A Thousand Miles up the Nile

by Amelia B. Edwards (1831-1892)

In the winter of 1873–1874, accompanied by several friends, Amelia B. Edwards toured Egypt, discovering a fascination with the land and its cultures, both ancient and modern. Journeying southwards from Cairo in a hired houseboat, the companions visited Philae and ultimately reached Abu Simbel where they remained for six weeks. Upon her return to England, she wrote a vivid description of her Nile voyage, publishing the resulting book in 1876 under the title of A Thousand Miles up the Nile, which became an immediate bestseller. One of the pioneering Egyptologists of the age, Edwards became a tireless public advocate for the research and preservation of the ancient monuments and, in 1882, co-founded the Egypt Exploration Fund (now the Egypt Exploration Society). (Wikipedia)