

ANZA PUBLISHING

**Beautiful, Captivating Scenes from a Journey
Through Germany, Italy, France, and Switzerland**

VIEWS OF OLD EUROPE *A Grand Tour Across a Timeless Landscape* by Bayard Taylor

Bayard Taylor continued his trips to remote parts of the world . . . and became renowned as something of a modern Marco Polo — Encyclopaedia Britannica

Although historians are interested in studying all the social types that make up a culture, one type is often neglected, that of the tourist. Finally, there is a book that greatly improves our knowledge about this elusive subject. **VIEWS OF OLD EUROPE** (Rollright Books) by Bayard Taylor gives us a rare opportunity to discover what an American tourist experienced on a two-year long journey in the 1840s, mostly on foot, through Britain, Ireland, Germany, Italy, France, Austria and Switzerland. The work was very popular, the original edition being followed by several further printings in less than two years. **VIEWS OF OLD EUROPE** is presented in an outstanding new edition, with a new preface and index, and is based on a revised 1850 version.

This memoir is multi-faceted. Perceptive observations about European society are set against the background of the journey narrative, which keeps moving at a deliberate but very pleasant pace. In these observations, Taylor strikes just the right balance between panorama and detail. The communities of that time, in all their charm, ebullience, traditional customs, and protectiveness, are brought into clear focus, facilitated by the copious notes kept by the author. Over the long course, a variety of beauties both natural and man-made were encountered: mountains, rivers, lakes and woods, as well as galleries, museums, churches, mansions, and cathedrals. But **VIEWS OF OLD EUROPE** makes clear that the tour had its share of challenges, including fatiguing hikes on back-roads, inadequate funds, and avoiding robbers. There was also a dearth of facilities conducive to material comfort and convenience, such as hotels, restaurants and shelters. Still, for Taylor, the advantages greatly outweighed the hardships, and his fond reminiscences are evinced in truly lovely prose that still resonates with us today.

So how do the experiences of the present day traveler compare with those of his early modern counterpart? Many of the situations described in **VIEWS OF OLD EUROPE** might be surprisingly familiar to readers, but many others will be breathtakingly different. Such is the tremendous scope of this highly engaging and well-composed account.

Bayard Taylor (1825-1878) was of Quaker and South German descent. Although Taylor went on to become a diplomat, essayist, and poet, his first employment after leaving the family farm was as a printer's apprentice. The idealistic youth's cherished goal was to visit various European countries,

to see first-hand the circumstances in which great culture and art arose. When Taylor's cousin asked him to be his companion on an extended journey through the Old World, Taylor, although without much money, found the opportunity too tempting to pass up. After these events, in 1846, Taylor bought with a friend as a partner a printing-office in his native county, and began to publish the Phoenixville "Pioneer". But after a year he sold his newspaper and obtained a place on the New York "Tribune" in the literary department. During the Civil War, he wrote articles advocating the Union. Due to his knowledge of European affairs and his honest, genial manner, he was eventually induced to become a diplomat. He was appointed secretary of legation, General Simon Cameron being minister, at St. Petersburg in 1862. In 1867, the Taylors revisited Switzerland and Italy. In 1877, Taylor's health failed, and after a partial recuperation he was nominated by President Hayes as minister to Berlin. His confirmation was followed by a series of testimonials, culminating with a banquet in New York, at which the poet Bryant presided. Taylor wrote many books, including books of travel, novels, poetry and stories, including "Travels in Greece and Rome" (New York, 1859) "At Home and Abroad" (2 vols., 1859-62); "The Boys of other Countries" (1876); "The Picture of St. John," a romantic art-poem (1869); "The Prophet: A Tragedy" (1874); and "Home-Pastorals" (1875).

Paul Dennis Sporer (editor) is the author of *The Dimensions of Companionship; Liberating Love; The Concept of Family; and Equal but Different*. He has also served as editor on more than 30 culturally and historically significant books, including *Painting Explained*, by Thomas Gullick; *Is Secession Treason?*, by Albert Bledsoe; *The Heart of Aryavarta*, by Lawrence Dundas; *Beauty and Art*; by Aldam Heaton; *The French at Home*, by Albert Rhodes; *From Slave Cabin to Pulpit*, by Peter Randolph; *Newer Ideals of Peace*, by Jane Addams; *Views of Old Europe*, by Bayard Taylor; *Gentle Measures*, by Jacob Abbott; *Parental Influences*, William Bacon; *Finding a Way Out*, by Robert Moton; *The New Birth*, by Austin Phelps; *Tupelo*, by John Hill Aughey; *An Incident of Travel*, Arthur Jerome Eddy; *End of an Era*, by John Sergeant Wise; *The Missionary*, by Samuel Mazzuchelli; *Half a Century*, by Jane Swisshelm; *Born Three Times*, by Thomas L. Johnson; *Dark Hollow*, by Anna Katharine Green; and *1492: Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Mary Johnston.

For further information about **IEWS OF OLD EUROPE**, or to arrange an interview with the editor, contact Cassandra Foxton, [inform at anzapublishing.com](mailto:inform@anzapublishing.com). The publisher's website address is AnzaPublishing.com.

#

IEWS OF OLD EUROPE by Bayard Taylor, Paul Dennis Sporer (Editor)

Revised and enhanced edition, with new index and preface

Pub. Date: 2006; Pages: 460; ISBN: 1-932490-31-0 (hc), Price \$29.95