their particular interest in the Arab world. The research does not ignore that many Victorian travelers were commissioned by so highly educational enterprises which helped travelers to make journeys for the purpose of new explorations and scientific research.

Therefore, the ambition of enlightenment in various branches of knowledge was the direct impulse behind the Victorian travelers' journeys to the Arab world. It is obvious then that this paper will prove that the Occidental world knew the Oriental world through tens of thousands of books and scientific reports.

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Introduction

This research aims to discuss in greater detail the scientific motives which stood behind the Victorian travelers' journeys to the oriental world. There are many motives, which impelled these Europeans to travel into other's land. Scientific motives were often secondary to artistic and cultural curiosity. Victorians and Europeans in general were trying to penetrate the veils of the myths that had hidden the heartland of Islam since Crusade. The aim of this paper, too, is to help readers to study the East and the Arab world in particular with enjoyment, awareness and profit. These motives were not separated from the ambition of finding trade routes into the heart of the East. It is obvious that love of adventure among the Victorians took them face to face with the practical dangers of the desert and the potential violence of their hosts (the Arabs in particular). However, no body denies that the general appetite for knowledge was at its climax in the nineteenth century England, therefore scientific discovery and archaeological exploration are considered as goals for these travelers in the Near East. The pleasure of contemplating ancient ruins and vanished civilizations was linked with the pleasure of discovering gold and other mines as in the case of Richard Burton (1876)

These motives enhanced the curiosity and the desire of the Victorians to explore and discover new horizons. Therefore, an examination of the avowed motives of exploration could be useful in evaluating the congruence

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between individual motivation and this large impersonal construction. The number of travelers who express decent values of the European or specifically British imperialism puts pressure upon Edward Said's category of the "other." Into this category, he deposits all constructions which value the "otherness" of Eastern culture. However, the mixture of motives found in a substantial number of travelers conforms to Said's thesis. Anyhow, the Victorians were ambitious enough to initiate a scheme of scientific discoveries which could clarify and demystify the Arabic East.

The British readers were bombarded by travelers' reports which included exotic descriptions that added much to the already huge amount of information about the East, particularly the Victorian travelers who felt specially attracted to the East. No doubt, then, that the uncanny fascination about the East became as a cliché to these Europeans.

Beside the lure of the unknown, many Europeans also found in the East an ample scope for their wandering imaginations. These travelers' remarks are representative of both the continuing reaction of the Romantic generation against the classical standards which prevailed in 18th century Europe and the deep interest in the cultural and artistic values of other civilizations.

The Victorian travelers felt an irresistible desire to explore the ruins of Arabia. From these ruins they intended to acquire more historical knowledge about particular parts of the Arab world. The scientist and scholar, the missionary and the trader, the politician and soldier all had their particular interest in the Middle East, particularly the Arab World. The increasing publication of the travel literature brought the Arab world into sharper focus in the West. During the nineteenth century, the East, and the Arab world in particular, was the favorite destination of the English as well as the European travelers in general and not only the English or the French. These journeys of European travelers resulted in the production of "a fairly large body of Oriental-style of European literature very frequently based on personal experiences in the Orient." (1)

Occidentals' admiration of the Middle East, particularly the Arab world, has very deep roots dating back to the days of the Crusaders. The apparently limitless deserts of Arabia with their oases of cool shade, and the strange nomadic life of the Bedouins tended to stimulate the imagination of Victorian travelers. The Orientalist William Jones (1764-1794) believed that the Eastern countries were utterly different from those of Europe, because they abounded with strange things which affect the imagination powerfully.

(2) Some of these travelers moved through Arabia accompanied by an entourage which often included highly educated people (such as the scientific expedition of Niebuhr.

The beginning of this increase of knowledge "had been secured where there was most to learn"(3) namely in Yemen which was called the Sabaeen country. The forerunner of scientific expedition to the East was Pocock and Lady Montague (1689- 1762) Then the 18th century Danish party, dispatched by Fredrick V, who expressed his earnest wish "to resolve the Biblical and geographical questions which concern Arabia." (4) This party consisted of five experts in different branches of science; all were under M. Niebuhr (1792). They decided to explore many regions of Yemen. Niebuhr hired an ass and "set out alone to explore Tehama." Forskal who was a member of this party "went up to the hills to collect herbs." (5) This group was also to discover the land of Hadramout. Their interest took them there for its ancient name and in hope of attaining archaeological discoveries in its hidden regions. However the Victorians pushed the door and set out towards the Arab World to ladle from the eastern scientific discoveries before their European peers.

The Victorian Expeditions

Many of the Victorian travelers to the Arab world were commissioned by either the Royal Geography Society or the Ministry of Public Instruction (MPI). A few years after W.G Palgrave crossed the Nefud in 1863, Charles Huber was commissioned by the Ministry to explore Arabia and Nejd in particular. (6) While living and roaming there, each one of these travelers was able to make his own discoveries. From the start of the nineteenth century, there had been many elements which stimulated Western interest in the Arab World. The first element according to Said, was the "growing systematic knowledge in Europe about the Orient." (7) This Orient to Said was in general, "almost a European invention, and had been since antiquity a place of romance, exotic beings, haunting memories and landscapes." (8)

Thus, Different European learned societies were founded in the nineteenth century such as Societe Asiatique, and a French society that was founded in 1842. All helped travelers to make journeys for the purpose of new exploration and scientific researches particularly Europe which was harvesting the crops of the industrial revolution. We can say, thus, that Orientalism as understood by the Victorian literary writers and travelers is not merely a political matter, it is as Said understood a "distribution of

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geopolitical awareness into aesthetic, scholarly, economic, sociological, historical and philological text" (9) Seeking knowledge, therefore, according to Said, within the scope of the Oriental world was reinforced by "the certain knowledge that Europe... literally commanded the vastly greater part of the earth's surface" (10)

At the start of the nineteenth century traveler Ulrich Jasper Seetzen who, in 1806, trained himself for twenty years in Germany to be an Eastern explorer. He was a famous botanist of high reputation all over Europe. He spent about seven years in the East. He studied the botany of different regions there and went back with special results concerning the herbs that grew in the Arab Land, which were taken as curing medicine to the patients in Germany and Britain.(11)

The Victorian publication, in their turn, provoked other like-minded travelers to the East. For instance, W. S. Blunt read C. M. Doughty's *Arabia Deserta* (1888). Blunt wrote that every page, to him, was of the deepest interest. Perhaps in the ancient ruins, a traveler may cause his reader's mind to imagine old fortresses, castles, even caves where the banners of the ancient world are still visible to every imaginative eye. (12) A traveler may put his readers, through his narration, on the bank of various rivers whose sources flow from the undiscovered depth of the Earth, and areas inaccessible to man.

This period of immense advance in acquiring every sort of knowledge and world-information covered from (1815-1914) when about 85 percent of the Earth's surface was colonized by Europeans in particular the English. This intellectual power could be interpreted into Orientalism by which a vast literature about the Arab world was inherited by the Victorians from the European past. Those Victorians were ambitious enough to initiate a scheme of scientific discoveries which would clarify and demystify the Arabic East. This field increased enormously during the nineteenth century. These Victorian travelers, who were many, took from the classical East "a vision (and thousands of facts and artifacts) which only [they] could employ to the best advantage"(13)

J. S. Buckingham (1821) intended to travel to Palestine because of his "dissatisfaction at the incompleteness of all that has been written before," and because he believed that he would be able to "add something interesting to the human knowledge." (14) He, at the start of the Victorian Age, enriched the scientific research in Britain at an age where people were in need to know about things wherever these things are particularly the

Europeans were boasting the industrial revolution that prevailed over Europe. Another scientific researcher, at the start of the nineteenth century J. L. Burckhardt (1822) was one of the most well-known European travelers to the near East. His goal was geographical discoveries in Syria and the Holy Land. He discovered many kinds of metals throughout the soil of Lebanon. According to him, the land of Lebanon was "interesting to the mineralogist," and at Hasbeya, he was told that the people had found metals unknown to them. After digging in the 'wady' nearby the village of Hasbeya, he found "several pieces of metallic substance, which [he] took to be a native amalgam of mercury." (15) The discovery that enriched the scientific process in England especially in the field of chemistry. He also discovered that the land around the same village including the spring of the village was "strongly impregnated with iron," and the rocks he found there were "of a dark red color." Below the ground Burckhardt discovered, to his surprise, bitumen. (16) Hence his scientific expedition was very much necessary for the new established factories and enterprises in Britain where his saddle was full of chemical materials such as bitumen, iron, different metals and mercury.

Yet Burckhardt also showed his sensitivity to the imaginative and historical appeal of the East. After his arrival at Banias, he took a man of the village to show him the way to the ancient castle of Banias and gave a full description of the old fortress. He also journeyed to the source of Jordan and interested himself in Bostra which had its importance in ancient books of religion. (17) These Scientific and imaginative impulses were particularly closely associated with archaeological investigation, the things that made L. Stephens, the American traveler (1838), attracted by the sight of the pyramids, obelisks and other ruined temples. (18) He nourished a long desire to go to the East which was later on fulfilled. The Victorian travelers felt curious, as Stephens noticed, to cross the vast sand of Arabia and Sinai because they were curious to gain historical information about the ancient world.

Stephens caused a growth in Victorian tourism to the East. He felt curious as he moved silently down the valley of the Arab desert towards Gaza, the city, according to him, of Philistines and of Dalillah and Samson. His curiosity led him to begin his tour in the Holy Land, the birth-place of the Saviour, through Judea, Samaria and Galilee. He had a long desire to explore the Dead Sea. "I had a long desire to explore every part of that unknown water, to spend days upon its surface, to coast along its shores; to

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sound its mysterious depths, and search for ruins of the guilty cities." (19) It was through his employment, as a lieutenant in the Indian Navy; that his attention was constantly directed to attain knowledge of the provinces of the southern and western coast of Arabia. He sought information in Oman during his stay there to draw up historical accounts of the province. And in this process the circle is completed from the scientific point of view and from the tourism point of view as well, for a British felt that he had acquired the whole knowledge the surface of

about the east through these reports of varieties of goals and aims. It is as if Stephens urges his people to make to the East to stand where the previous predecessors stood once, and to inhale the pure air and scientific information of the place in general, the thing which he acquired.

Even before launching to the East, Napoleon, before his military advance to the east, built a store of archive of books and written information about the Eastern regions. In this respect, we find A. Kinglake in his *Eothen* (1840) addresses his own Parliament offering all his knowledge concerning the Eastern people. (20) Thus, the system of European information and scientific research which started in the East has become synonymous with European military advance and domination of the East.

The Victorian travelers' concerns were clear that manuscripts, knowledge, inscriptions, collecting information through many excavations were the main targets behind their sojourning through the East. This comes true through some of the Victorian travelers, such as C. M. Doughty whose achievement will be mentioned here in this paper, and R. Curzon (1849) who were traveling to gain knowledge concerning ancient manuscripts as well as searching for new views which appealed to the readers as well as the traveler himself.

A. H. Layard (1851) was an example of the new scientific archaeologist whose passion for the past took the form of meticulous recording and preservation of remains. His curiosity had been greatly excited whenever he learned of ancient places. Layard's early impulses guided him to visit the East. His scientific training in excavation gave birth to the desire of visiting particular regions in the East. He spent all his time collecting knowledge from other people's researches, concentrated on their descriptions, and received copies of their inscriptions during the entire period of excavation around Musil, where he found particularly fine specimens of Assyrian Sculptures. This enabled him to return to Europe with rich inscriptions, and important discoveries about the history of

Assyria. He did his best to acquire knowledge and information by asking people in the area about ancient places, particularly the old. He, once, approached an old blind priest who was seated under a walnut tree. He approached him endeavoring "to glean some information from the old man." (21) Layard confirmed that it was only exploring the ancient world which provoked him to journey to the East.

Madam Ida (1855) says that every Eastern object is of interest to Westerners, and that in the East the shape of life, the customs, the traditions, the colors, the innocence of the Easterners could attract the Europeans to make to the East and enticing and beguiling Europeans to the east, she says that "there is more to interest us Europeans." (22) She believes that the travelers' attention is continually drawn to some novel and serious object which is totally dissimilar to any thing he /she has seen at home. Ida would prefer "a festival in the East to a fair in [her] highly civilized states." Besides the lure of the unknown, many Europeans also found in the East an ample scope for their imaginations. These remarks represent both the continuing reaction of the Romantic generation against the classical standards which prevailed in 18th century Europe and a deepening interest in the cultural and artistic values of other civilization. (23)

Obtaining knowledge of different subjects to enrich the British library with more new information about the construction of the land and what it hides in it was also the prominent desire that led E. Robinson (1856) to embark for the Eastern regions. He was instigated towards the Near East, particularly the Mediterranean countries which were in his view the scene of wandering and places where the love of classical literature had first grown. The original plan of Robinson was to present to the Western people the result of his researches in Palestine in 1856. He, like other Victorian travelers, hoped to convey "a considerable amount of fresh information upon the historical topography of Palestine." (24) He gave particular attention to the orthography of Arabic names in Roman letters. He has his party felt deep interest in the desert north of Akaba, because, according to him "it was a region into which the eye of Geographical Sciences had never yet penetrated." (25) Robinson presented his journeys as educative and wished his reader to mediate on the different aspects of his different routes. He insisted that the readers not only learn from "the account of his journey alone" but also from the "subsequent excursion from Hebron to Wady Musa."(26)

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Geological discoveries played a part in instigating J. Hamilton (1857) to an expedition to "discover the still doubtful sources of the Nile." This expedition remained Hamilton's "favourite subject." (27) He, later on, fulfilled the project when he secured guards: "an armed escort of 250 men ... was given to protect the mission." (28) So exploring the natural geography of Arabia was the object behind his visit. Perhaps the process of discovering new routes in the Nile area would help in future military advance, and that later on proved helpful on the way to Egypt, Sudan and even to Arabia.

Not only Arabia and Egypt were the travelers' major concerns but also their favorite subjects. When E. Lane (1869) saw Egypt for the first time, he likened the country to a bride whose veil he was going to remove. (29) Lane insisted to stay for a long period of time in Egypt for that purpose. He was sent there to prepare for a new domination, to acclimatize the people for the next coming. It was no doubt that Lane should study the Egyptians socially, mentally, and psychologically in case the English come instead of the Turks.

Colonel Lewis Pelly's party in Arabia between 1877-1878 was consisted of Lieutenant Colville and Dr. Dawes of the Indian Naval Service, together with Lucas, an interpreter. Each of these travelers was well provided with the necessary scientific instruments although scientific motives were often secondary to artistic and cultural curiosity. This Colonel, who was an English resident at Bushire in Arabia, had also along desire for scientific discovery in the Peninsula. He went there to stay before starting any research. He had the opportunity to gather information about Arabia, and he determined to go to Riad to have an interview with the Wahabbi Emir to get permission, guards and other facilities to enable him gain knowledge of the district around. His party consisted of learned men who were provided with scientific instruments.

R. Stranded visited Aden in 1877, working to achieve name and fame by the exploration of Yemen and other provinces in central Arabia. The desire of going beyond Niebhur in exploring new land in the depth of Arabia had enticed an English doctor, C. Millingen, who was in the Turkish service, to make a tour north of Hodeida city in 1873. Then Stranded visited Aden in 1877. He worked to contribute in the large store of information about the Arab lands and what is contained inside. That was through the exploration of Yemen and other provinces in the central Arabia, (30) where a great deal of information about the country was available between hands

and ready to be dispatched to the civilized west. He was followed by the French scientist A. DeFlers in 1887 who completed the role of his predecessor by acquiring much information about Yemen.

Isabel Burton (1878) wished to convey an idea of the Eastern life to her curious readers; the life which was constructed not from European material but the more satisfying potentialities of the East. She then declared that the object behind her visit also "was to get information." (31) It was her curiosity, desire and love of the East that stimulated her to travel, and her yearning for "the desert to recover the purity of [her] mind and the dignity of human nature, to be regenerated amongst the Arabs." (32) To her, Damascus and Egypt were the dream of her childhood and girlhood. She and her yearning husband made together to virgin East to be "regenerated" among the Arabs.

There in Lebanon, at the village of Salihyyeh, 2500 feet above the sea level, Lady Isabel Burton fulfilled an old desire to experience the East about which she read stories of beauties, wealth and ancient ruins. She found herself in a little paradise among the Syrian hills, where she enjoyed good air and light, fascinating nature-fresh water, health, liberty and complete tranquility. She was interested in the remains of the ancient civilization as well as finding her own personal paradise. (33)

At the city of Palmyra, Isabel Burton fulfilled a long contemplated ambition in seeing the ancient city of the dead civilization surrounded by the walls of Justinian. She was also curious to explore the Temple of the Sun, patches of the garden where, according to her, the wretched natives used to grow barley plants and different kinds of fruit as olives, dates and pomegranates. (34) She was not hesitant to bring from these agricultural patterns to England hoping to bring something new to the world of botany in England. She found sulphurous water, tombs scattered everywhere, remnants of temples with a good number of isolated columns here and there. She knows that her readers will be anxious to receive her reports particularly the scientific reports that concern geology, geography, botany and other branches of science. She felt happy to convey information linked with ruins to the people in charge in England. Isabel Burton attracted her readers to the East by depicting it as a paradise and a store of knowledge and information as it was described to her. She made her readers contemplate the ancient life of Egypt and Lebanon, making historical links between the vanished civilizations and her own. (35)

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So two birds in one stone Isabel Burton achieved through her tour in the East: scientific information and different types of knowledge in an Eastern 'paradise' of her own. This rich eastern landscape, too, enticed Richard Burton (her husband) to accompany her in his eastern sojourning. One of Burton's objectives in Arabia was to obtain information concerning its natural geography "to inquire into the hydrography of Hedjaz, its water-shed ... the existence or non-existence of perennial streams." (36) According to Richard Burton, a traveler needs a thorough study of human society while in the East. He also admired the unchangeableness of the East. In his book *The Golden Mine of Midian* (1878), he wrote that his sole purpose was to acquire scientific knowledge to serve scientific researches in Britain. He knew that the area of Midian Salih in the Arab Peninsula contained gold. He sailed again to discover gold and other valuable minerals. He said: "we collected slag for laboratory analysis, some of it well-worked, and light as pumice, whilst other bits contained fibrous charcoal, evidently palm wood." (37) Burton and his party found various materials, metals in particular, in the upper valley of Aynunah. They:

Explore the Gorge, whose right bank showed Vestiges of causeway and steps. Fortunately, the geologist, unlike the botanist, finds all he wants in the valley, without requiring to scale the mountain. The lower part of the Jebel-el-Zahd is composed of granites and syenites; the upper of homologous red porphyry ... Every pebble that we broke contained more or less metal, we added antimony to our list, and we found dark-colored tourmalines. (38)

Burton spent his days climbing, exploring and collecting specimens, which were finally carried home in bags or baskets. He collected also botanical specimens from the mountains of Egypt. Then the party proceeded south, after they got the details from an Arab Sheikh of the Tugayat to explore a mountain of sulphur and turquoise mine. His wife, Isabel, in her preface to his book *Golden Mines* declared that the purpose behind his expedition in Egypt and the north west of Arabia was to discover gold and other minerals because her eager husband "saw Egypt in distress for gold." He sought his Highness the Khedive and imparted the secret to him upon which his Highness agreed to equip an expedition with Burton as leader. She said that discovering metal in Egypt and the North Western part of Arabia had "thoroughly satisfied him." (39)

The satisfaction that plays an efficient role in enticing other Victorian travelers to make to the near rich east, the travelers who also filled their

bags or 'baskets' with different kinds of materials for the newly constructed western labs. This flow of knowledge from the east encouraged other Victorian travelers to make to east particularly Lady Anne Blunt (1879) who was encouraged by the (R.G.S) itself to sail to the East for the sake of knowledge: "At the Royal Geographical Society's room, ... we were shown the maps and surveys made by Colonel Cheesy in 1836." (40) Following the maps, Lady Blunt and her husband too sailed to the East (Egypt and Mesopotamia) in search of geographical and historical knowledge.

No doubt that the previous 'maps' and 'surveys' of the historical and geographical knowledge that were put forward by Colonel Cheesy (1836) played a main role in attracting other curious scientific men and women to have or acquire a place into the industrial Europe of the age, the purpose which pushed C.M. Doughty (1888) to go not only to Arabia but also to reach India for this noble purpose. Doughty had been inspired by previous scientific reports of Arabia, and was bound to return by the British Asiatic Society to "show his copies of drawings of the Hijir antiquities." (41) He had a special interest in examining natural phenomena.

When Doughty was questioned by the Bedouins about what was in his mind and the real purpose of his being among them, he answered "what brought me here sayst thou... ? I tell you I seek some ancient inscription." (42) Despite being a student of geology, Doughty's objectives in traveling to the Arabs land were to make a contribution to English travel literature rather than to practice geology or other branches of science. Doughty's quest took him to the Peninsula in search of inscriptions, but he admitted that his interest was in studying lands "whose people and civilization had been factors in making his own." (43) G. D. Hogarth (1905) took Doughty's purpose in traveling abroad as to "pursue studies which would fit him for patriotic poesy." (44) There Doughty started by studying Arab language, archaeology, geography, ethnology, geology and ended with the study of Arabian society, which in his belief added much to the field of social studies in England. This shows that Doughty, like other Victorian scientific travelers to the east, went there with "a scholar's curiosity" which B. Fairly (1977), a commentator on Doughty's works, described as "an obscure impulse." (45) Doughty's geographical curiosity throughout his journey remained a powerful motive and he also wished to make a lasting impact on Western geography.

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Doughty had to find ways and means for scientific publication of his archaeological results. He reached Vienna where he wished to give detailed accounts of his long expedition to the scientific societies there, hoping by that to obtain a sum of money to proceed into Oman, Petra and south to Median Salih, which later on he managed to reach without any support. The Museum of Berlin asked Doughty to supply it with the Arabian inscriptions obtained in the West of the country. Doughty had written to professor Edward Sachan offering to sell to Berlin some of the inscriptions he brought from Arabia. (46) Sachan's reply was:

I hasten to inform you that the Royal Museum of Berlin is inclined to acquire the 200 Nabataean and Himyaric inscriptions which you brought from N. Western Arabia and impressions of the epitaphs which you found at Medyin Salih (El-Hijr). The director of the Museum desires me to ask you two favours, firstly to send the inscriptions here to Berlin, and secondary to mention the price you demand. (47)

According to Hogarth, the price Doughty asked for was 500 francs which proved too high for Berlin. Then he dealt with the French asking for 5.000 francs, which Renan, the French traveler, protested was too much. Doughty's friend persuaded him to make steps to obtain the golden medal of the (R.G.S.) To whom Doughty in 1884 submitted the outlines of Arabian geological features. Doughty described the years after his return from Arabia saying that one disappointment followed another because of the crisis over the inscription and geological outlines he brought back. The crisis was not only with Berlin and Paris but also with his own fellow countrymen of the (R.G.S). So, scientific fame was one of the chief purposes that Doughty looked to reap from his long perilous Arabian adventure.

Conclusion:

In fine, it could be said that the ambition of enlightenment in various branches of knowledge was the direct impulse behind the Victorian travelers' journeys to the Arab world. This area proved to be an object of the highest interest to these Victorian travelers who studied the Arabian folk in its home. It was, then, the Arab culture and the interest in the Eastern customs, language and their traditional life that provoked the Victorians to the Arab world too.

From 1810 to the end of the century, scarcely a year passed without the publication of a new volume on the East, that the Europeans, in general,

became closely acquainted with the life of the Arabs and their land and what it contains, and were able to paint them in literature with a highly sensitive and sincere touch. Those Orientalists became the most highly regarded informants on Arabia and the Arabs. This process makes us believe in Said's invention. Obviously then, the West only knew the Arabs through books and reports, and Westerners imagined the East as a fierce animal which was, to them, something to be encountered and dominated. This is the legacy of nineteenth century European system of gaining knowledge and information, to which the century has become an inheritor. Therefore, the Victorian travelers, who witnessed an age in which the English writing on the Near East was in its most prolific state, added considerably to the store of ideas about the Arabs in England, yet to a large extent, they developed ideas already found.

It is worth saying that this thorough study of the east, by the nineteenth century travelers and in particular the Victorian literary travelers, does enrich the Europeans and the English and the French in particular with very much important scientific information. First they intended to know the east socially, economically, politically, educationally and finally military, which enhanced and encouraged European interference in the east but paved the ways to such military advance into the heart of the Arabs and their antique land, the land of all heavenly religions. Therefore, none can deny the roles these Victorian travelers play in making the European missions in the East easier and easier, and that we, as readers and critics, come to know that the travelers' multi purposes missions, including the scientific ones, were not launched secretly, but on the contrary they were announced by the sides who defrayed such missions and expeditions to the near east such Royal Geographical Society (RGS) and Societe Asiatique (SA), the Royal Museum of Berlin (R M B), the American Oriental Society (AOS), and others.

Hence the Europeans worked openly through their missions to the east. The east to which they longed for since the time of the Crusaders when they were weak enough to penetrate or to keep their being there in the time of the Moslem leader Salah Uddin, who could defeat and kick the Europeans out from the land of the Arabs where there was no possibility to launch any scientific expedition to the East under the shadow of such victorious leaders. This is why the Europeans kept lurking behind the seas waiting for the suitable moment to launch their assault against the East, the assault which crowned by success until the second half of twentieth century

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when the Europeans withdrew gradually from the Arabic East dividing the nations into many parts, sects and conflicting groups until this day. Therefore, and according to what have been mentioned above, it could be said that the ambition for enlightenment in various branches of knowledge were the direct impulse behind these travelers' journeys.

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