SIR RICHARD FRANCIS BURTON: THE MOST FASCINATING MAN OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
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THE METHOD TO MY MADNESS

Week 1: January 10  Who Is this Richard Burton Fellow?
Week 2: January 17  no class – Marshall will be in Cuba!
Week 3: January 24  The Infidel in Mecca
Week 4: January 31  The Search for the Source of the Nile
Week 5: February 7  Exploring Brazil
Week 6: February 14  Translating Pornography?
RETURN & BETRAYAL

- ship out to Aden, RFB seriously ill with malaria
- Speke leaves ahead of Burton
- Betrays Burton and presents his claims to RGS
- RFB - three major expeditions in six years
- achieved “more notoriety than fame”
FROM AFRICA TO AMERICA

- 1860 – heads to U.S.
- Speke and Grant return to East Africa
- publishes *Lake Regions of Central Africa*
- effects of sunstroke, heatstroke, malaria, blindness, fevers, syphilis
- about to turn 40
- Isabel – “I wish I were a man. If I were I would be Richard Burton; but, being only a woman, I would be Richard Burton’s wife.”
CITY OF THE SAINTS

- Speke heads back to East Africa
- Burton heads to the U.S. in April 1860, leaves Isabel a note
- accompanied by old friend, John Steinhauser, M.D.
- Halifax, Boston, New York, Washington, DC, U.S. South to New Orleans
- by August in St. Joseph, Missouri
- three weeks by stagecoach to Salt Lake City
THE PRAIRIE TRAVELER

- flannel shirt, buckskin reinforced trousers tucked into leather Wellington boots, broad leather belt, pair of pearl-handled Colt revolvers, long knife, and “good English tweed shooting jacket”
- to add the name of the new “holy city” to Rome, Mecca, Medina
- experiencing the “novel” concept in the U.S. “that all men are equal; that you are no man’s superior, and that no man is yours.”
ON TO CALIFORNIA

- impressed with Brigham Young
- as in Africa, argues for the logic of polygamy
- Carson City, Nevada
- over the Sierra to Sacramento and San Francisco
- leaves San Francisco in mid-November
- Acapulco, Panama, St. Thomas, Southampton (January 1, 1861)
MARRIAGE & CONSULAR CORPS

- 22 January 1861 – marriage
  “you must make up your mind to choose between your mother and me”

- Isabel’s list to herself: 1. Get Richard a good place; 2. Keep him out of debt; 3. Don’t worry yourself or him; 4. Show affection always; 5. Keep yourself healthy”

- dinner hosted by Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston

- presented to the Queen by Lady Russell

- Lord John Russell, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
FERNANDO PO

- appointed consul at Fernando Po
- loses army pension, promoted to Captain
- publishes *City of the Saints*
- seven months together, then to West Africa
- 1863 – co-founds the Anthropological Society
- months with Isabel in Madeira and Tenerife
- *Mission to Gelele, King of Dahome*
returns to London seeking another consulate

Speke returns triumphant, but then alienates his patrons

David Livingstone (1813-73)

- Christianity, Commerce, Civilization

death in what is now Zambia, burial of heart, and the trek out with his remains
HENRY MORTON STANLEY

- 1841 - born John Rowlands (Wales)
- workhouse for the poor
- 1859 – New Orleans, supposed adoption by wealthy Henry Hope Stanley
- fights on Confederate side at Shiloh, captured, changes sides
- foreign correspondent for New York Herald
- 1871 – “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?”
- agent of King Leopold in the Congo
- knighted, died 1904
TRAGEDY AT BATH

- September 1864 – debate at Bath
- together on stage, Speke leaves early
- hunting “accident”
- “The charitable say that he shot himself, the uncharitable say that I shot him.”
- no public admission of his mistake about the Nile until 1881
TO BRAZIL

- four years of marriage, less than twelve months together
- hobnobbing with the rich and powerful
- Lord Stanley
- appointment to Santos, September 1864