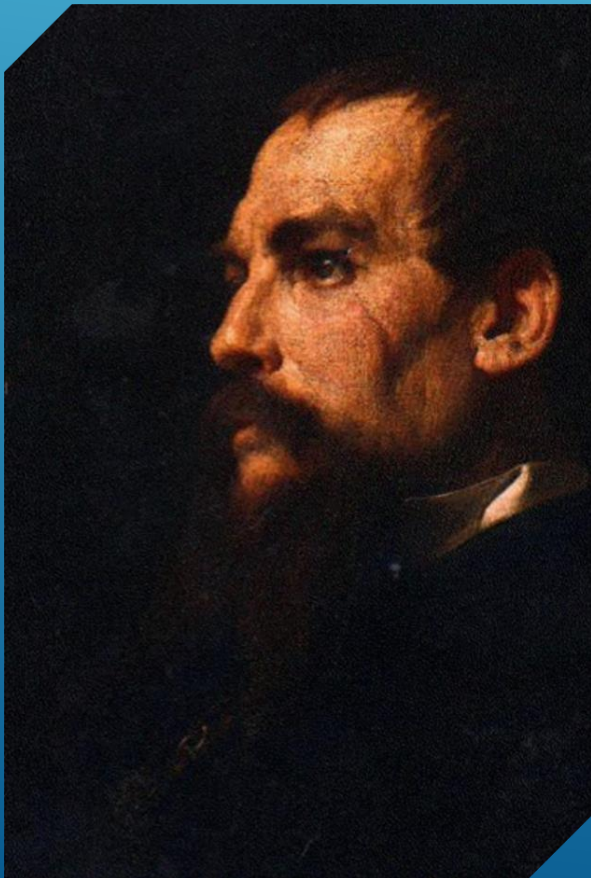


# SIR RICHARD FRANCIS BURTON: THE MOST FASCINATING MAN OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY



Marshall C. Eakin  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
14 February 2024




“[T]he historian who visits a place writes a different history than the historian who stays home, satisfied to read about a place someone else once visited.”

Barry Lopez, *Horizon* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019), 60.

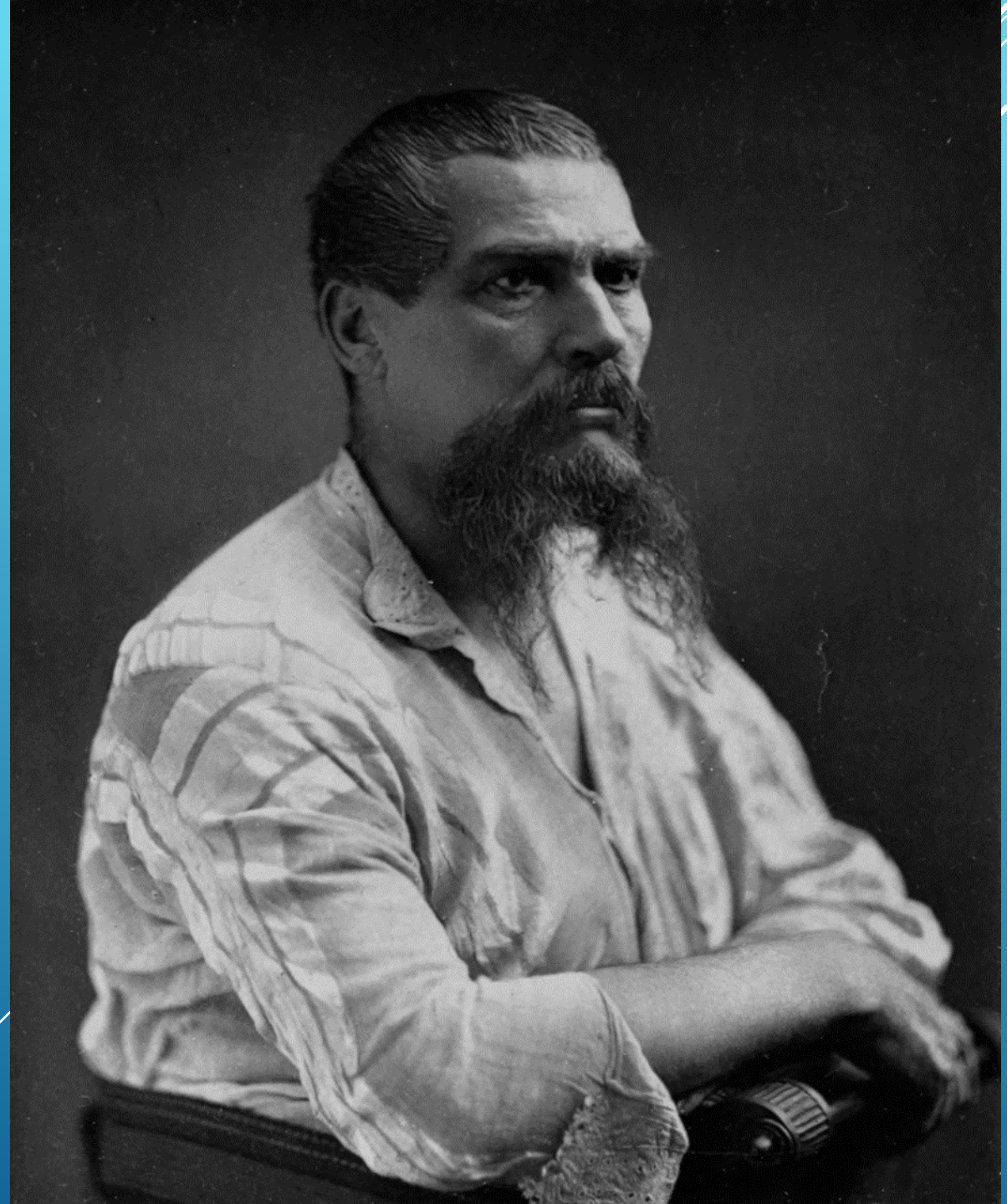
# THE METHOD TO MY MADNESS

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
<u>Week 6: February 14</u>	<u>Translating Pornography?</u>



# RECAP

- ❑ Richard to India in 1841
- ❑ to Mecca in 1853
- ❑ in search of the Nile 1854-55
- ❑ to U.S. in 1860
- ❑ marries Isabel in 1861
- ❑ Consul at Fernando Po (1861-64)
- ❑ Death of Speke in 1864
- ❑ Brazil (1865-69)



# SYRIA



- ❑ 1869 to Damascus
- ❑ 1871 – recalled to London
- ❑ “He either lacked the patience, or he could not be bothered to pretend to like, or work with, people he did not like or respect, no matter what their station or influence.”



# ISABEL THE WRITER

- ❑ Palmyra – eight days, 160 in entourage, malaria, cholera
- ❑ account to *London Times*



# BAALBAK



THE INNER LIFE OF  
SYRIA, PALESTINE,  
AND THE HOLY LAND.

FROM MY PRIVATE JOURNAL, BY

ISABEL BURTON.

"Ellati Zaujuhâ ma'ahâ b'tadîr el Kamar b'asbîha."  
("The woman who has her husband with her (i.e. at her back) can turn  
the moon with her finger.")  
"El Maraa min ghayr Zaujuhâ mislahâ tayarân maksûs el Jenâhh."  
("The woman without her husband is like a bird with one wing.")

"He travels and expatriates; as the bee  
From flower to flower, so he from land to land,  
The manners, customs, policy of all,  
Pay contributions to the store he glean;—  
He seeks intelligence from every clime,  
And spreads the honey of his deep research  
At his return,—a rich repast for me!"

WITH MAP, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND COLOURED PLATES.

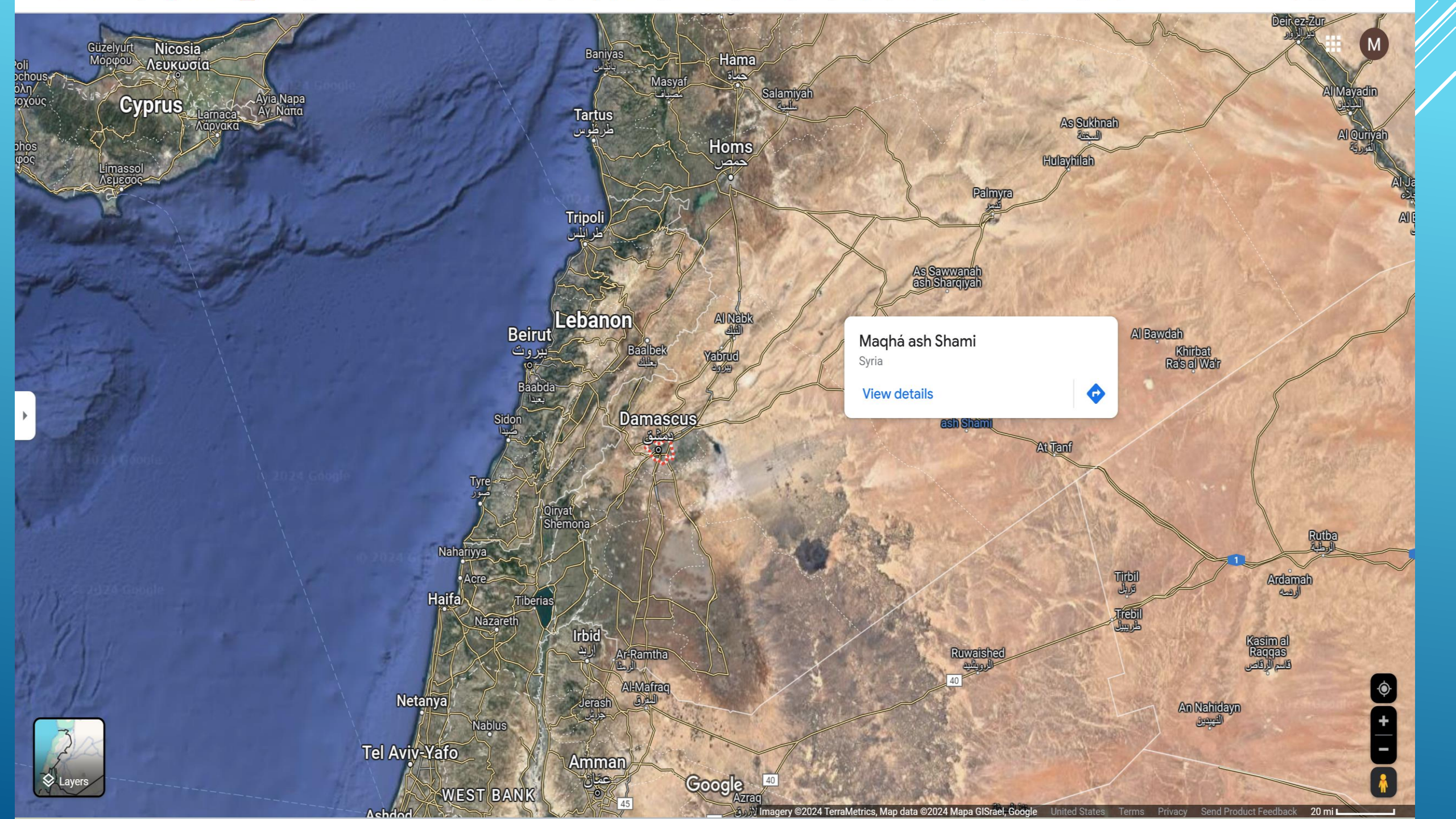
IN TWO VOLUMES.—Vol. I.

HENRY S. KING & Co., LONDON.

1875.

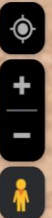







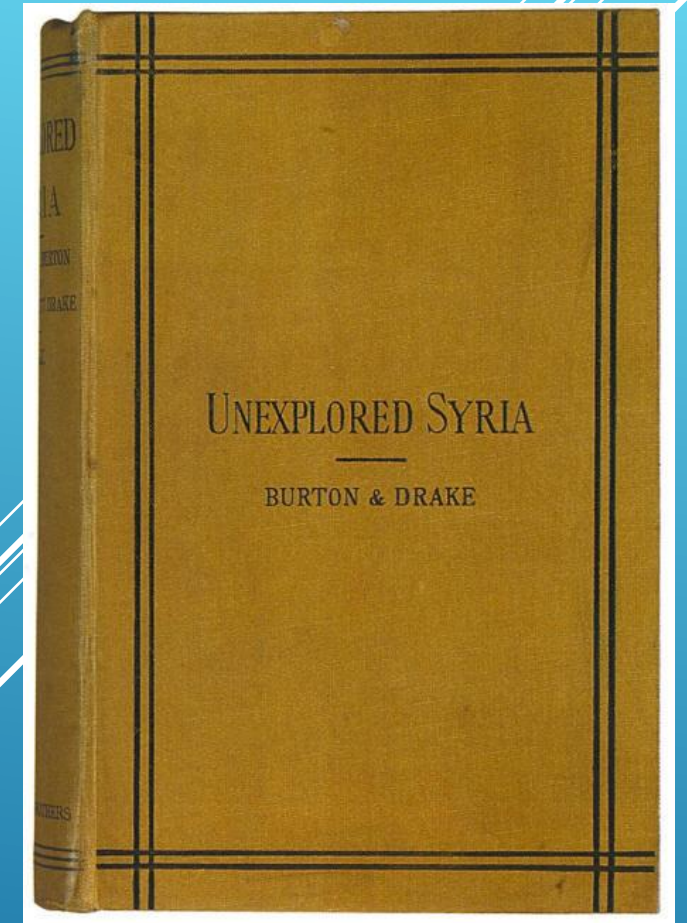
**Maqhá ash Shami**  
Syria

[View details](#)



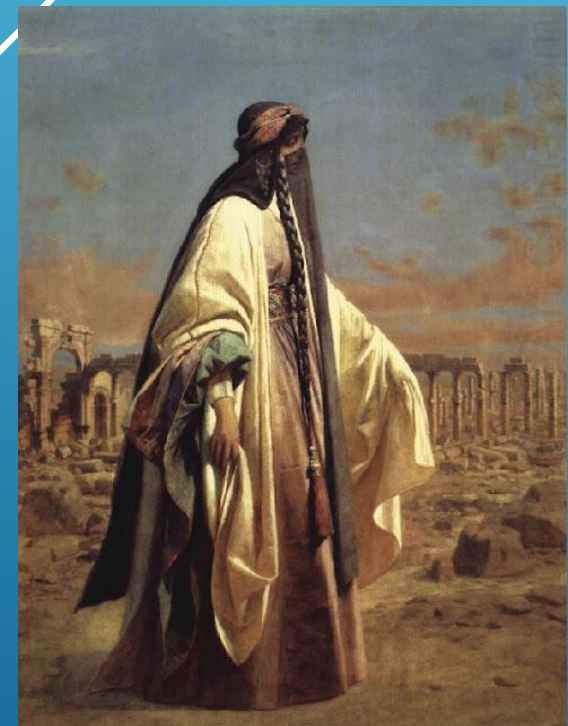
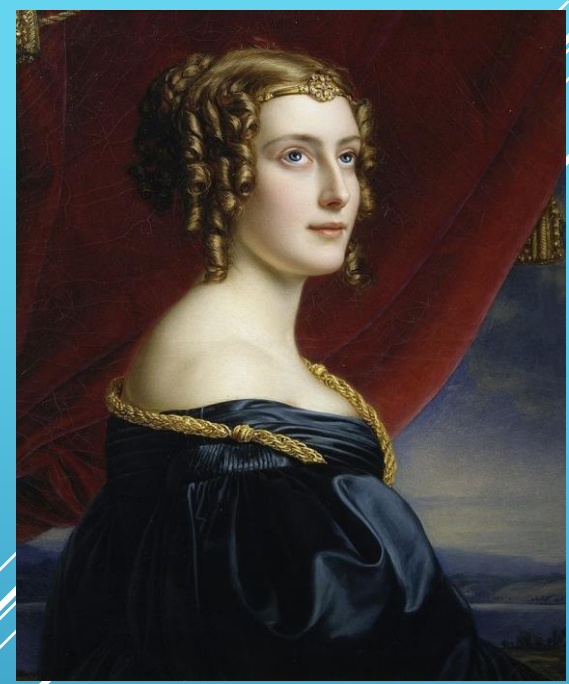
# TROUBLES

- ❑ Why did this fail?
- ❑ “gun-boat diplomatist”
- ❑ more diplomatic post than consular
- ❑ foreign missionaries, muslims, Greek Orthodox, Jews
- ❑ Pasha Rashid and enemies in the Foreign Office



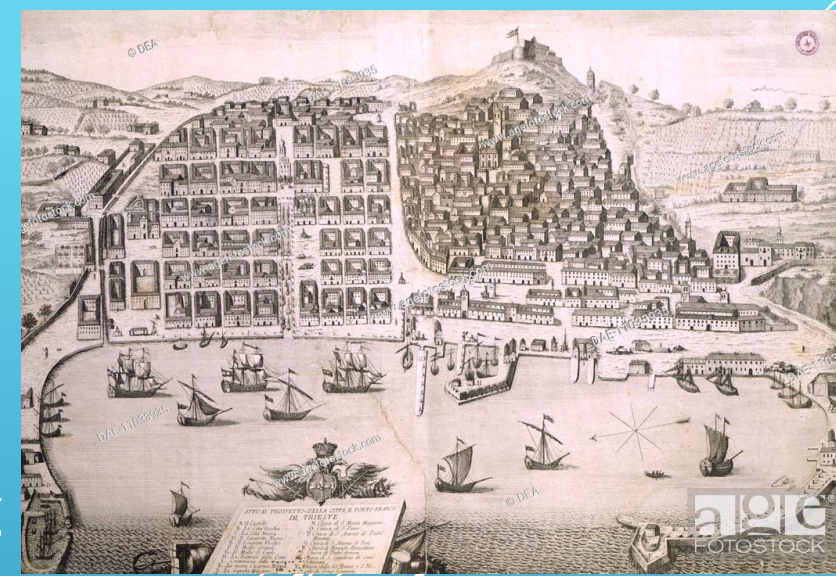
# JANE DIGBY (1807-81)

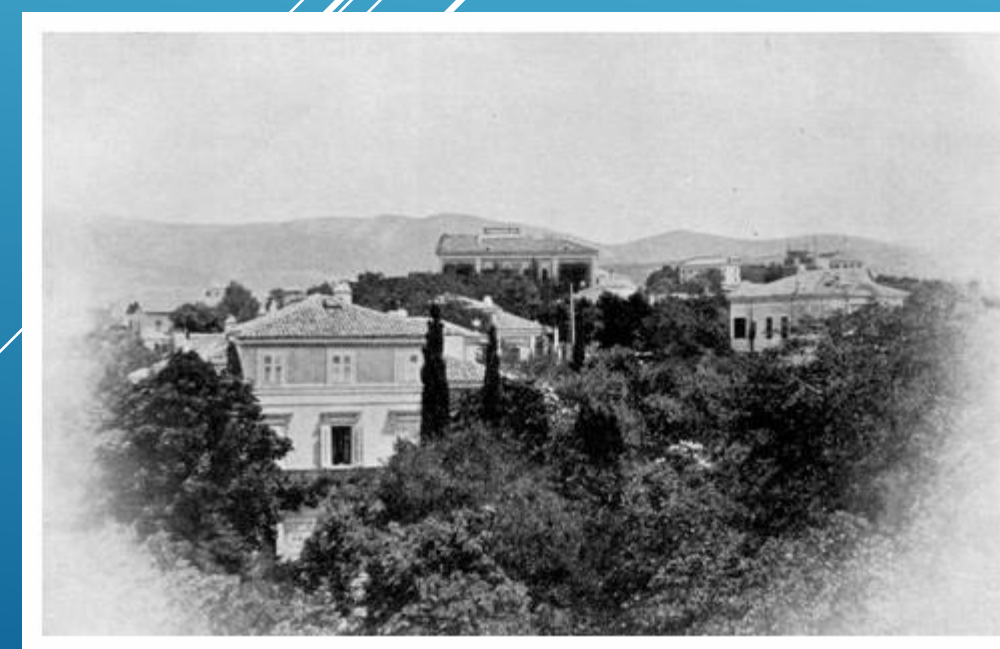
- ❑ marriage to Lord Ellenborough, affairs and divorce
- ❑ Austrian prince, King Ludwig I of Bavaria
- ❑ “marriage” to Bavarian baron, runs off with Greek prince
- ❑ Albanian general
- ❑ Bedouin sheikh (Medjuel) - Jane Digby el Mezrab
- ❑ nine languages
- ❑ “out and out the cleverest woman he ever met”



# TRieste

- ❑ December 1872 (temporary?)
- ❑ Lord Derby: “Here is six hundred a year for doing nothing and you are just the man to do it.”
- ❑ base of travels and writing for next 18 years
- ❑ Iceland and sulphur (1872 and 1875)
- ❑ India (1876)
- ❑ Egypt and gold (1877 and 1878)
- ❑ West Africa and gold (1881)
- ❑ 5 months out of every 12



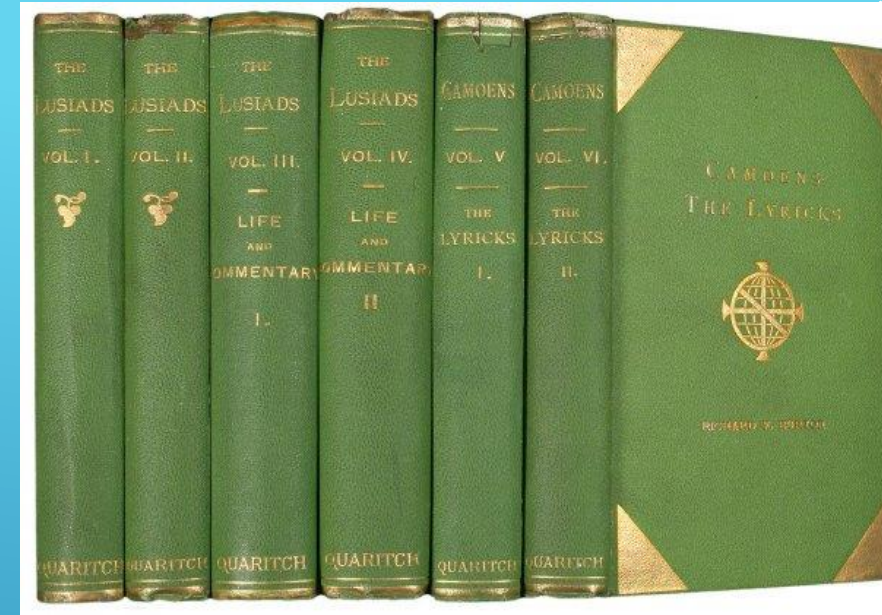
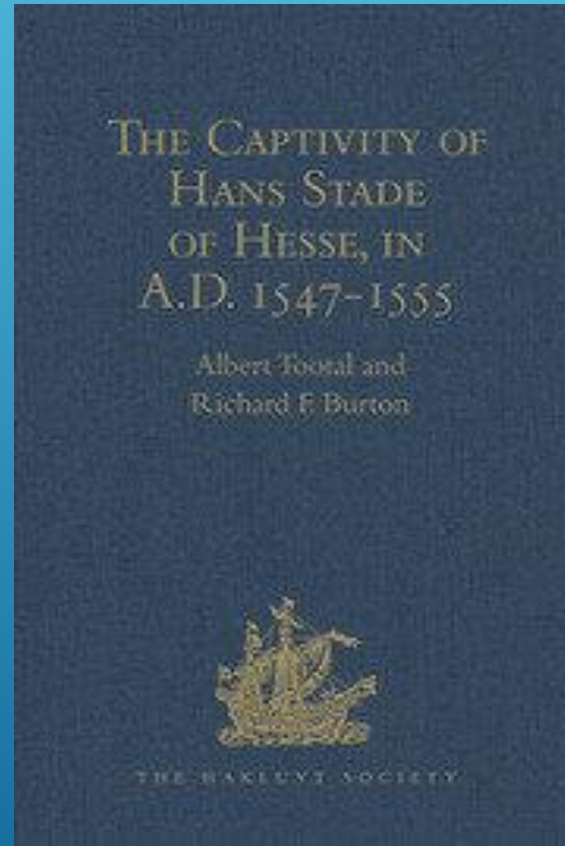






# CAMÕES & STADEN

- ❑ Hans Staden - 1874
- ❑ Camões – 1881 and 1884



CAMOENS:  
*HIS LIFE AND HIS LUSIADS.*

A COMMENTARY

BY  
RICHARD F. BURTON  
(TRANSLATOR OF THE LUSIADS).

IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOLUME I.

LONDON:  
BERNARD QUARITCH,  
15 PICCADILLY, W.  
1881.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



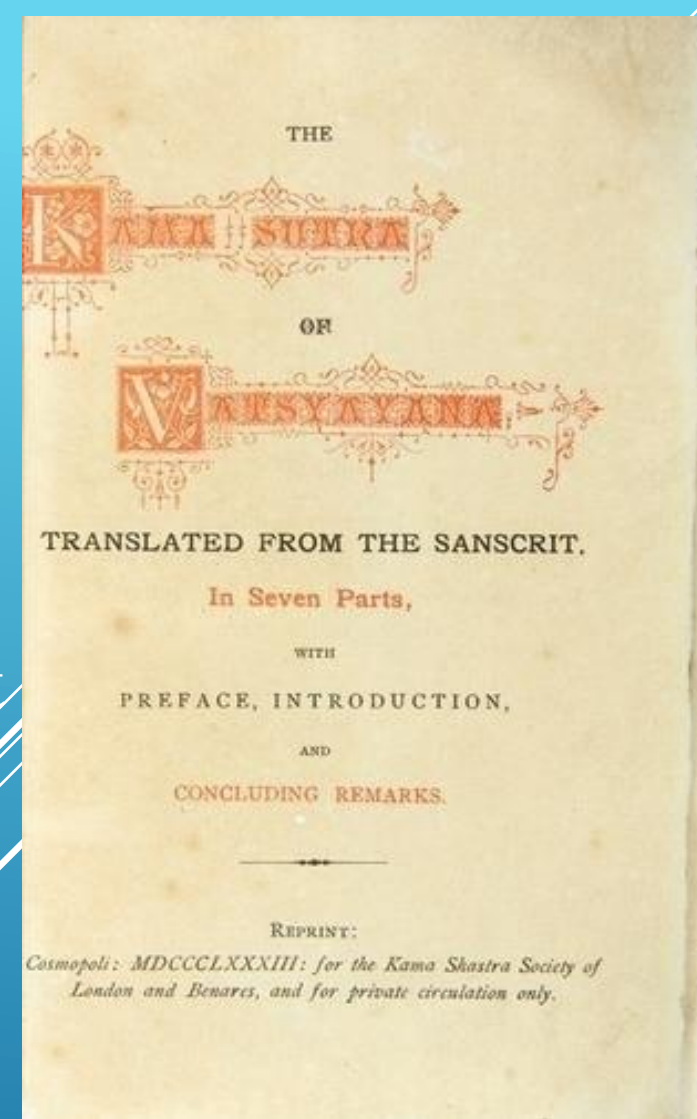
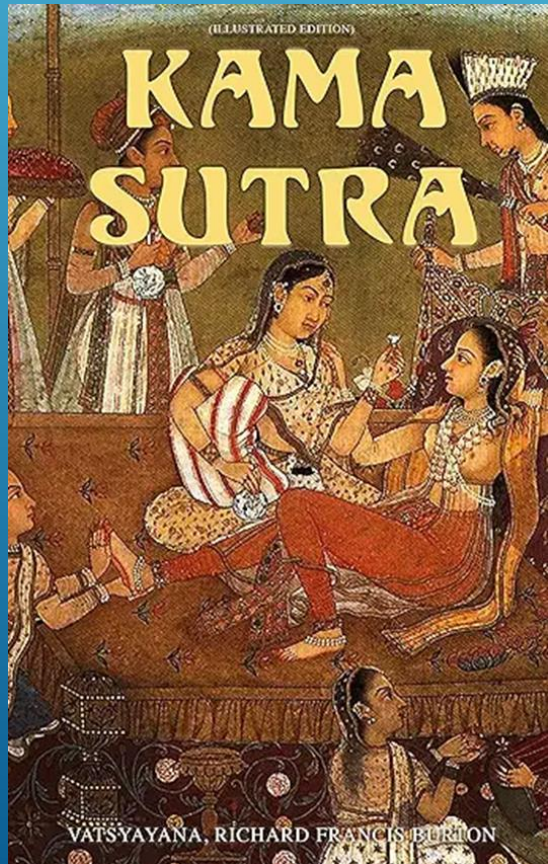
# CHANCE MEETING

- ❑ Dublin to Belfast train (1877)
- ❑ “the man riveted my attention. He was dark and forceful, and masterful, and ruthless. I have never seen so iron a countenance.”
- ❑ Bram Stoker (1847-1912)



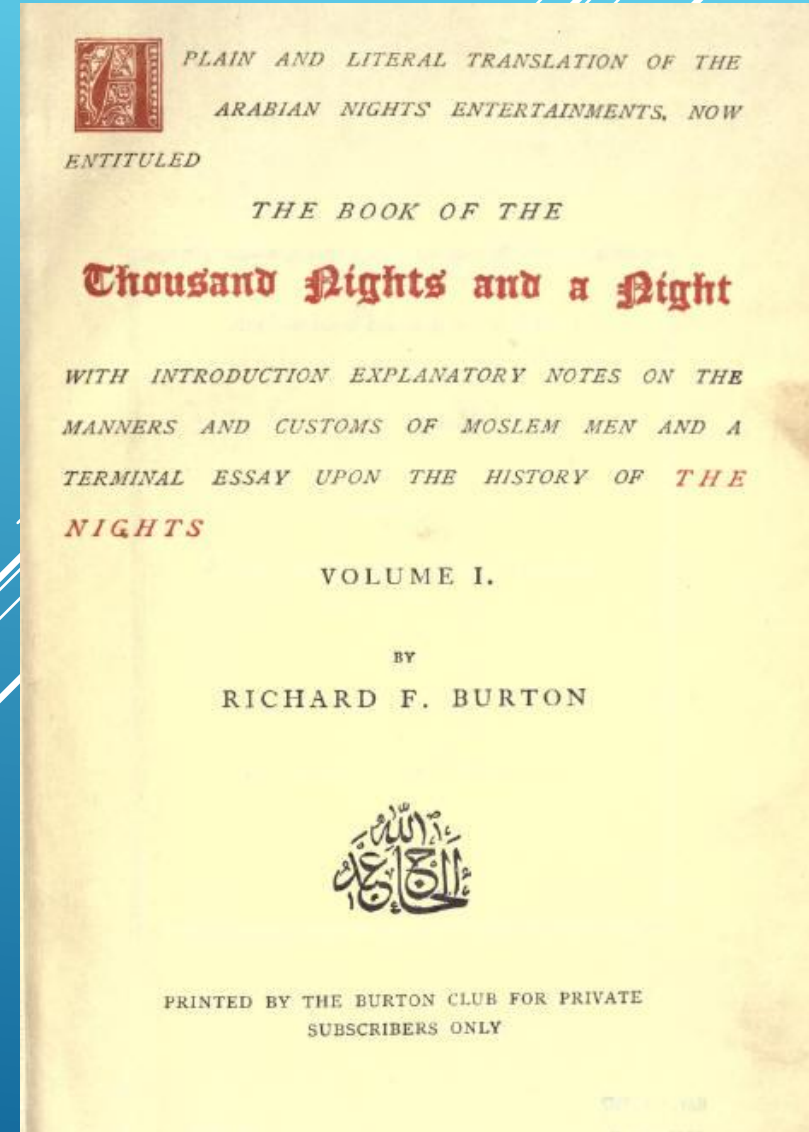
# KAMA SUTRA

- ❑ 1883 – Kama Shastra Society
- ❑ Obscene Publication Act (1857)
- ❑ *Ananga Ranga* – with F. F. Arbuthnot

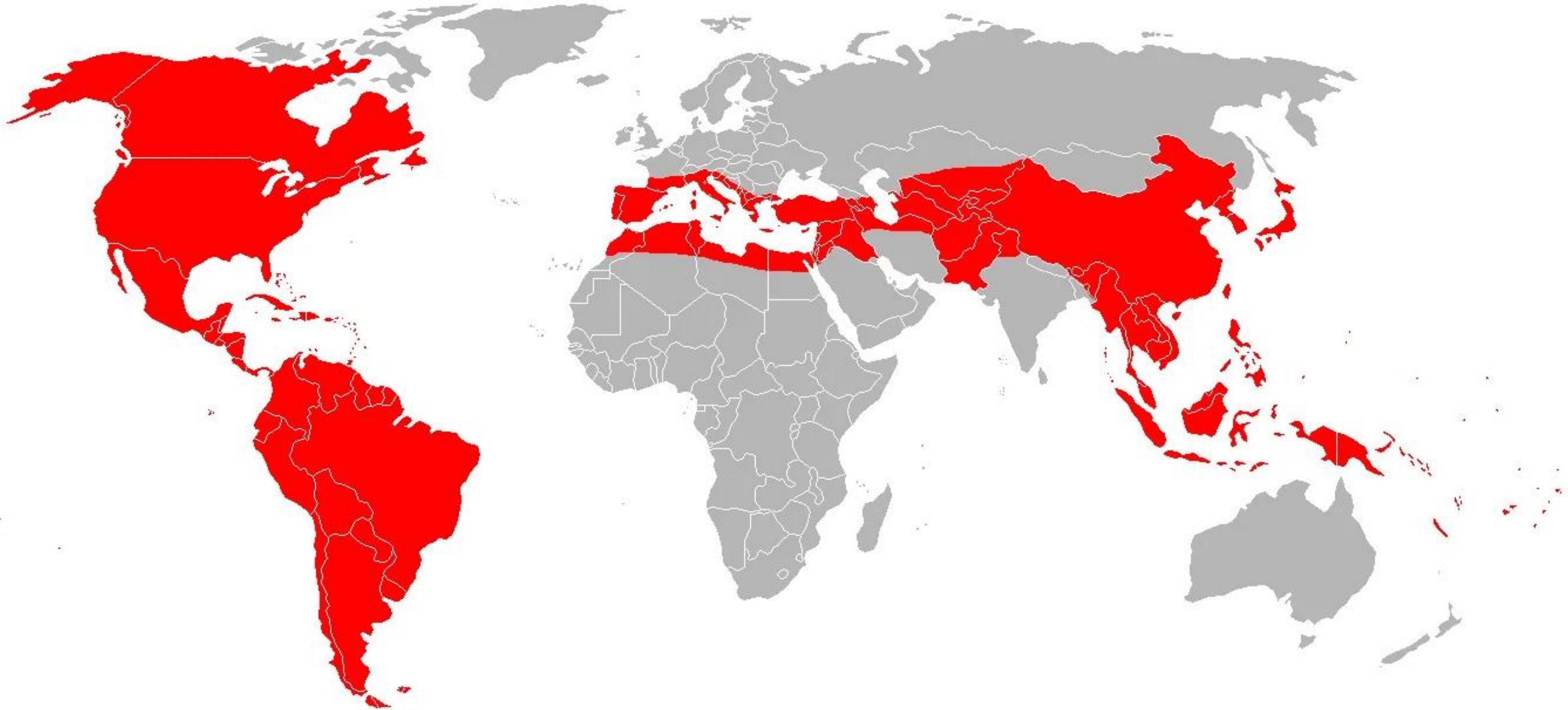


# ARABIAN NIGHTS

- ❑ 1885 and 1886
- ❑ *1001 Nights*
- ❑ subscription, and with money for the first time in his life
- ❑ “Terminal” essay and “Pederasty”
  - “The more I study religions the more I am convinced that man never worshipped anything but himself.”
- ❑ knighted in early 1886
- ❑ Isabel’s “household edition”



# SOTADIC ZONE



# SCENTED GARDEN?

□ *Ananga Ranga* (1885)

THE  
PERFUMED GARDEN  
OF THE  
CHEIKH NEFZAOUI

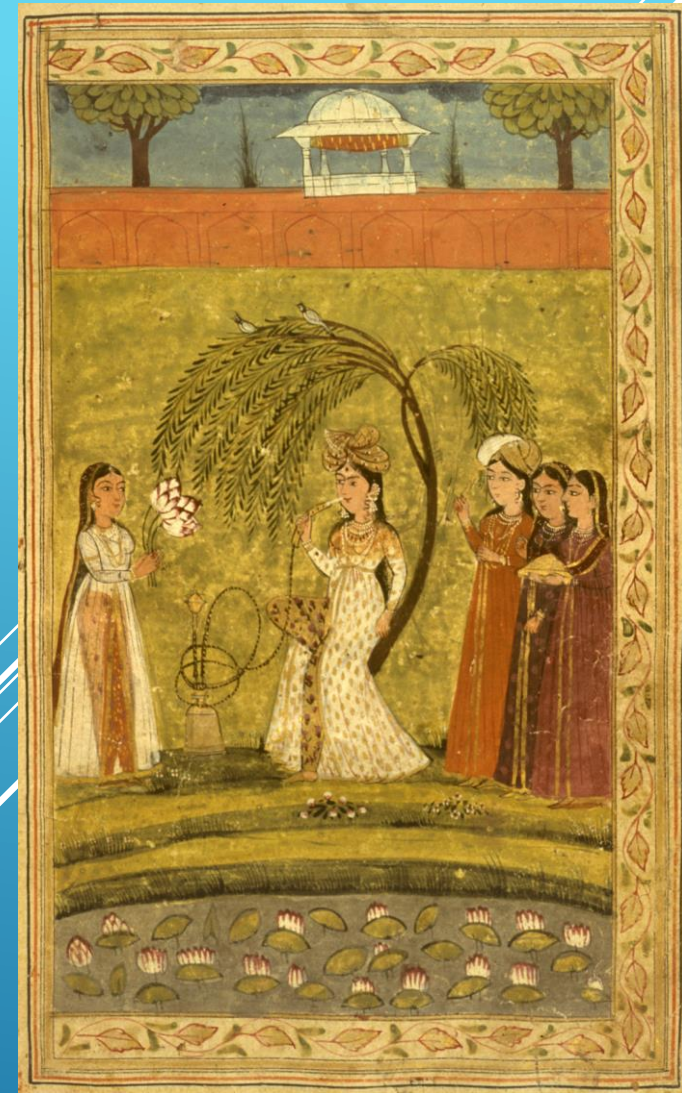
*A MANUAL OF ARABIAN EROTOLOGY*  
(XVI. Century)

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Revised and Corrected Translation

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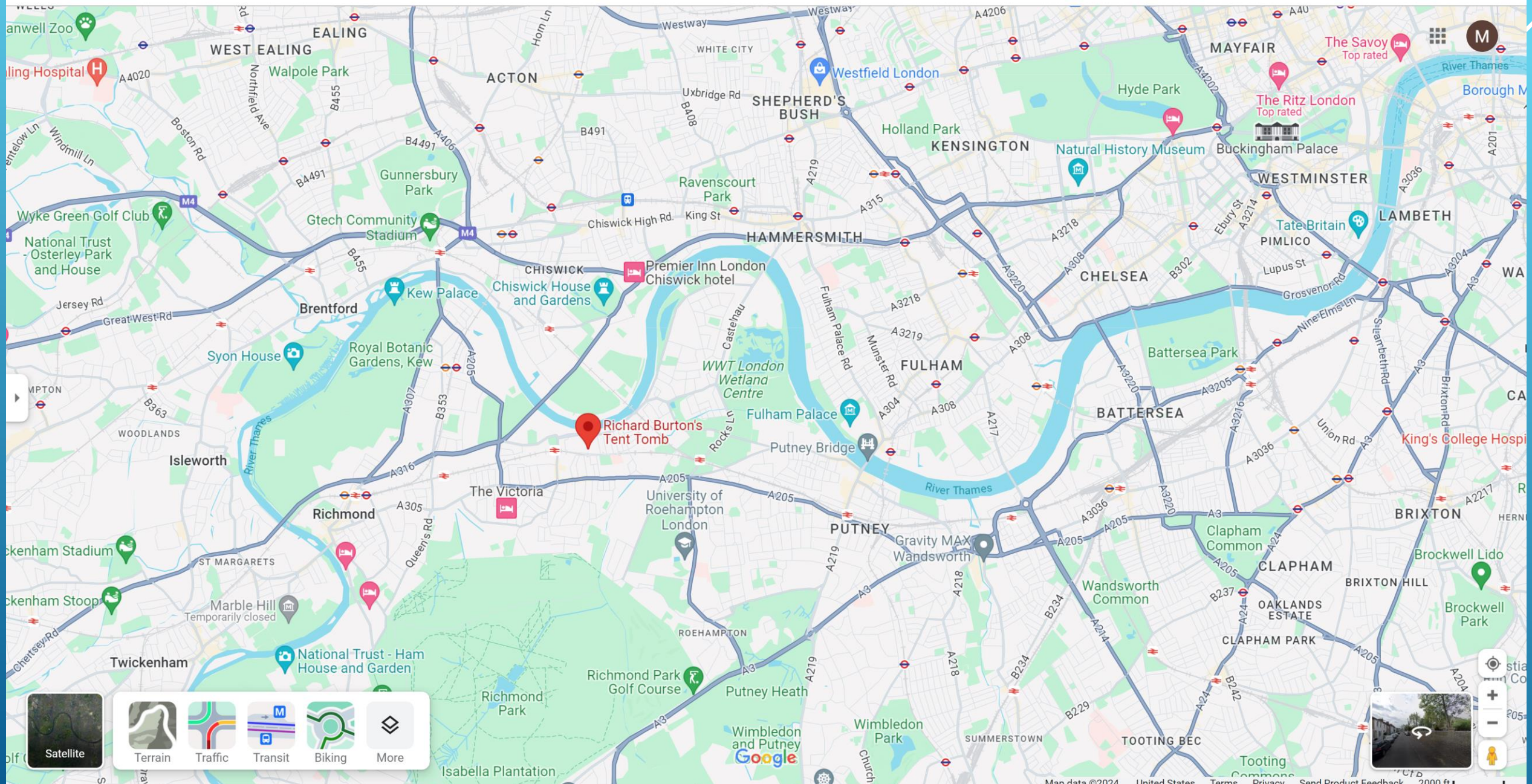
*Cosmopolis: MDCCCLXXXVI: for the Kama Shastra  
Society of London and Benares, and for  
Private circulation only.*



# FINAL DAYS

- ❑ series of heart attacks in 1880s
  - tertiary syphilis?
- ❑ personal physician and entourage
- ❑ 20 October 1890
- ❑ last rites and funeral in Trieste
- ❑ June 1891 – reburied in Mortlake
- ❑ almost no funds





Richard Burton's Tent Tomb

Satellite Terrain Traffic Transit Biking More





CAPTAIN  
DR RICHARD FRANCIS  
BURTON.  
K.C.M.G. F.R.C.S.  
BORN 19 MARCH  
1831  
DIED AT TRIESTE  
20 OCTOBER  
1890.  
R-I-P

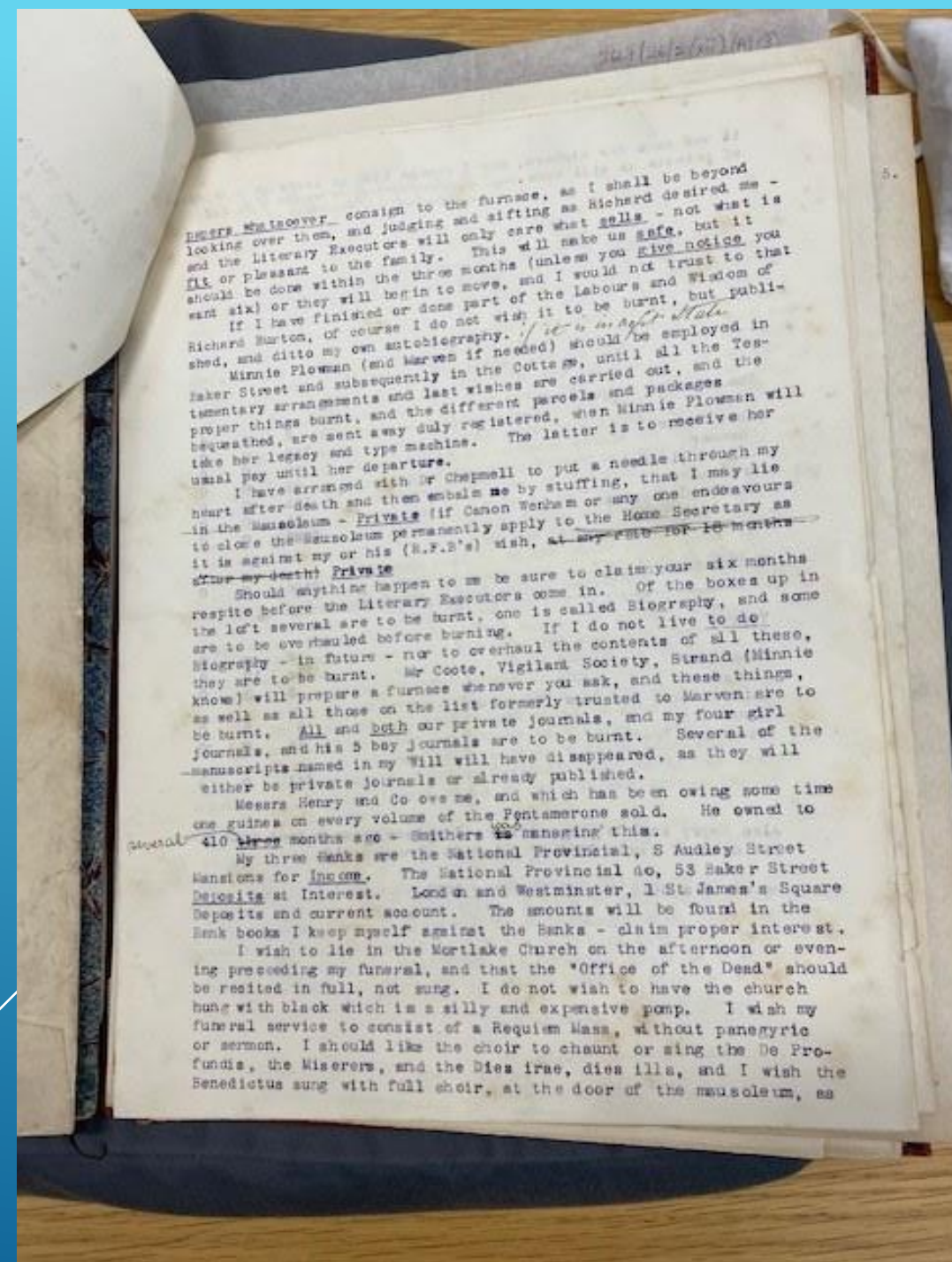
ISABEL  
HIS WIFE,  
NEE ARUNDELL  
(OF WARBOUN)  
DIED 22ND DAY OF  
MARCH 1896.  
R-I-P  
JESU MARY MARY HELP  
PRAY FOR HER.

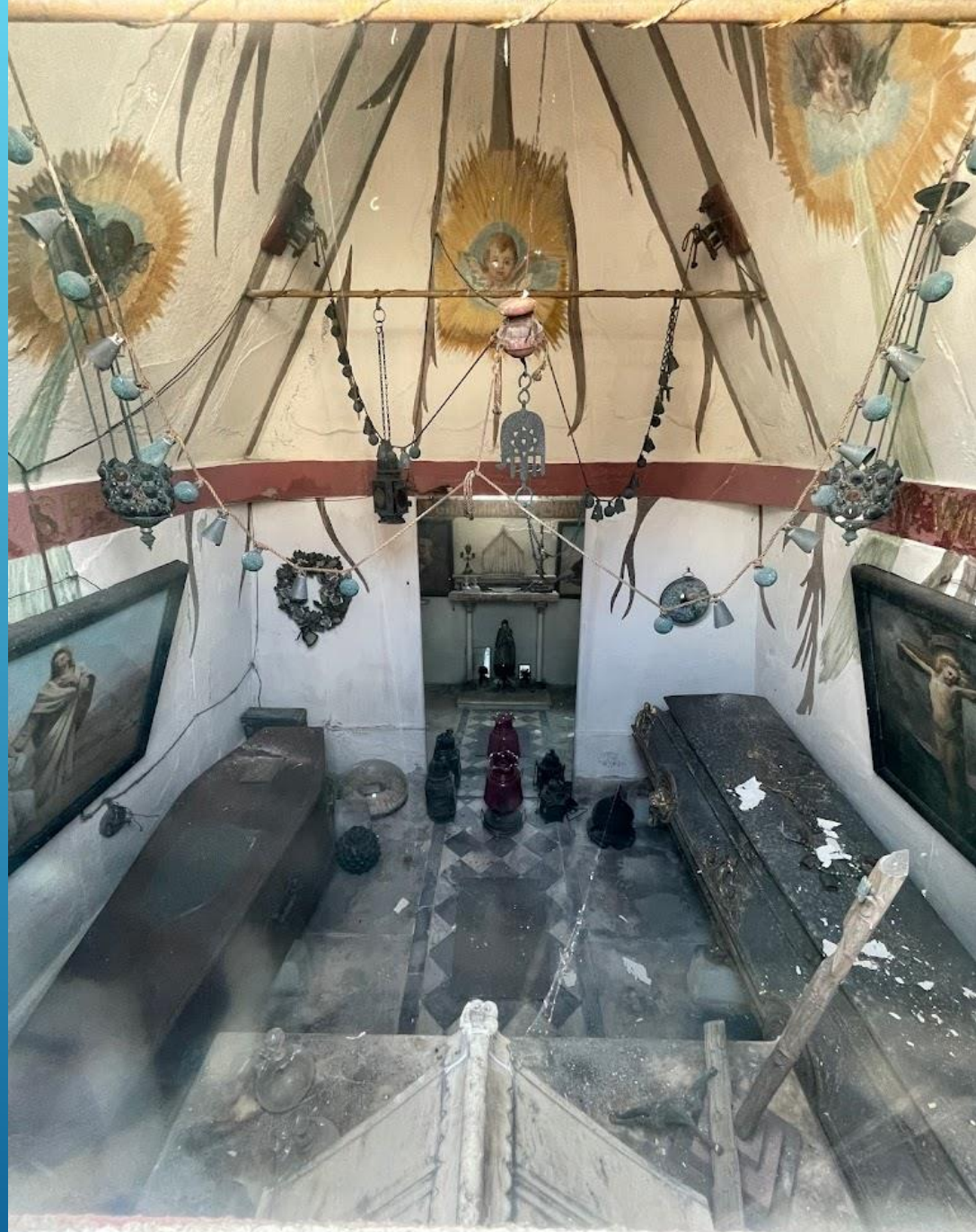
THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED  
TO HIS MEMORY  
BY HIS LOVING COUNTRYMEN

RICHARD BURTON  
FAREWELL, DEAR FRIEND, DEAD MEN OYSE GREAT LIFE  
IS AWED, THE GREAT PERILS, THE GREAT JOYS,  
AND HE TO WHOM ADVENTURES WERE AS TOYS,  
WHO SEEMED TO BEAR A CHARM AGAINST SPEAR OR KNIFE  
OR BULLET, NOW LIES SILENT FROM ALL STRIFE,  
OUT YONDER WHERE THE AUSTRIAN EAGLES POISE  
ON ISTRIAN HILLS, BUT ENGLAND, AT THE VOICE  
OF THAT GREAT FALL, WEEPS WITH THE HERO'S WIFE,  
OH, LAST AND SILENT OF THE ERRANT KNIGHTS,  
THE ENGLISH SOLDIER AND THE ARAB SQUIRE!  
OH, SINGER OF THE EAST WHO LOVED SO WELL  
THE SEVENTH OF WONDER OF THE "ARABIAN NIGHTS,"  
WHO TOUCHED CAMEL'S LIPS AND STILL WOULD DEER  
EVER NEW SONGS UNTIL THE END OF WELL!"  
JUSTIN MUNTLY McCARTHY.

# ISABEL IN LONDON

- ❑ 1893 – 2 volume biography
- ❑ earlier Hitchman biography fiasco
- ❑ writing her own autobiography with
  - annual pension
  - success of *The Life*
- ❑ 22 March 1896 – dies of cancer at 64
- ❑ final instructions





# THE BURNING?

- ❑ October 1890 in Trieste – what did she burn?
- ❑ the executors – Isabel's instructions and zeal of her sister
- ❑ fair or unfair treatment?

DEKARES: MDCCCLXXXV: PRINTED BY THE KAMASHASTRA  
SOCIETY FOR PRIVATE SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.

VOLUME I.

**A** PLAIN AND LITERAL TRANSLATION OF THE  
ARABIAN NIGHTS ENTERTAINMENTS, NOW

ENTITLED  
THE BOOK OF THE

**Thousand Nights and a Night**

WITH INTRODUCTION EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE  
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF MOSLEM MEN AND A  
TERMINAL ESSAY UPON THE HISTORY OF THE  
NIGHTS

RICHARD F. BURTON



لا لابرار  
لا لابرار

INGS ARE PURE

—And Present  
"Dissimulans" — conclusion

—Mortals

—RABELAIS

ousand-and-One Stories  
vely small part of these

"History of Arabia"

day travel

lavers had, love, die

quest; but in

from had had my

for the whole

Handwritten notes in Arabic script at the top of the page, partially obscured by the title block.

Handwritten notes in Arabic script below the author's name, including the word "Fada" and "Hama".

Handwritten notes in Arabic script at the bottom of the page, including the phrase "his part, the name on it".

# WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS MAN?

- ❑ explorer, linguist, ethnographer, translator
- ❑ five continents
- ❑ most enduring legacy is his ethnography
- ❑ both a symbol of his time and place,  
and a great exception