

The Armchair Traveler: Exploring the World through the Works of Great Writers

Wednesdays, October 21 to December 0, 2020 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Fairfield Seniors' Center, 80 Lothian Avenue Etobicoke

www.learningunlimitedetobicoke.com

Coordinator and Presenter: Jeffrey Canton

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Course Overview:

We will explore the insights of historical travelers and consider travel writing as a literary genre that helped shape the way we see the world. We will trek from Holland to Constantinople, circle the globe, find the truly unexpected, see Africa, sizzle in 1920's Paris, and even visit icy Antarctica.

October 21: Globe-trotting with Charles Dickens and Hans Christian Andersen

In his own time, Anderson was better known for his novels and his travelogues than for children's literature. Dickens used travel writing to expand his audience and as an integral part of his fictions.

October 28: Around the World in 72 Days with Nellie Bly

Setting out to beat the record set in "Around the World in 80 Days", stunt reporter Nellie Bly captured the imagination of the American public in one of the greatest publicity stunts of the 1880s.

November 4: The Dangers of Traveling: Apsley Cherry-Gerrard and the Scott Polar Expedition

Cherry-Gerrard was part of one of the last great moments in the history of global exploration as part of Scott's tragic race to the South Pole (1910-1913).

November 11: That Summer in Paris: Gertrude Stein, Morley Callaghan and Ernest Hemingway

Their memoirs reveal one of the great cities of the world at an exciting historical moment.

November 18: Exploring Africa: Mary Kingsley's African expeditions

Mary Kingsley is one of the great 19th century women travelers and her work as an ethnographer, scientific writer and explorer helped to reshape the way the British Empire saw Africa.

November 25: Gertrude Bell and the Middle East

Bell made her first visit to Persia in 1892 and, for the remainder of her life, traveled throughout the Middle East, as a writer, political officer, spy, administrator and archaeologist.

December 2: Travel and the Imagination: Robert Byron and Oxiana

Byron created superb travelogues like *The Road to Oxiana* (1933-34), and his is a fascinating account of one man's engagement with a world that was still considered exotic in the 1930s.

December 9: Walking the World with Patrick Leigh-Fermor

Setting off from Holland in December 1933, 18 year old Leigh-Fermor **walked** to Constantinople and from there traveled through Greece.

Researcher/Committee Contact: Glenn Yaffee

Reading List:

Week 1

Pictures from Italy by Charles Dickens

Online at Project Gutenberg <https://www.gutenberg.org>

PDF available Internet Archive <https://archive.org>

A Poet's Bazaar by Hans Christian Andersen

Online at Project Gutenberg <https://www.gutenberg.org>

PDF available Internet Archive <https://archive.org>

Week 2

Online at Project Gutenberg <https://www.gutenberg.org>

Ebook available <https://www.accessify.com> › ar.book4you.org

Week 3

Online Project Gutenberg <https://www.gutenberg.org>

PDF available Internet Archive <https://archive.org>

Week 4

Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas by Gertrude Stein

Online Project Gutenberg <https://www.gutenberg.org>

PDF available Internet Archive <https://archive.org>

A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway

Online <https://www.fadedpage.com>

PDF available

Ebook available at <https://www.accessify.com> › ar.book4you.org

That Summer in Paris by Morley Callaghan

Toronto Public Library 22 copies

Week 5

Travels in West Africa

Online Project Gutenberg <https://www.gutenberg.org>

PDF available Internet Archive <https://archive.org>

Week 6

A Woman in Arabia

Ebook available at <https://www.accessify.com> › ar.book4you.org

Week 7

The Road to Oxiana

Online <https://www.fadedpage.com>

PDF available Internet Archive <https://archive.org>

Week 8

A Time of Gifts

Ebook available at <https://www.accessify.com> › ar.book4you.org