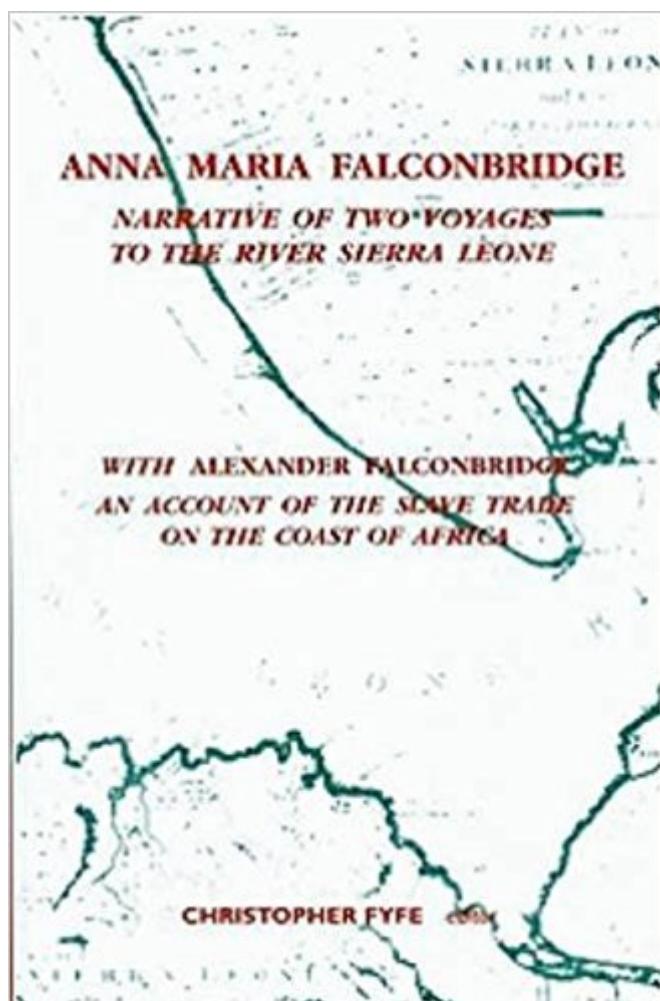


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Anna Maria Falconbridge: Narrative Of Two Voyages To The River Sierra Leone During The Years 1791-1792-1793 (Liverpool Historical Studies)



Synopsis

Anna Maria Falconbridgeâ™s Narrative of Two Voyages, consisting of fourteen letters to a friend about her experiences, is the first published Englishwomanâ™s narrative of a visit to West Africa. Alexander Falconbridgeâ™s Account of the Slave Trade describes the horrific conditions he had witnessed in West Africa. Published in 1788 by the London Committee for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, it was the first piece of published abolitionist propaganda.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm not saying that Fyfe was flawless; however, if you're researching Sierra Leone, anything with his name attached is well worth examining. His editing and footnotes are entirely reasonable, and more than useful for cross-referencing other SL material as well as late 18th C explorations. A fantastic companion to Mungo Park, particularly if you teach and gender balance is a concern (and presumably it is). Falconbridge herself was a remarkable writer--duly informative and utterly readable and engaging. And what she went through rises above what one might expect even for the late-enlightenment discrimination against women.

Falconbridge details her travels to Sierra Leone and the establishment of the pioneering Freetown settlement founded by the Sierra Leone Company. The initial section of the narrative is dedicated to a description of her surroundings and the native culture as well as the circumstances of her first voyage. The narrative takes a different turn on her second voyage however, when she accuses the

Sierra Leone Company of mishandling the colony and attempts to gain recompense for her hardships. This narrative is interesting in the context of British abolition and as an account of a European woman's experiences in Africa. Some of the material is a little dry, especially Alexander Falconbridge's testimonial which has been rehashed many times. Also, Anna Maria's response to African society is not surprising and yet the hardships that she overcomes in her travels are remarkable. The editorial commentary in this book is excellent and helpful in understanding this epistolary narrative in its context.

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