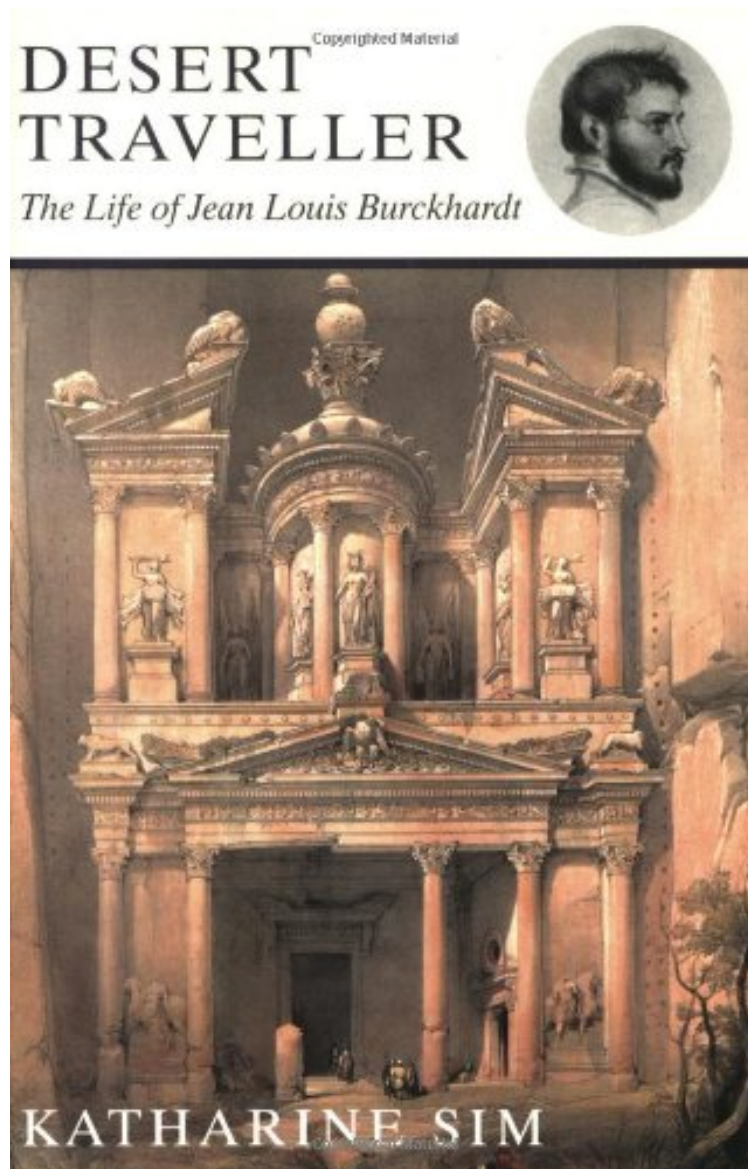


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Desert Traveller: The Life of Jean Louis Burckhardt

Katharine Sim

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Katharine Sim : Desert Traveller: The Life of Jean Louis Burckhardt before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Desert Traveller: The Life of Jean Louis Burckhardt:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Desert Traveller by Jean Louis Burckhardt By Michael Mullen Sim reveals the life and adventures of one of the greatest modern explorers with compassion and intelligent analysis. The author's style is familiar and creates a realistic arena for allowing the reader to immerse into Burckhardt's vagaries and

voyages. Excitement is developed throughout the biography with details of caravans, close alleys, mountain bandits and pashas - all too real a mere 200 years ago! Sim's accurate (we believe) descriptions of the vagabonds and princes beckons the follower toward the ultimate and tragic demise of the explorer through the seemingly ignoble method of disease but not without a tour of his immense courage, strength and moral fortitude. Having visited Petra at the hands of a sympathetic guide who beguiled his visitors into experiencing the shock and beauty of that first glimpse through the narrow channel - of which T E Lawrence writes so magically in *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, I understood immediately the momentous discovery that Burckhardt actually made after thousands of years of mystery. The author manages that particular part with aplomb and skill. For those who have not travelled to the Middle east and who think they may never, read this account of a venture into the land, mind and heart of the cradle of civilisation. This is my second reading and I know there will be more.

This is a biography of one of the world's greatest explorers, Jean Louis Burckhardt. His was one of the most remarkable of all true adventure stories, the record of a fearless, determined and utterly dedicated explorer.