

Lady Hester Stanhope (1776-1839)

British socialite, traveler and adventurer whose archaeological expedition to Ashkelon in 1815 is considered the first modern excavation in the Holy Land.

- Memoirs of the Lady Hester Stanhope (1846: 3 volumes) **B STA**
- Lady Hester Stanhope (1909) – Julia Roundell **B STA**
- Star of the Morning: The Extraordinary Life of Lady Hester Stanhope (2008) – Kirsten Ellis **B STA**

Edith Durham (1863-1944)

Traveler, artist and anthropologist whose writings on the Balkans – and particularly Albania – were considered pre-eminent. Her work is illustrated with her own sketches.

- The Burden of the Balkans (1905) **914.96 DUR**

Alexandra David-Néel (1868-1969)

Belgian-French explorer, spiritualist, Buddhist and anarchist, whose writings on Tibet influenced Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg.

- My Journey to Lhasa (1983; originally published 1924) **915.15 DAV**

Josephine Diebitsch Peary (1863-1955)

American author and Arctic explorer, alongside her husband, Robert Peary.

- My Arctic Journal (1893) **919.8 PEA**. For further accounts of Arctic exploration, see our separate guide Arctic Exploration

Visit www.secretlibraryleeds.net to find out more about our collections.

Opening times

Monday – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Tuesday – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Weds – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Thursday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Friday – 9.00 – 5.00pm
Saturday – 10.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday - Closed

For more information:

Local and Family History

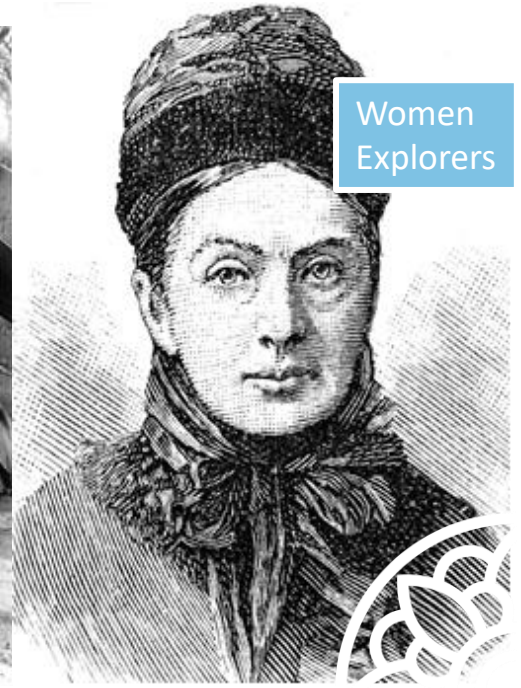
Leeds Central Library, Calverley Street,
Leeds, LS1 3AB

T: 0113 378 6982

E: localandfamilyhistory@leeds.gov.uk

W: www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries

Blog: secretlibraryleeds.net



Women
Explorers

Women Explorers

Our Research Guides list some of the most useful, interesting and unique items in the **Collections** at **Leeds Central Library**. Others are listed in our online catalogues.

Please note: * indicates an item from our **Special Collections**. ID and an appointment may be required to view these items.

Images: Isabella Bird (l); Gertrude Bell (r)



[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#) @LeedsLibraries



General Histories of Exploration

- A History of Exploration: From the Earliest Times to the Present Day (1950) – Percy Sykes **910.9 SYK**
- Narratives of Exploration and Adventure (1958) – ed., Allan Nevins **973 FRE**

General Histories of Women Explorers

- Spinsters Abroad: Victorian Lady Explorers (1989) – Dea Birkett **910.4 BIR**
- On Top of The World: Five Women Explorers in Tibet (1976) – Laura Miller **915.15 MIL**

Explorers Connected to Yorkshire and Humberside

Amy Johnson (1903 -1941)

Born in Kingston-upon-Hull, Amy Johnson was a pioneering aviatrix and the first female pilot to fly alone from Britain to Australia.

- Winged Victory: The Story of Amy Johnson (1966) – Elizabeth Grey **YB JOH**
- Amy Johnson (1977) – Constance Babington Smith **B JOH**
- Amy Johnson: Queen of the Air (1980) – Gordon Snell **YB JOH**
- Amy Johnson (1987) – Eva Bailey **YB JOH**
- Amy Johnson: Enigma in the Sky (2002) – David Luff **YB JOH**
- Missing, Believed Killed (2010) – Roy Coyners Nesbit **Y 363.1 NES**. Includes a chapter on Amy Johnson's disappearance in 1941

Isabella Bird (1831-1904)

From Boroughbridge near Harrogate, Isabella Bird was a 19th-century explorer, writer, photographer and naturalist. She was the first woman to be elected *Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society*.

- Unbeaten Tracks in Japan (1880) **Y 915.2 BIR**
- Korea and Her Neighbours (1898 – writing as Mrs. Bishop) **951.9 BIR**
- The Yangtze Valley and Beyond (1899 – as Mrs. Bishop) **Y 915.1 BIR**

Gertrude Bell (1868-1926)

One of the most influential individuals of the 20th-century, Gertrude Bell was a traveler, writer, political officer, administrator, spy and archaeologist who played a pivotal role in mapping the boundaries of the Middle-East. The Bell family home was in East Rounton, North Yorkshire.

- The Desert and the Sown (1907) **956 BEL**
- The Letters of Gertrude Bell (1930) **YB BEL**
- The Earlier Letters of Gertrude Bell (1937) **YB BEL**
- Gertrude Bell: From Her Personal Papers, 1889-1914 (1958) **YB BEL**
- Gertrude Bell (1978) - H.V.F. Winstone **YB BEL**

Other Women Explorers

Freya Stark (1893-1993)

Recipient of the *Royal Geographical Society's Back Award* in 1933, Freya Stark was best known for her travels in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

- The Valley of Assassins: And Other Persian Travels (1934) **915.5 STA**
- Baghdad Sketches (1939) **956.7 STA**
- The Southern Gates of Arabia: A Journey in the Hadhramaut (1940) **915.33 STA**
- A Winter in Arabia (1948) **915.33 STA**
- Beyond Euphrates: Autobiography, 1928-1933 (1951) **B STA**
- The Coast of Incense: Autobiography, 1933-1939 (1953) **B STA**
- Dust in the Lion's Paw: Autobiography, 1939-1946 (1961) **B STA**
- A Tower in a Wall: Conversations with Dame Freya Stark (1982) – Alexander Maitland **B STA**

Mary Kingsley (1862-1900)

English explorer and ethnographer whose writings helped shaped European perceptions of African cultures.

- Travels in West Africa (1897) **916.7 KIN**
- West African Studies (1899) **966 KIN**
- The Life of Mary Kingsley (1932) – Stephen Lucius Gwynn **B KIN**

Ida Pfeiffer (1797-1858)

Austrian traveler and writer who made two Round-the-World trips in the mid-19th-century.

- Visit to the Holy Land, Egypt and Italy (1852) **SR 915.694 PFE***