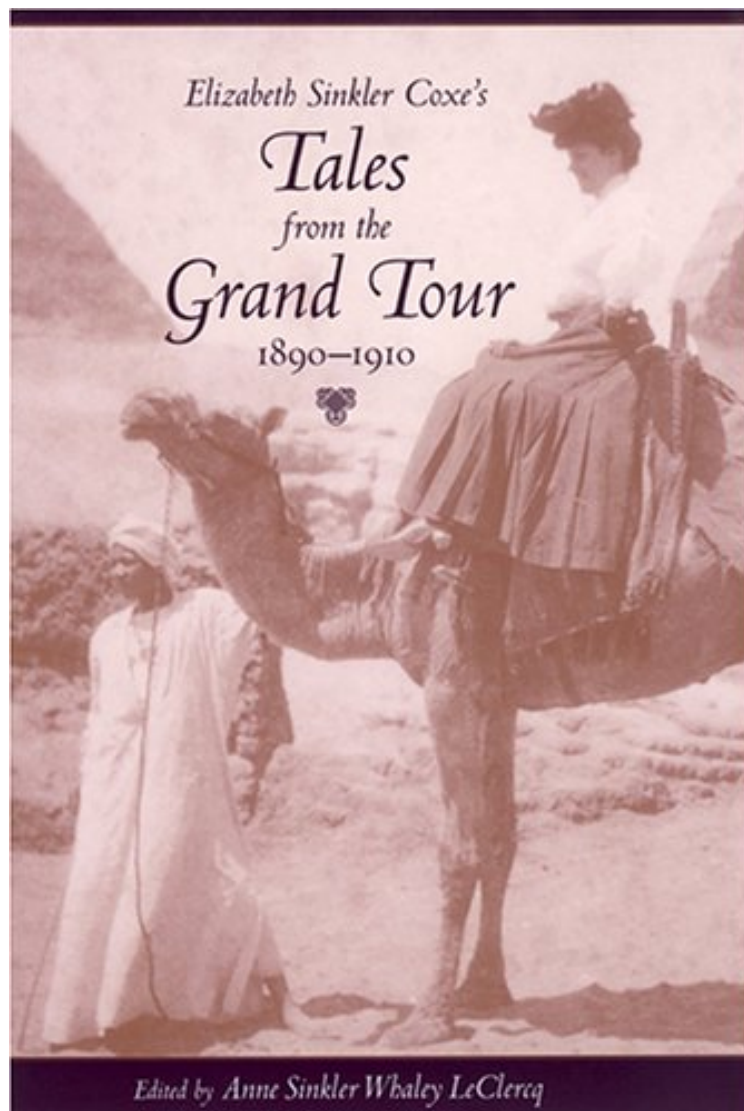


(Library ebook) Elizabeth Sinkler Coxe's Tales from the Grand Tour, 1890-1910 (Women's Diaries and Letters of the South)

Elizabeth Sinkler Coxe's Tales from the Grand Tour, 1890-1910 (Women's Diaries and Letters of the South)

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From Brand: University of South Carolina Press : Elizabeth Sinkler Coxe's Tales from the Grand Tour, 1890-1910 (Women's Diaries and Letters of the South) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Elizabeth Sinkler Coxe's Tales from the Grand Tour, 1890-1910 (Women's Diaries and Letters of the South):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A book for a very specific audience
By L. Tutor
One of the joys of history - the human element of history, that is - includes snapshots into the lives of the people who've come before us. There are treasures to be found in their letters, their musings in the margins of books they read, articles they clipped. Even if their world was not our world, and would never resemble our world in any stretch of the imagination, the people who came before have left a rich legacy that many of us in the modern world should consider creating for those who'll follow us. It is in that spirit of human appreciation that one should approach the 23rd volume in the Women's Diaries and Letters of the South series. In it, Anne LeClercq mines years of family writings to show the world the extraordinary life of an ancestor whose diaries and letters show how one woman truly drank the essence of an amazing time in history. The book is a collection of diary entries spanning two decades of adventure and thousands of miles in travel. The editor is not only a family member but a university librarian skilled at combing materials for nuggets a larger audience would enjoy. Elizabeth Sinkler Coxe's life bridged the old and the new - the South before the Civil War and the world after, when northerners and southerners began to commingle, and when the Gilded Age and requisite Grand Tour allowed those of means to visit far off lands. Through the deft editing of LeClercq, we envision Constantinople at sunrise, ride deep into the Sudan, take tea in the shadow of the Sphinx and behold the Acropolis at Athens and Smyrna's harbor. On the surface, such diaries might be dismissed as dinosaurs from an age that has lost its relevance. However, as offerings of history, they let the characters - real ones, mind you - of the time speak for themselves. Coxe's diary isn't necessarily a book meant for a rainy-day read. It is easy to slip in and out of her travels. Indeed, it's often easy to get sidetracked in the copious footnotes that LeClercq uses to keep readers up to date on the family members. Summed up, this book is meant for historians, amateur or professional; unless the reader has a keen interest in the Gilded Age or Grand Tour life in general, it's probably a little obscure for a general audience. However, as part of a collection, this "modern" addition to the series that started as a 19th century look at women's lives is fun to have around. Coxe's language is vivid, and even if it takes a few days to absorb all of her stories, it's worth the trip for a historian looking to see how the other half lived.

The international adventures of a southern widow turned patron of historical discovery, Elizabeth Sinkler Coxe's *Tales from the Grand Tour, 1890-1910* is a travelogue of captivating episodes in exotic lands as experienced by an intrepid American aristocrat and her son at the dawn of the twentieth century. A member of the prominent Sinkler family of Charleston and Philadelphia, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Sinkler married into Philadelphia's wealthy Coxe family in 1870. Widowed just three years later, she dedicated herself to a lifelong pursuit of philanthropy, intellectual endeavor, and extensive travel. Heeding the call of their dauntless adventuresome spirits, Lizzie and her son, Eckley, set sail in 1890 on a series of odysseys that took them from the United States to Cairo, Luxor, Khartoum, Algiers, Istanbul, Naples, Vichy, and Athens. The Coxes not only visited the sites and monuments of ancient civilizations but also participated in digs, funded entire expeditions, and ultimately subsidized the creation of the Coxe Wing of Ancient History at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. A prolific correspondent, Lizzie conscientiously recorded her adventures abroad in lively prose that captures the surreal exhilarations and harsh realities of traversing the known and barely known worlds of Africa and the Middle East. She journeyed through foreign lands with various nieces in tow to expose them to the educational and social benefits of the Grand Tour. Her letters and recollections are complemented by numerous photographs and several original watercolor paintings.

From Booklist
The latest addition to the Women's Diaries and Letters of the South series features a fascinating travelogue detailing the turn-of-the-twentieth-century adventures of intrepid traveler and socialite Elizabeth Sinkler Coxe. Born in the South shortly before the onset of the Civil War, Sinkler later married a successful Northern businessman. Devoted to archaeological excavation and the "exploration and recovery of Ancient Egypt," she and her son and her nieces embarked on a series of educational and cultural "Grand Tours" that included trips to Egypt, Turkey, France, Italy, and Greece. Drawing on Lizzie's diary, travel journals, letters, and business documents, great-grandniece LeClercq provides an exotic firsthand account of a unique type of upper-class travel in a bygone era.
Margaret Flanagan
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A fascinating travelogue detailing the turn-of-the-twentieth-century adventures of intrepid traveler and socialite Elizabeth Sinkler Coxe . . . that included trips to Egypt, Turkey, France, Italy, and Greece. Drawing on Lizzie's diary, travel journals, letters, and business documents, great-grandniece LeClercq provides an exotic firsthand account of a unique type of upper-class travel in a bygone era.
Booklist
Through both words and pictures, this vivid chronicle of camels and trains, dervishes and pyramids, demonstrates the grand tour's cultural importance.
Charleston (S.C.) Magazine
The letters make for terrific armchair-and-ottoman reading, superb in their evocation of time. . . . To bridge the gaps in the letter-writing chronology, LeClercq contributes a highly readable narrative that pulls the reader along like a good novel.
Charleston (S.C.) Post Courier
The sketches and written accounts of her extensive travels possess considerable period charm. Lizzie Sinkler seems promising raw material for one of her cousin-in-law Edith Wharton's novels.
Charleston (S.C.) Mercury
Sharing the story of a woman who was comfortable in the North and the South and embraced a larger world as well, Elizabeth Sinkler Coxe's *Tales from the Grand Tour* broadens our understanding of the complexities of the

postbellum United States. Journal of Southern History From the Inside Flap The international adventures of a Southern widow turned patron of historical discovery