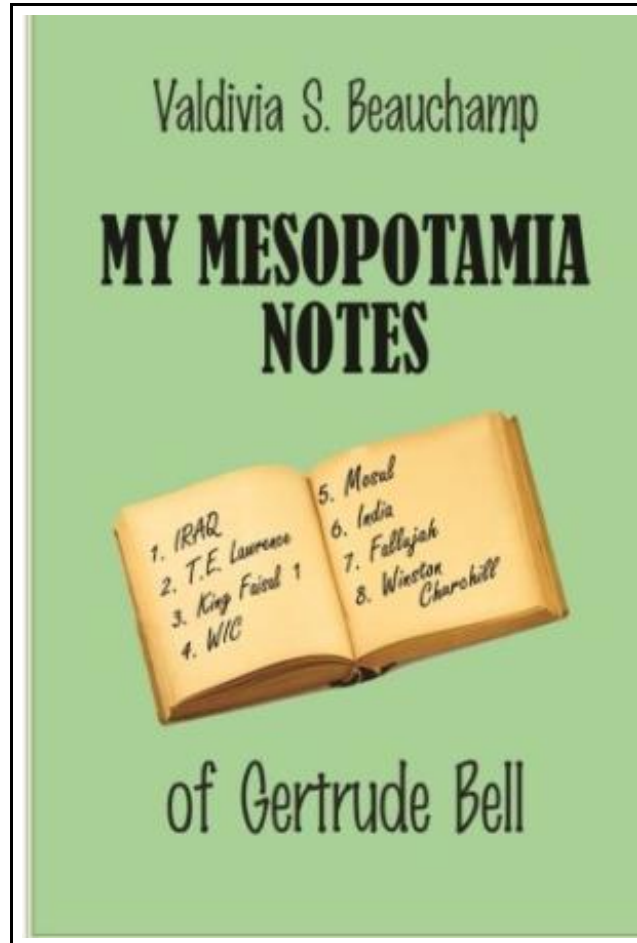


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MY MESOPOTAMIA NOTES: OF GERTRUDE BELL



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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.My Mesopotamia: Notes of Gertrude Bell Her forthcoming book is My Mesopotamia: Notes of Gertrude Bell. Gertrude Bell (4 July 1868 - 12 July 1926) is an amazing Victorian woman - explorer, archeologist (whose pioneering work holds up to this day), writer, translator and advisor to the British government. Bell is the subject of the recent Werner Herzog biopic, Queen of the Desert, starring Nicole Kidman, a film which romanticizes Bell. Valdivia s book examines the deeper aspects of this groundbreaking feminine polymath and the political repercussions of her work with the British. Many of Bell s recommendations, good and bad, still have deep resonance in the Middle East today. Unfortunately, the credit and honor (or blame and opprobium) which she so richly deserves has been shifted by history and myth to T.E. Laurence (Laurence of Arabia). In 1992, when Valdivia was finishing her masters degree at NYU, she was talking with acquaintances, who mentioned April Gaspie, the American ambassador to Iraq (the first woman ambassador to an Arab country). Just prior to the First Gulf War in 1992, Gaspie had a still-controversial meeting with Saddam Hussain. Some English people present during the conversation commented, It would have been nice if Gaspie could have met Gertrude Bell. Who is Gertrude Bell? Valdivia asked. She was the woman who had all the answers when the British were taking over the Ottoman Empire. She never got any of the credit she deserved for all the work she did. Thus was planted the seeds of a fascination that would grow and grow, until in 2004, when Valdivia began intensive research on Bell. Not only did she access Bell s letters, books...



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