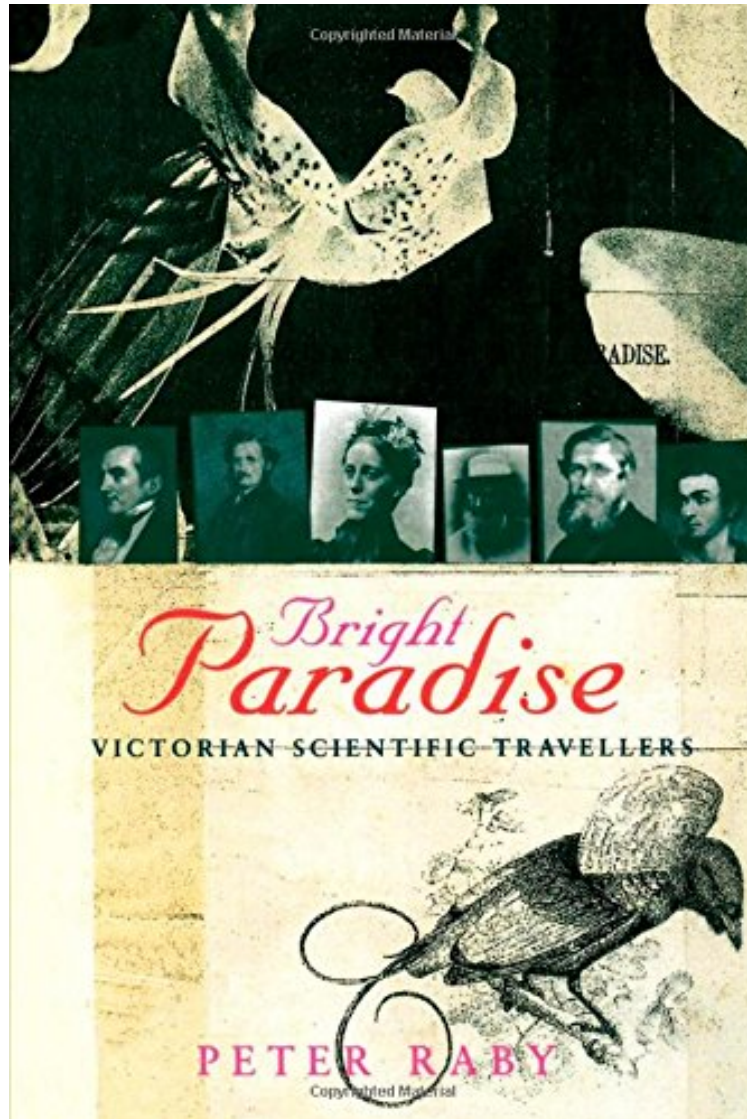


[E-BOOK] Bright Paradise: Victorian Scientific Travellers

## Bright Paradise: Victorian Scientific Travellers

*Peter Raby*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2482077 in Books Peter Raby 1997-10-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .66 x 5.981, .98 #File Name: 0691048436304 pages Bright Paradise Victorian Scientific Travellers | File size: 37.Mb

**Peter Raby : Bright Paradise: Victorian Scientific Travellers** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bright Paradise: Victorian Scientific Travellers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The collector By Bomojaz Subtitled "Victorian Scientific Travelers," this book tells the story of a handful of 19th Century British scientists, all naturalists, who, through their researches in the field in many different places around the world, helped Darwin advance his theories of evolution. The accounts are interesting: we get Darwin, of course, but also Sir Joseph Hooker in the Himalayas, Alfred Wallace in the and on the

Malayan Archipelago, Henry Bates also in the , Richard Spruce in the and the Andes, Richard Lander and Heinrich Barth in Africa, Mary Kingsley in Africa, and Marianne North in Borneo. All were fearless, resourceful, and dedicated scientists/collectors of plant and animal species from the areas they explored. Thousands of new species of flora and fauna were first identified by these intrepid people. Raby covers a lot of ground by telling about each of these scientists (and others as well) succinctly and directly. He also attempts to explain the times in which these scientists worked as people tried to come to grips with Darwin's implications. A fascinating and important book. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent History of an Exciting Time! By Randall Barnhart I've always had a weak spot for the history of science and exploration, so when I discovered this book, I went weak in the knees. We all know Darwin and Cook, but what about Russell and Spruce? Here are the true heroes of science from the days when gaps in your knowledge weren't just unfortunate, they could get you killed! Excellently written, with a mountain of information for the scholar, historian and casual reader. Get it now! 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Bright Paradise for Anthropology Students By Linda Stockham "Bright Paradise: Victorian Scientific Travellers" gives a refreshing glimpse into the scientific travellers and explorers of The Victorian Age. It covers the well-known (Darwin, Wallace, and Hooker) to those overlooked and nearly forgotten travellers like the botanical painter Marianne North. It is written without any academic pretentiousness and is ideal for introductory courses in cultural anthropology and European History of the 1800s. The only fault with this book is that it is too short.

Whether looking for the sources of the Nile, the Niger, or the Amazon, penetrating the Australian outback, or searching for the Northwest Passage, the Victorians were intrepid explorers, zealously expanding the limits of science and human knowledge. In *Bright Paradise*, Peter Raby describes brave voyages and gives us vivid and unforgettable portraits of the larger-than-life personalities of Charles Darwin, Alfred Wallace, and Henry Bates, glorious examples of Victorian energy and confidence. He also explores wider issues such as the growth of knowledge and the spread of the empire. Witty, provocative, and exciting in the breadth of its research, this book charts an important period of scientific advance and transforms it into a compelling narrative.

.com Were Victorian explorers tools of imperialism? Accomplices in conquest and genocide? Well, perhaps, and even probably. The 19th-century English explorers who sought the origins of the Nile and the heights of the Himalayas saw themselves as agents of excellence, paragons of Victorian values, and they were well aware that they opened the door for compatriots who traveled not for knowledge but for wealth. Peter Raby examines the lives and work of the great Victorian peripatetic scientists, defending them from their modern detractors and highlighting the accomplishments of those who climbed mountains in search of tea and crossed jungles in quest of orangutans and cities of gold. Some were hapless, like the snakebit Henry Walter Bates; others were fearless, like Captain Sir Richard Francis Burton, the archetype of adventure. All were interesting, and Raby does a fine job of presenting them to us. From Library Journal Global in their travels and undaunted by difficulties of climate and disease, a special clique of Victorians sought out, preserved, classified, and shipped back home insects, plants, fishes, and mammals from around the world. English professor Raby (Homerton Coll., Cambridge) focuses on the British men and women who pursued this field work, their publications, and the controversies they created, participated in, or solved. In the early chapters, Raby focuses on specific continents; later chapters examine the use in literature of "scientific travelers" and the issues their work raised. Well written, fascinating, and with wide appeal, this should be in all collections. ?Michael Cramer, North Carolina Dept. of EHNR Lib., Raleigh Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA lucid and lively survey of Victorian explorers from Raby (English/Homerton College, Cambridge). ``For the English in the nineteenth century, abroad, and especially the Empire and the colonies, existed to bring things back from," notes Raby in a neat introductory capsulization. Bring things back they did, to a fare-thee-well, but they were also, the author makes clear, agents in the imperial juggernaut, ``part of a slow but inexorable process of domination and annexation." Opening the world to commerce may have been the end result, yet each of the venturers heard his or her own drummer and fashioned an inimitable style afield. Raby profiles Mungo Park, Richard Lander, and Heinrich Barth on their African sorties; Joseph Hooker's plant collecting in India and the mountain kingdoms to the north; Charles Darwin's monumental classification undertakings while being ferried about on the *Beagle*; the scientific entrepreneurs Henry Walter Bates, Alfred Wallace, and Richard Spruce, who traded in beetles (a Victorian fancy), birds, and dried plants (though it is odd that Raby makes no mention here of the recent biopiracy controversies, particularly with Spruce, whose cinchona and rubber gatherings are a hot topic). And as women explorers have been given short shrift for their contributions, Raby takes pains to chronicle the work of Mary Kingsley in West Africa and Marianne North's superb botanical artwork. Raby then turns his attentions to how the jottings of these explorers were appropriated and deployed by writers as diverse as Charles Kingsley, whose *Water Babies* Raby considers ``a coded tour round the scientific debates of the mid-century," and Samuel Butler in his utopian *Erewhon*, the romantic Rider Haggard, son-of-the-manse John Buchan, Dickens in *Bleak House*, and, of course, Conrad. Importantly, Raby shows how the works of the explorers shaped a new Darwinian and colonialist worldview, one that remains mightily influential in the modern

imagination. (8 pages illustrations and maps) -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.