

Pioneering women travellers and explorers

Some of the women travelling in the
19th century and early 20th century

Questions for discussion & some answers

- What made them travel?
- How did they share their findings?
- What held them back?
- What helped them achieve all they did?
- How were they different from men travellers?



Lady Isabel Burton 1831 - 1896



Fanny Bullock Workman 1859 - 1925

“Travellers are privileged to do the most improper things with perfect propriety. That is one charm of travelling. “

Isabella Bird



Isabella Bird in her Hawaiian Riding Dress



Lady Hester Stanhope 1776 - 1839



Marianne North 1830 - 1890

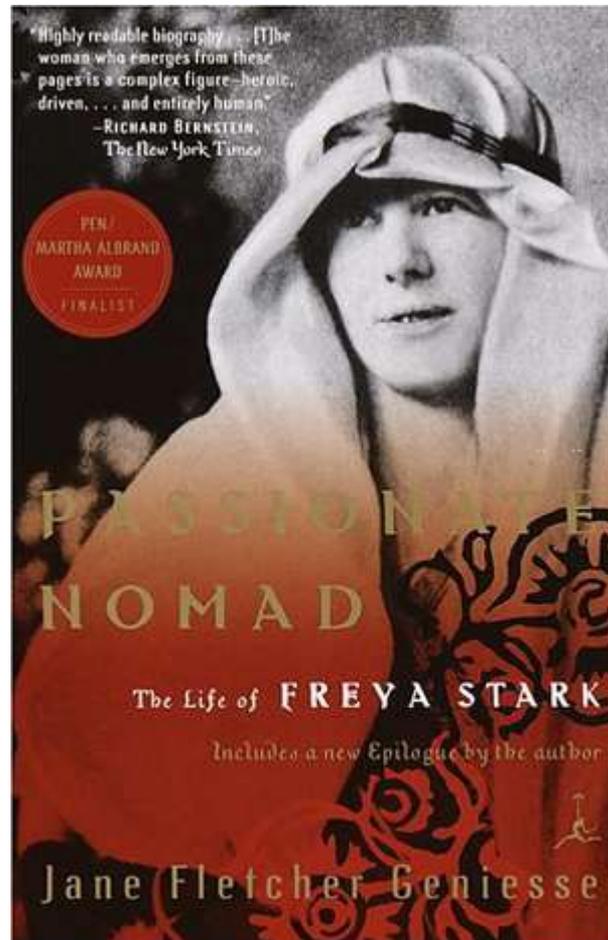


Kate Marsden 1859 - 1931



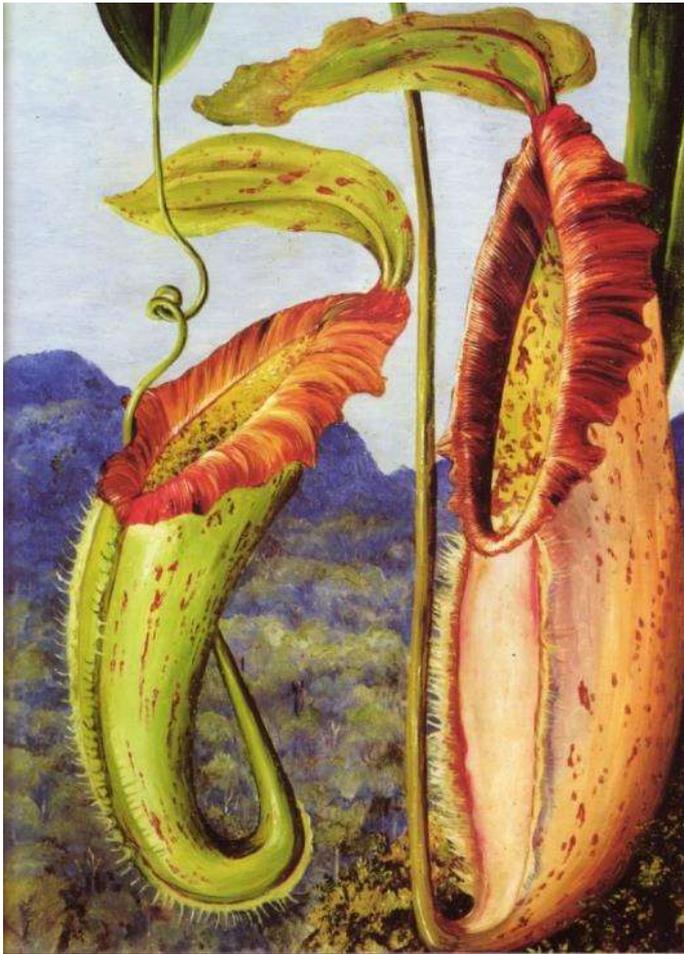
Gertrude Bell 1868 - 1926

Freya Stark 1893-1993



Questions for discussion & some answers

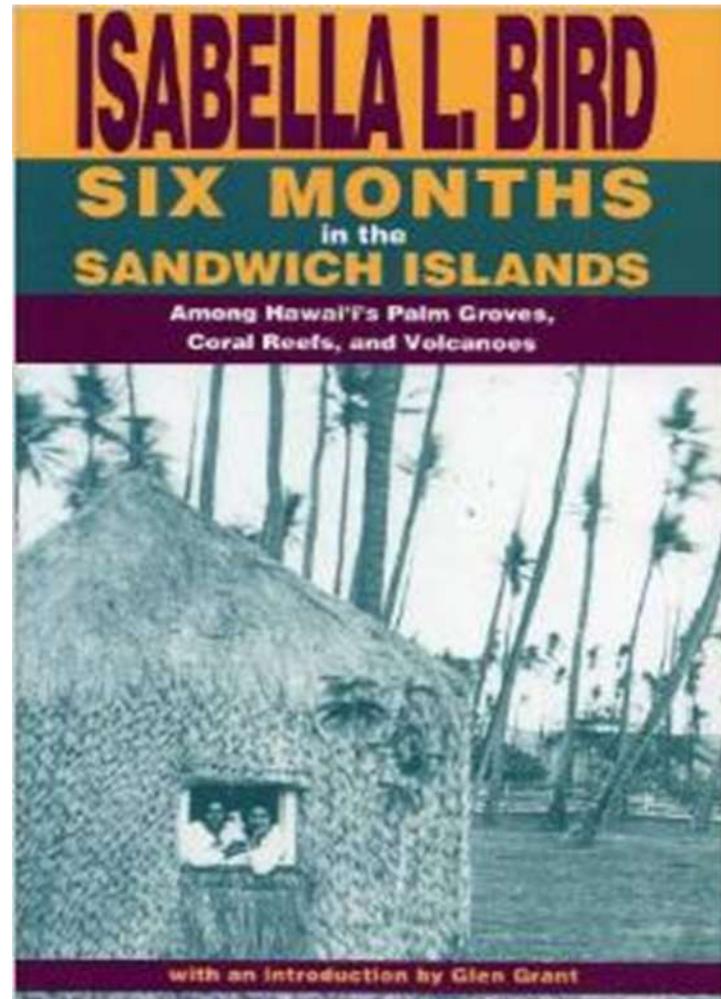
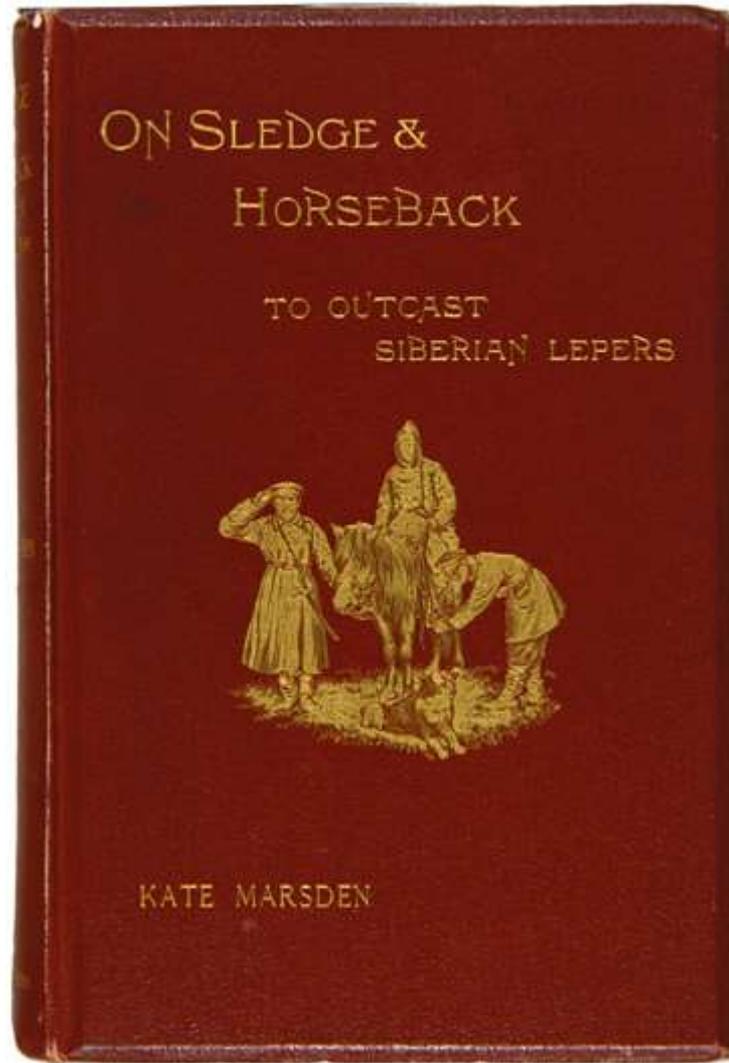
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Marianne North's painting of *Nepenthes Northiana*, and the Marianne North Gallery, Kew Gardens, opened in 1882



Isabella Bird and her equipment



The Admission of Women Fellows to the Royal Geographical Society, 1892-1914; the Controversy and the Outcome

Article in Geographical Journal 162(3):295 · November 1996

1892 Isabella Bird elected as a Fellow, followed by another 21 women

1893 Lord Curzon led a campaign which reversed the decision, though the 22 remained as Fellows.

The President and Secretary resigned & *“challenged the presumption that most Fellows conformed to the heroic image of a robust man braving danger to return with the golden fleece of fresh discoveries. “*

1913 At last, women were again allowed to become Fellows

Extract from a poem in Punch,
1893

**A lady an explorer? A
traveller in skirts?**

**The notion's just a
trifle too seraphic:**

**Let them stay and mind the
babies, or hem our ragged
shirts;**

**But they mustn't, can't
and shan't be geographic.**

READING LIST

- The Guardian, to mark International Women's Day March 8th 2016
- <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2016/mar/08/top-10-inspiring-female-travel-adventurers>
- Katie Hickman, **Daughters of Britannia** :the lives and times of diplomatic wives, Flamingo 1999
- Jane Robinson, **Wayward Women**: a guide to women travellers OUP 2001
- Ed Mary Morris, **Virago Book of Women Travellers**, Virago 1994
- Georgina Howell, **Daughter of the Desert**: the remarkable life of Gertrude Bell, Pan Books 2006
- Dorothy Middleton, **Victorian Lady Travellers**, Academy Chicago Publishers 1965