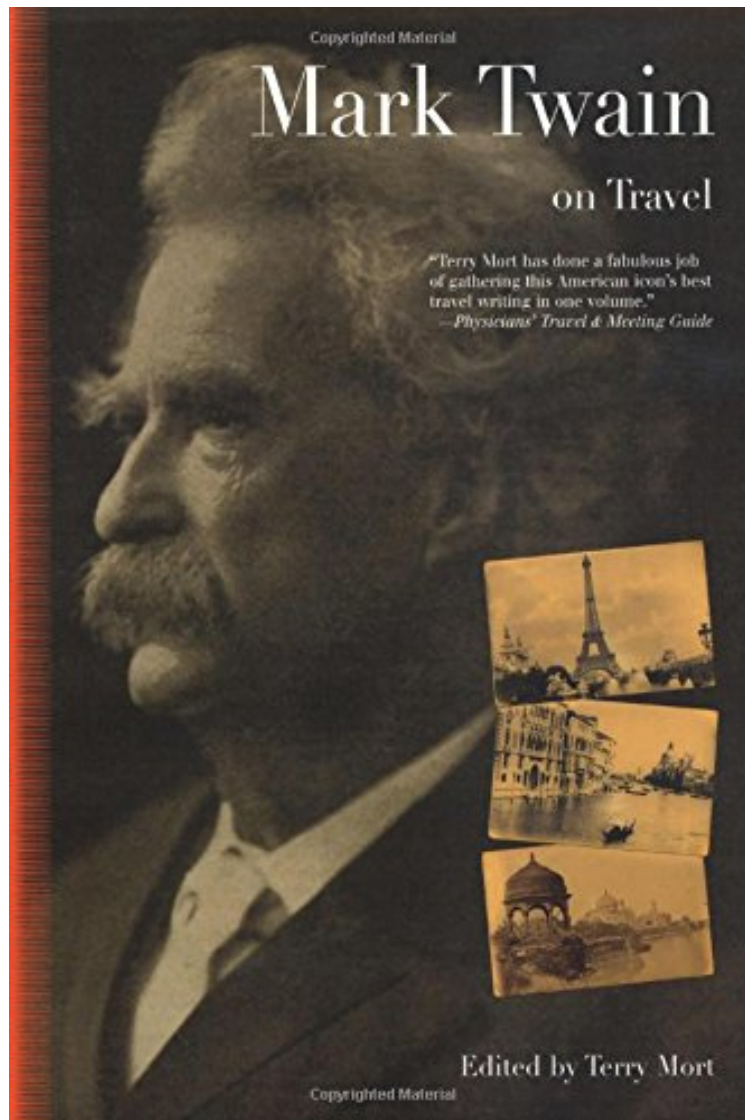


Mark Twain on Travel

Terry Mort

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Terry Mort : Mark Twain on Travel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mark Twain on Travel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mark Twain on Travel - old library book By Yitzchak Fried This was a withdrawn library book that had been well preserved by the library so that, despite being a paper back, was in perfect condition. It was cover -laminated, and had a few stamps in it but otherwise was clean. Great book. 4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing! By a reader As a Mark Twain fan, I ordered this book on blind faith. It turned out that the best part of this volume was the introduction by the editor explaining why most of Mark Twain's

travel books aren't very good. Indeed while I have read "Roughing It" a couple of times and enjoyed "Life on the Mississippi," I found Twain's other travel books, such as "Innocents Abroad," unreadable. I had hopes that this volume contained gems that had been mined from Twain's otherwise intractable travel volumes. Alas, this is not the case. This book only demonstrates further that most of Twain's travel writing isn't very good. Save your money for other Twain books, such as "Huckleberry Finn" or his "Autobiography," that have stood the test of time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mark Twain at His Best By Love To Read If you don't have the time to read all of Twain's travel books yet would like to experience his entertaining wit and keen perspectives, read this book. This is a collection of probably his best written travel experiences and proves to be very informative, humorous and thought-provoking. He's an honest writer and his non-fiction always sets me on a path to a new leg of personal research about a given subject. I was completely surprised that this would be such a fabulous book since I couldn't imagine a travel log being very interesting. It's a shame that some books don't make it to the bestseller list as this one should have and other crappy books do.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, known to most as Mark Twain, was a quintessential American writer who spent much of his life traveling the world. He encountered colorful characters, cultures, and a variety of adventures along the way, and Mark Twain on Travel is a timeless collection of his writings on the subject. Excerpts included are from classics such as: The Innocents Abroad; A Tramp Abroad; Life on the Mississippi; Roughing It; and Following the Equator.

From Publishers Weekly Selections from Twain's five travel books (about excursions to the American West, the Pacific Islands, India, the Middle East and Europe) spotlight some of his choicest writing, though they lose his rich, digressive context. With the success of *Innocents Abroad* in 1869, Twain churned out travelogues for much-needed money, and refined the successful formula of pitting gullible middle-American protagonists against hardened high priests of the world's culture. *Mort* (The Reasonable Art of Fly Fishing) presents Twain's writing by themes, rather than chronology, starting with a boy's ambition to pilot the Big River of his youth, the Mississippi; Twain claims in one famous selection from *Life on the Mississippi* that he took his nom de plume from an ancient mariner who could best the gossiping fledglings by his reminiscences. Heading west into Nevada, Twain's young, unsuspecting narrator is swindled into buying a "Genuine Mexican Plug," among other dusty adventures. A journey to Australia (from *Following the Equator*) allows him to ponder racial genocide by the white squatters in Aboriginal land; while observing the caste system of India ("With them, all life seems to be sacred except human life") evokes childhood memories of the scarring injustice of Southern slavery. Prescient, ironic, frequently knee-slapping, Twain's work is eminently relevant. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Prescient, ironic, frequently knee-slapping, Twain's work is eminently relevant."--Publishers Weekly