



## The Books He Carried: A Study of Lindsley Foote Hall's Reading Habits on His Travels

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University of Washington. Digital Humanities in Practice: Pioneers in Near Eastern Archaeology

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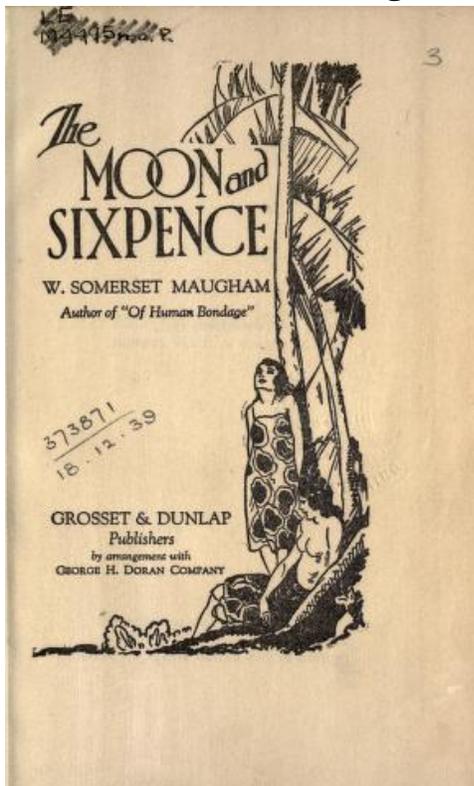
Lindsley Foote Hall (1883-1969), of Portland, Oregon, was an Egyptologist and archaeological draftsman for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. When a team led by Howard Carter discovered King Tutankhamun's tomb during the season of 1922 to 1923, Foote was sent by the Metropolitan to join the expedition. Today, Hall's diaries, letters, and other ephemera are held by the Oregon Historical Society's Davies Family Research Library. Professor Sarah Ketchley photographed transcripts of diary entries from 1919 to 1923, which she shared with students in the University of Washington's winter 2020 course Digital Humanities in Practice.

In his diaries, Hall shows himself to have been an avid reader, particularly of fiction. He frequently notes titles that he carried with him on his travels and sometimes shares his impressions. In addition, Hall occasionally offers clues about how he obtained his books, as well as where and when he consumed them. Though Hall's diaries record just one man's reading habits, they offer insight into the wider reading culture of the day, especially the practices of readers on the move. Through examining the reading experiences of Hall, this project seeks to better understand the reading practices of travelers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries- before the age of e-readers. It asks the following research questions:

*What was Lindsley Foote Hall reading about while he traveled? Does the act of travel seem to have influenced his reading selections?*

*How did Lindsley Foote Hall acquire books on his travels, and how did he transport them? What amenities were available to travelers who were also avid readers?*

## **Recommended Reading: Novels versus Nonfiction**



W. Somerset Maugham, *The Moon and Sixpence*. New York: Gross and Dunlap, 1919

Maugham's *The Moon and Sixpence* was just one of the dozens of novels that Hall read during his travels

What makes Hall an interesting subject as a reader is not only his regular and meticulous recording of his reading, but also his penchant for consuming novels. While other travelers to Egypt in the early twentieth century such as the members of the Theodore Davis and Emma Andrews party seem to have read an abundance of nonfiction in addition to some novels, the titles Hall notes in his diaries consist heavily of fiction. Among the titles he consumed were:

- *The Moon and Sixpence* by W. Somerset Maugham
- *Plays of Gods and Men* by Edward Plunkett, 18th Baron of Dunsany (drama)
- Columbia River Highway.
- *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James
- *The Rough Road* by William J. Locke
- *La révolte des anges* [The Revolt of the Angels] by Anatole France
- *His Majesty's Well-Beloved* by Emma Orczy
- *Stories* by Bret Harte
- *Romola* by George Eliot
- *Let Not Man Put Asunder* by Basil King
- *The Grand Babylon Hotel* by Arnold Bennett
- *The Thirty-Nine Steps* by John Buchan
- *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* by Vicente Blasco Ibáñez
- *The Devil's Cradle* by Mrs. Alfred Sidgwick
- *A Princess of Thule* by William Blacker
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *The Return of the Native* by Thomas Hardy
- *Kim* by Rudyard Kipling
- *Rob Roy* by Walter Scott
- *Where Love Is* by William J. Locke
- *A Lost Leader* by E. Phillips Oppenheim
- *Guy and Pauline* by Compton Mackenzie
- *At the Villa Rose* by A. E. W. Mason
- *The Ghost* by Arnold Bennett

- *The Wisdom of Father Brown* by G.K.Chesterton

By comparison, an inventory of the library of Theodore Davis, a collector of antiquities who took trips along the Nile each summer from 1889 to 1913, shows that while Davis's library boasted volumes upon volumes of histories, art books, and dictionaries, it contained little fiction but for classic works of literature. Instead, Davis and the other members of his traveling party seem to have followed at least some of the reading recommendations offered in the travel programs published by the tour company Thomas Cook & Son. For instance, a section of the Cook programs titled "Guide and Other Books Recommended" enumerates guidebooks and scholarly works by authors including Karl Baedeker, E. A. Wallis Budge, and Auguste Edouard Mariette-Bey, all of whom are mentioned in the journals of Emma Andrews and Mary Buttles Newberry, but are not noted in Hall's diaries.

Echoing the reading suggestions in the Cook programs, William C. Prime, an attorney and journalist writing in 1860, remarks that "any books of travel by way of hand-book will be sufficient for the ordinary pleasure traveler." Yet for some travelers, including Hall, guidebooks alone were not sufficient; novels too were a necessity. A writer in the July 27, 1895, edition of *The Fishing Gazette* muses, "From the point of view of literature, it is not possible to say very much about guide books. They are useful cattle in their way, and carry their own recommendation with them in their utility." But utility could not serve every need of the traveler. In an essay appearing few years later in the *Bismarck Tribune*, a contributor comments on the value of novels as a means of resting from the hectic atmosphere that often accompanies travel: "We cannot all of us, or always, be yachting, or shooting grouse, or climbing Alps, or travelling in express trains in pursuit a min of rest; and even those of us who are doing one or other of these things feel that there are moments when we must idle a little."

## Transporting Tomes: Packing and Shipping Books



'A Traveling Comfort,' *Atchison Globe*, 24 Dec. 1891. Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers.

An illustration of a homemade bookholder, suggested as a means of easily carrying a book while traveling "From a piece of dark brown chamois cut an oblong which, when folded, will a little more than cover the back and sides of an ordinary book. It can be stiffened by pasteboard cut nearly as large [...].The outside can have a design painted or outlines with some suitable motto in quaint lettering.

While guidebooks and language books would have been essential to take along to foreign lands, novels, lacking practicality, would seemingly have been more of a luxury. Indeed, in an age when e-readers were not yet available or even invented, traveling with novels involved planning ahead. Newspaper articles and books from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries provided advice to travelers about how to transport their chosen titles, as well as how to dispose of them once they had finished.

In an editorial from 1887 in the *Derby Daily Telegraph*, one writer shares the following.

"Last year I made notes whilst I was travelling of several things which I thought would add to my comfort another time during long journeys." Among the items she names is "a small, square, japanned tin box which holds my books and writing materials, letters, &c. It has a leather strap round it, which serves as a handle to lift it about."

Writing in the *Atchison Globe* a few years later, another contributor offers a suggestion for a similar contrivance for carrying books. By cutting fabric a little larger than a book and stiffening it with pasteboard or canvas, travelers can fashion their own book holder.

"Several books, large and small, or packages of pamphlets and written documents can

easily be tied in the case, and a little pocket made of a bit of the chamois pasted inside will hold visiting and business cards, or an identification paper in case of accident."

While Lindsley Foote Hall may have made use of such inventions to carry a book or two with him on his journey, he also took advantage of the ability to ship his belongings to his destination in advance. In a diary entry dated September 20, 1920, he writes, "I went off to the P.O. this A.M. and sent off to Cairo nearly 5 lbs. of stuff I shall not need until I get there." Indeed, a number of shipping firms catered to travelers eager to rid themselves of heavy luggage they would require only upon arrival. An advertisement for Gellatly, Hankey & Co. in *The Egyptian Gazette* announces, "Merchandise, furniture, baggage and personal effects forwarded, and insurances effected to all parts of the world," while one for Hamburg & Anglo-American Nile Company publicizes three sailings a week to transport goods between Alexandria and Cairo.

In addition to making arrangements for getting books to one's destination, travelers also had to figure out what to do with books once finished with them. In her study of the rise of summer reading, Donna Harrington-Lueker writes that some chose to leave books in hotel parlors so that other travelers might pick them up (42). Yet others wished to keep their books. A writer in the July 17, 1888, edition of the Bismarck Tribune advises, "It is well to carry in the hand bag a number of strong paper wrappers, properly stamped and addressed, in which a book, when read, may be mailed either to the owner's home or to some friend who will enjoy the perusal of it. In this way many interesting volumes may be preserved which would otherwise be neglected and thrown aside on account of growing troublesome by the way." Perhaps Hall was aware of such advice, for mailing them home was just what he did with two of the books he completed on May 10, 1920. "I have finished 'Pride & Prejudice' and posted the book home w. 'The Oxford Book of English Verse,'" he wrote. Helen Winlock, a member of Theodore Davis's party and wife of Herbert Winlock, the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, also mentions mailing books about Egypt home toward the end of her journey in 1914.

# Reading in Transit: Libraries on Steamers and Trains

DECEMBER 17, 1898] THE FISHING GAZETTE

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The Fishing Gazette, 17 December 1898.

The firm W.H.Smith & Son peddled titles on travel and other subjects at railway station bookstalls.

During the middle of November in 1919, Hall boarded a steamer traveling from New York to the Azores, for the first leg of a long journey that would eventually land him in Egypt. On the steamer, Hall makes note of reading at least five works over eleven days, including W.

Somerset Maugham's The Moon and Sixpence, Lord Dunsany's Plays of Gods and Men, Henry James's The Turn of the Screw, and William J. Locke's The Rough Road. In his

attempts to learn Italian, he also spent some time reading a title that appears in transcriptions to be *Pinocchio*, by Carlo Collodi.

Hall may have brought these books from his own collection, bought them in port, or perhaps even borrowed them from the steamer's own library. Indeed, the travel industry of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century was keen to serve the wants of avid readers. In 1848, the firm W. H. Smith and Son began selling inexpensive novels on railway concourses and by the end of the century, the business had more than 1,000 bookstalls throughout stations (Mullan, para. 2). An advertisement for W. H. Smith and Son appearing in the December 17, 1898, edition of *The Fishing Gazette* peddles "A selection of books of travel offered at greatly reduced prices." Beyond buying their own books before boarding, passengers could also peruse books from the libraries of trains and steamers. An article in the *Chelmsford Chronicle* from June 19, 1891, highlights a company called the Railway and General Automatic Library that offered

"reading facilities for travellers by rail and steamer by means of automatic libraries, from which a volume can be procured on placing a penny in a slot." The books were intended for reading on board, and passengers were required to return them before disembarking.

Knowing the appeal of a well-stocked library for travelers, railways and steamers were eager to provide such amenities, and their efforts were well received by the press. A brief from the *Portland Oregonian* on December 30, 1899, remarks favorably on the Portland-Chicago Special's "library car, which is a great innovation in railroad traveling. This car contains a complete library of standard works, and is supplied with the current magazines and the daily papers." In a brief appearance in the May 6, 1905 edition of *The Times*, a journalist praises the Cunard Steamship Company for its "first-rate service of books. -] After each voyage the supply of books is renewed, so that even the most frequent travellers by the Cunard Line need not miss important books of the day."

## Reading in Situ: Hotel Libraries and Reading Rooms



The Winter Palace Hotel in Luxor, Egypt.

Not only could Hall choose among the volumes in the reading rooms of steamers and trains to suit his reading pleasure, he also had the opportunity to peruse the books in the libraries of the hotels where he lodged.

While staying in Luxor on March 15, 1920, Hall writes, "I sat in the garden of hotel for an hr. late this aft. reading *The Sea-Kings of Crete*." Though Hall does not mention the name of the hotel in which he stayed, a diary entry from Joseph Lindon Smith, a painter who was one of the members of Theodore Davis's party, confirms that there was indeed a library of sorts in a hotel in Luxor. Writing on January 3, 1905, Smith notes, "after luncheon Grandpa subscribed to the library at Luxor Hotel this afternoon and took out two books."

Within Luxor, the Grand Luxor Hotel, the Cataract Hotel, and the Savoy Hotel all call attention to their libraries in advertisements appearing in *The Egyptian Gazette*. "New first class hotel with every modern comfort," proclaims the Savoy. "Billiard-room, smoking room reading-room, electric light throughout." Outside Luxor, hotels such as the Grand Assouan

in Assouan and the New Khedival in Alexandria also tout amenities such as libraries and electric light in their advertisements.

In addition to hotel libraries, independent reading rooms also catered to travelers. Hall mentions several occasions on which he stopped by a reading room during a stay in Paris. In a diary entry from July 20, 1920, he writes, "I walked over to the reading room at 184 Boul St.

Ger. (where services are also held). I found the lady in charge to be Miss MacCalleum." A few months later, on October 12, he paid another visit to the reading room and its proprietress on his way to dinner: "I walked up there stopping en route at the C.S. reading rm., lately moved to [?]7 Ave. Vic Em. III & had a 10 min. visit w. Miss MacCallum."

Parisian reading rooms marketed themselves to travelers with notices and advertisements in newspapers. A brief from the May 28, 1922, edition of The New York Herald, for instance, announces the opening of a new American library for tourists: "The reading-room of the library contains the most important works of reference, both French, English and American, and the leading periodicals and newspapers of those three countries." Three years later, in October of 1925, an advertisement for the several major periodicals publicized another reading room serving travelers visiting the city: "Let the Big Six help you when you go to Paris," it reads. In addition to providing back copies of The London Illustrated News, The Sketch, The Sphere, The Tatler, Eve, and The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News, the managers of the reading room could dole out advice about "hotels, travel, amusements, shops, and the despatch of packages to all countries throughout the world."

## Buying versus Borrowing Books



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*The Egyptian Gazette*, 12 December 1900

An advertisement for a bookstore across from Shepheard's Hotel in Cairo

In addition to finding abundant reading material in hotels and reading rooms, travelers like Hall could increase their store of books by buying them from local dealers and borrowing them from acquaintances. Hall notes in his diaries several book purchases, including one on December 12, 1919, when he patronized a shop called Detken & Richoll's while staying in Naples; as well as on November 18, 1920, and November 22, 1921, when he bought books from Chez Nassar & Hajj in Cairo. Bookstores like Livadas, located across from Shephard's Hotel in Cairo, were keen to capture a tourist market. Advertising in *The Egyptian Gazette*, the shop marketed reading relevant to travelers, including the "Latest works on Egypt" and "English and American newspapers."

Yet more often than he notes buying books, Hall records instances in his diaries of borrowing books from others. From a friend named Tina he borrowed *His Majesty's Well Beloved* by Emma Orczy, and from Baroness des Granges and Miss Cowles in Rome, he borrowed four books, including *Let Not Man Put Asunder* by Basil King. An acquaintance named Miss Bridge lent Hall several titles: Arnold Bennett's *The Grand Babylon Hotel*, Vicente Blasco Ibáñez's *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, Mrs. Alfred Sidgwick's *The Devil's Cradle*, and Adolf Erman's *A Handbook of Egyptian Religion*.

Hall's borrowing habit was in fact not out of the ordinary for the time, as evidenced by frequent mentions of book borrowing in newspaper articles and letters. In an essay from November 17, 1906, appearing in *The Gentlewoman and Modern Life*, one writer remarks, "To hand over one's cherished volumes to the Philistines is to the real lover of books a positive pain. To him his books are friends, and even although he may be assured of getting them safely back again, he does not like to think that they will probably not be treated with the reverence and care to which they have been accustomed." Yet book borrowing was apparently so pervasive - *Punch* called it "an epidemic" in 1905 - that it led to the composition of numerous works of cautionary verse, which often appeared in the daily papers:

If you art borrowed by a friend,  
Right welcome shall he be  
To read, to study—not to lend,

But to return to me.

Not that imparted knowledge doth  
Diminish learning's store;  
But books, I find, if often lent,  
Return to me no more.

Read slowly, pause frequently, think seriously,  
Keep cleanly, return duly,  
With the corners of the leaves not turned down.  
—*Evening Telegraph*, 16 November 1910

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How hard, when those who do not wish  
To lend—that's lose—their books,  
Are snared by anglors—folk that fish  
With literary hooks.

Who call and take some favourite tome.  
But never read it through;  
They thus complete their set at home,  
By making one at you.

Behold the book-shelf of a dunce  
Who borrows—never lends;  
Yon work, in twenty volumes, once  
Belonged to twenty friends.

New tales and novels you may shut From view—'tis all in vain;  
They're gone—and though the leaves are "cut,"  
They never "come again."

For pamphlets lent I look around;  
For tracts my tears are spilt;  
But when they take a book that's bound  
'Tis surely "extra g(u)ilt."

A circulating library  
Is mine—my birds are flown;  
There's one odd volume left, to be  
Like all the rest, a-lone (loan).

I, of my Spenser quite bereft,  
Last winter sore was shaken:  
Of Lamb I've but a quarter left,  
Nor could I save my Bacon.

They picked my Locke, to me far more  
Than Branda's patent worth;  
And now my losses I deplore,  
Without a Home on earth.

Even Glover's works I cannot put  
My frozen hands upon;  
Though ever since I lost my Foote

My Bunyan has been gone.

My life is wasting fast away—  
I suffer from these shocks;  
And though I've fixed a lock on Gray,  
There's gray upon my locks.

They still have made me slight returns,  
And thus my grief divide;  
For oh! they've cured one of my Burns  
And eased my Akenside.

But all I think I shall not say,  
Nor let my anger burn;  
For as they have found me Gay,  
They have not left me Sterne.

—*Western Times*, 3 March 1902

In addition to these examples, a column in the March 12, 1891, edition of the *North Devon Journal* enumerates 19 other poems warning book owners and would-be borrowers against the habit of lending and borrowing. Verse scorning the practice appeared in other tongues, too. In April 1922, readers of *The Sunday Times* shared poems written in Latin, French, and Middle English.

For his part, Hall seems to have been a conscientious book borrower, for he notes returning two of the titles lent to him by Miss Bridge.

## Variations on a Theme: Topics of Travel Reading

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And of all Railway Bookstalls and Booksellers.

"Holiday Reading." *Myra's Journal of Dress and Fashion*, vol. XXII, no. 10, 1 Oct 1896, p. viii

Nineteenth Century UK Periodicals

An advertisement reads, "For Railway Traveling, the Seaside, Sea or River Trips, the Country Lanes, there are no better or cheaper books."

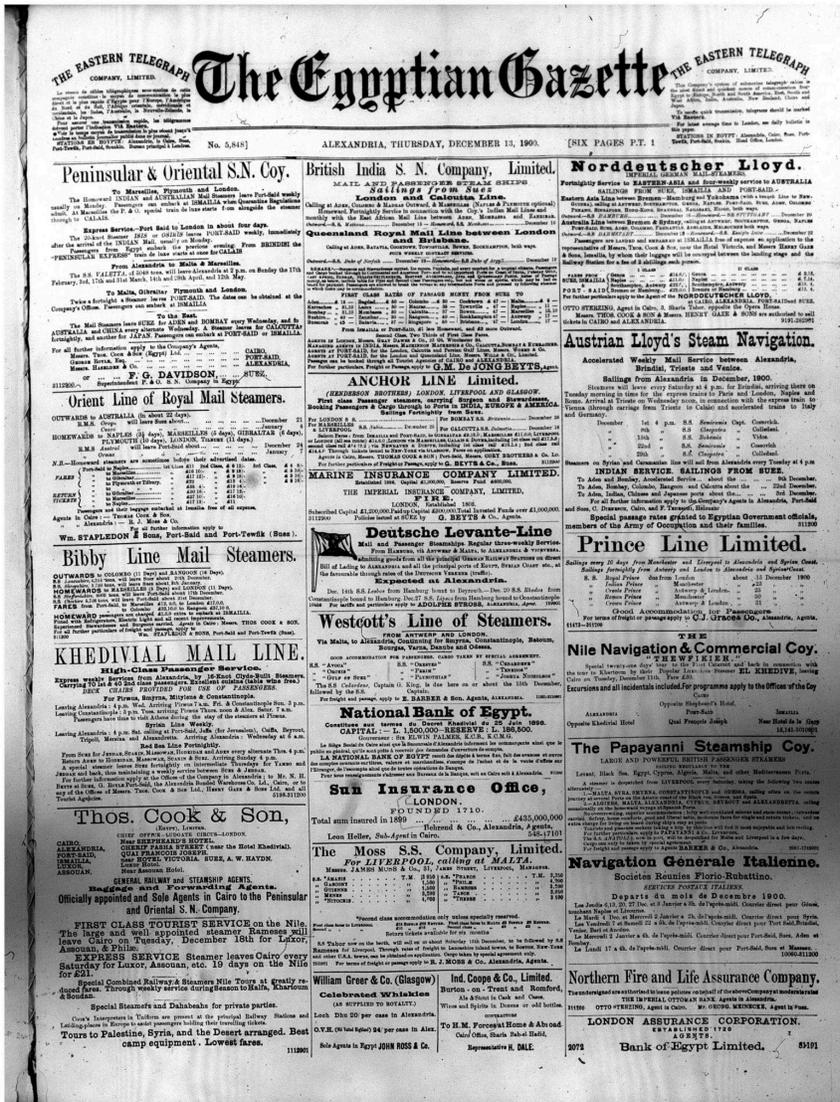
No matter where he acquired it or how he transported it, the reading material that Hall selected was no doubt influenced by the settings surrounding him. Indeed, Hall's own experiences of reading were often suffused with the atmosphere along the Nile, as he often notes in his diary reading outside. On April 20, 1920, he writes, "This A.M. I walked around

Ora' Abul Naga & up the Valley of the Kings. At the junction of the valleys (e. & w.) & climbed to the table land between & made my way to the head of the west valley, when I sat & read for an hr. or more." Still a few years later, in 1923, Hall continued to read outdoors, near where he was working: "This aft. I climbed to t. Korn & spent over an hr. there reading," he records. Unsurprisingly then, analysis of the geographic locations mentioned in the novels that Hall read reveals that the books he carried with him made reference to Egypt, the Nile, England, France, Paris, and Italy—all places that he notes in his diaries.

But Hall also read novels either set in or alluding to Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Luxembourg, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and China—places that he never set foot from 1919 to 1923, if his diaries are a generally comprehensive account of where he went. Therefore, while Hall was certainly interested in reading about settings familiar from his own life, he was also curious about more distant locales. Hall's own itinerary then, does not seem to have shaped his reading choices to any great extent, as he did not confine himself to reading only about Egypt. Instead, his appreciation for travel and other cultures led him to seek out books with settings across the globe.

Hall also read novels from a range of genres on a wide variety of themes, including gothic tales such as Arnold Bennett's *The Ghost* and Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw*; thrillers like John Buchan's *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, detective novels such as A. E. W. Mason's *At the Villa Rose*, and historical novels like George Eliot's *Romola*. While his interest in Rudyard Kipling's *Kim*, an adventure tale taking place in India, may have been sparked by his own adventures abroad, Hall confesses that he did not favor this novel. He writes on May 10, 1920, "To-day I finished 'Kim', which I did not find greatly to my liking. I do not care for Kipling." A topic analysis of the books Hall read reveals that he was just as interested in themes like "home," "idyllic scenes," and "small-town life" as he was in stories of "royalty" and "war and nationhood." Perhaps Hall longed somewhat for the comforts of domesticity.

# Archival and Research Resources



The Egyptian Gazette, 13 December 1900.

The Egyptian Gazette was a newspaper published in Alexandria, Egypt

This project draws on several archival resources:

- Transcripts of the diaries of Lindsley Foote Hall from 1919 to 1923, obtained from the Oregon Historical Society's Davies Family Research Library and shared by Professor Sarah Ketchley.

- Advertisements from *The Egyptian Gazette*, a newspaper published in Alexandria, Egypt. The October through December 1900 issues are courtesy of Professor Sarah Ketchley. Advertisements from additional issues were found through the [Digital Egyptian Gazette](#) project at Florida State University.
- Digitized travel guides from the archives of Thomas Cook & Son, whose steamers carried both mail and passengers along the Nile, provided by Professor Sarah Ketchley.
- Primary source documents from Gale Digital Scholar Lab.
- Project Gutenberg texts of 20 fictional works read by Lindsley Foote Hall.

## Data Curation and Cleaning

The screenshot shows the Gale Digital Scholar Lab interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo 'DIGITAL SCHOLAR LAB From Gale' and buttons for 'Build', 'Clean', 'Analyze', and 'My Content Sets'. Below the navigation bar, there are icons for 'Save As', 'Save', 'Test Configuration', and 'Delete'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- CLEAN**: A section with the heading 'Cleaning Configurations are used for' and two numbered steps: '1. Configuring analysis tools to improve results in Analyze' and '2. Downloading content sets in My Content Sets'. Below this is a '+ NEW CONFIGURATION' button.
- YOUR CONFIGURATIONS**: A section listing three configurations: 'Default Cleaning Configuration', 'LFH clean with no English, French, German, Italian, Spanish stopwords', and 'LFH clean with no English stopwords'.
- CLEANING CONFIGURATION**: A section with a text input field containing 'LFH clean with no English, French, German, Italian, Spanish stopw' and a description box below it.
- STOP WORDS**: A section with a 'LEARN MORE' link, a checkbox for 'Ignore stop words case', and a 'Choose a Starter List' button. Below this is a list of words: 'a', 'about', 'above', 'across', 'after', 'afterwards', 'again', 'against', 'all', 'almost', 'alone', 'along', 'already', 'also', 'although', 'always', 'am', 'among', 'amongst', 'amount', 'an', 'and', 'another'.

Gale Digital Scholar Lab

Cleaning configuration applied in the DSL

OCR CONFIDENCE

Within Gale Digital Scholar Lab, the OCR confidence levels of the documents in my content sets ranged from 29 percent for a 1899 article in the Daily Mail to 99 percent for a 1925 advertisement in The Illustrated London News. I noticed that the OCR performed

particularly poorly when it encountered images embedded within a text. Instead of recognizing the images for what they were and skipping over them, the OCR attempted to decipher the images, outputting garbled text. In addition, likely because it was using feature detection to try to identify letters, the OCR sometimes mistook the strokes of one letter as parts of another. Both of these errors were difficult to correct for in the cleaning process.

Perhaps one of the greater challenges I encountered took place outside the DSL, however. As Lindsley Foote Hall's diaries were my primary object of study, I needed to be able to search them for any mentions of reading or books. But because the files I was working with were merely PDF images of the transcribed diaries, I had to use Adobe Acrobat to run OCR on the files. While this process took some time, it worked generally effectively except in cases where the transcribed text was too lightly printed for the OCR software to read.

On certain pages, I had to scan the diary entries for any mentions of reading.

## CURATION

Curating my content sets in the DSL was an iterative process, as I gained greater clarity about my research questions, how the DSL's tools work, and what kinds of questions certain tools might be better at addressing than others. Over the course of the quarter, I curated five content sets: 1) notices of inventions to enhance reading comfort; 2) opinion pieces offering suggestions of books for holiday reading; 3) articles and advertisements concerning amenities for traveling readers; 4) commentary on book-borrowing culture; and 5) reviews of titles read by Hall. Admittedly, this last content set I curated only after adding an additional research question to my study that better lent itself to quantitative methods than my original research question. My original research question asked about how travelers acquired and transported books and how the travel industry catered to readers. When Professor Ketchley commented that this was a qualitative question, I decided to introduce a second research question to my agenda. By asking what Hall was reading about while he traveled, I hoped to use topic analysis and named entity recognition to get a sense of the people and places Hall was reading about. Discovering this might help me understand whether the act of travel may have influenced his reading selections.

For this last content set, my search terms consisted of the title of the book and sometimes the author's last name. I limited my search to reviews, thinking that the reviews might serve

as a proxy for the novels themselves because they would likely include summaries. Finally, restricted the date of the reviews to those published before 1923, the last year for which we have Hall's diaries.

## CLEANING

For my content sets in the DSL, I kept the default actions to remove tabs, line breaks, extra spaces, and all non-body content. In addition, I removed all number characters, extended ASCII characters, special characters, and punctuation.

I also omitted stop words from the English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish stop word lists, as I observed during an early analysis a high number of results in German. I determined this was because one of the documents in my content sets includes foreign phrases for travel. Finally, I added 's to the stop word list, as I learned that the topic modeling tool MALLET recognizes possessive apostrophes as their own word.

I did not, however, select the option to change all text to lowercase, as MALLET is case sensitive, and it was important in my project to distinguish titles and authors' names from their common homographs.

To clean my largest content set outside the DSL, a collection of 20 novels downloaded from Project Gutenberg, and ready it for use in the Edinburgh Geoparser, I removed all publication information from the novels' frontmatter to prevent Geoparser from mapping the locations of publishing houses.

# Analysis Summary

ANALYZE

CONTENT SET  
3. Recommended Books for Traveling

Analysis Tools (3)

Select All

<input type="checkbox"/> Named Entity Recognition <b>TOOL SETUP</b> Recommended books NER no foreign stopwords (W)  <a href="#">View</a>   <a href="#">New tool setup</a>	<b>RUN STATUS</b>  COMPLETED	<b>RESULTS</b>  Entities Found
<input type="checkbox"/> Ngram <b>TOOL SETUP</b> Recommended books 2-gram no foreign stopwords (P)  <a href="#">View</a>   <a href="#">New tool setup</a>	<b>RUN STATUS</b>  COMPLETED	<b>RESULTS</b>   Word Cloud Bar Chart
<input type="checkbox"/> Topic Modeling <b>TOOL SETUP</b> Recommended books TM no foreign stopwords (We)  <a href="#">View</a>   <a href="#">New tool setup</a>	<b>RUN STATUS</b>  COMPLETED	<b>RESULTS</b>   Topics Topic Proportion

Gale Digital Scholar Lab  
Text mining tools for analysis in the DSL

One of my content sets contains documents from the DSL offering advice about what books to read while traveling or on holiday. With this content set, I aimed to discover whether Hall's reading selections aligned with popular opinion, so I carried out analyses with the following tools:

- Named entity recognition: Do the documents suggest any particular titles or authors?
- Topic modeling: Do the documents recommend books on certain subjects?
- N-grams: Are certain adjectives associated with the books deemed best for travel? For instance, are books with particular physical or intellectual characteristics recommended?

Another of my content sets contains reviews of books read by Hall. Using this content set as a proxy for the text of the books themselves, I aimed to find out what Hall was reading about and whether the act of travel may have influenced his reading selections. Therefore, I carried out analyses with the following tools:

- Named entity recognition and geoparsing: Might the people and places Hall was reading about have any significance?
- Topic modeling (using MALLET both inside and outside the DSL): Might the topics Hall was reading about have any significance?

All of these computational analyses were aimed at helping me answer my first research question, while I used close reading to answer my second research question. In the end, I found that tools most productive in helping me address my first research question were the DSL's named entity recognition tool, the Edinburgh Geoparser developed by Edinburgh University, and the MALLET topic modeling tool from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

## Visualization and Analysis

The screenshot shows an 'ENTITY SEARCH' interface. On the left, there is a search bar and a 'RESET' button. Below that, a list of 'ENTITY CATEGORIES' is shown with checkboxes. The 'PERSON' category is selected. The main area displays a table of 'Top 200 Entities'. The table has columns for 'Entity', 'Category', 'Documents', and 'Count'. The 'PERSON' category is highlighted in red for each row. The entities listed include names like Jai, Giles, Westminster, Tauchnitz, Lady Torridge, Estce, Bs, Baedeker, Thtre Franais, Samuel Brothers, Lon, Hampdens, Frenchman, Cynthia, and Zeph.

Entity	Category	Documents	Count
Jai	PERSON	1	12
Giles	PERSON	1	5
Westminster	PERSON	1	4
Tauchnitz	PERSON	1	4
Lady Torridge	PERSON	1	4
Estce	PERSON	1	4
Bs	PERSON	1	4
Baedeker	PERSON	2	4
Thtre Franais	PERSON	1	3
Samuel Brothers	PERSON	1	3
Lon	PERSON	1	3
Hampdens	PERSON	1	3
Frenchman	PERSON	1	3
Cynthia	PERSON	1	3
Zeph	PERSON	1	2

Gale Digital Scholar Lab

Named entity recognition results for people including authors and characters-named in articles offering reading suggestions for travel

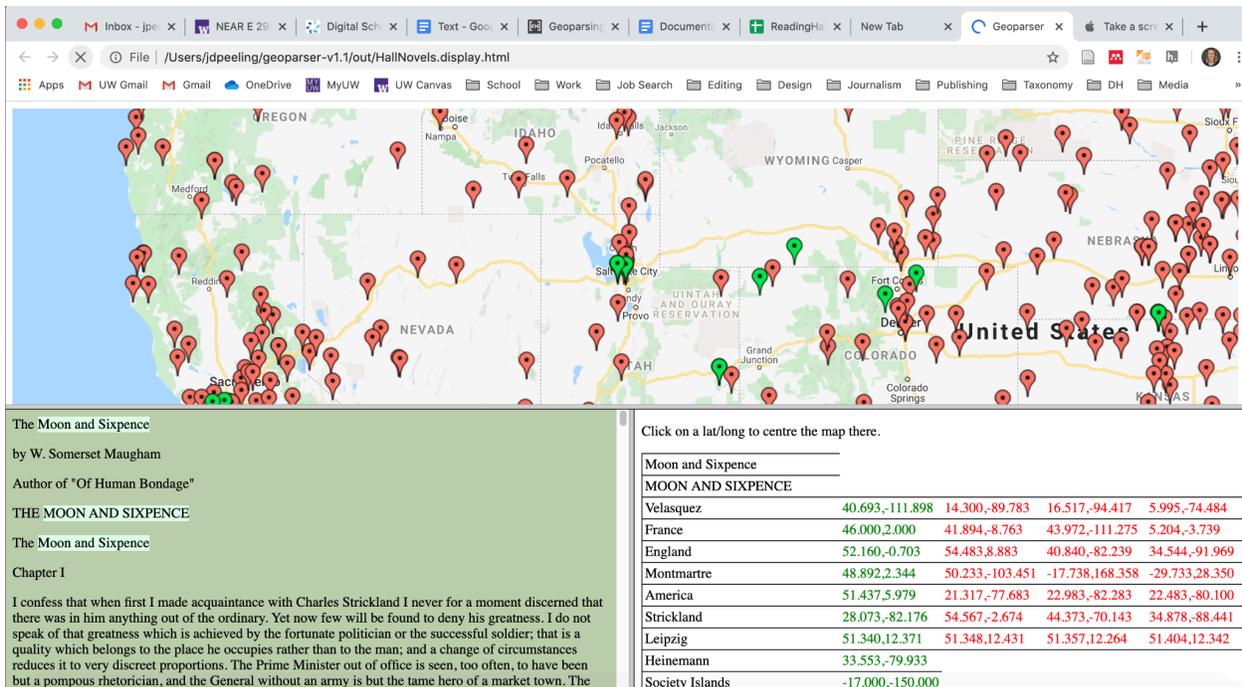
To discover which authors were mentioned in the documents offering advice about which books to bring on one's travels, I used the named entity recognition tool-which identifies people and places, as well as a host of other specific categories of language, such as

numbers and currencies. So that I would not receive results skewed by the document providing foreign phrases, I applied my cleaning configuration that removed stopwords from several languages. Last, I modified the visualization output to include only people.

The NER tool was useful in enabling me to see from a distance a few of the authors whose works were recommended as worthy of packing. For instance, I spied Baedeker and Murray, the prolific writers of guidebooks, which did not appear on Hall's reading list but were mentioned by members of the Davis party. In addition, I noted George Eliot and her character Romola, who do appear in Hall's diaries. Other writers identified by the NER tool included George Gissing, George Moore, Alexandre Dumas, Dean Stanley, Augustus Strong, and Annie Lucas. It also recognized the Walter Scott character Quentin Durward.

Because I was unfamiliar with "the Golden Age of Egyptology" and much of nineteenth-century nonfiction and fiction before entering this class, these results gave me an idea of which names to look for in my close readings.

## Visualization and Analysis



Edinburgh Geoparser

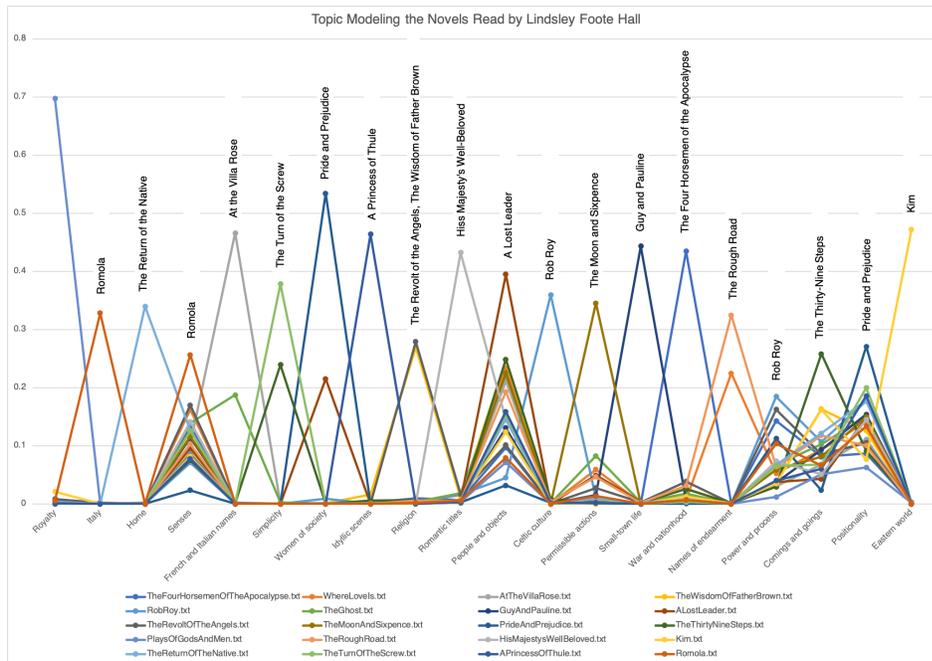
Locations identified by Edinburgh Geoparser in the Project Gutenorg versions of 20 novels read by Hall.

To discover what places Hall was reading about on his travels, I used the Edinburgh Geoparser-which uses named entity recognition to identify places in a text and resolve them to geographic coordinates so that they can be mapped. The tool allows the user to specify the gazetteer to be used; I chose to use one called Geonames, which is a modern global gazetteer of more than 8 million place names, but users can also select gazetteers of historical England or the ancient world.

After removing all publication information from my concatenated list of Project Gutenberg novels, I used the command line to output a list of locations recognized and their corresponding latitude and longitude and then launched the resulting HTML file in my browser, where I could see the list of places enumerated in the lower right corner of my screen and view them on a map above.

Geoparser enabled me to see scores of settings mentioned in the books Hall was reading-including both places noted in his diaries and locations he likely never visited himself. It did not, however present frequency scores for these settings, so I was unable to discern whether Hall read about certain places more than others (though this would have been difficult to judge regardless from a sample of only twenty books). While I might have been able to find this information using the named recognition tool in the DSL, the DSL does not allow one to import external documents.

# Visualization and Analysis



Julianne Peeling

Topics prominent in the novels Hall read during his travels

To identify what subjects Hall was reading about while traveling. I turned to the MALLET topic modeling tool. Because the content set to which I wanted to apply this tool was external to the DSL, I downloaded MALLET and followed the Programming Historian's lesson to output a list of 20 topics contained in the 20 Project Gutenberg novels I had downloaded.

In my terminal, I first imported my data, making sure to remove all stop words. Next, I directed MALLET to generate 20 topics characterizing my content set. After this code was executed, MALLET output its results as a text file that included a number (0-19) for each of the topics, as well as the keywords that associated with that topic. I then examined the keywords listed next to each number to determine what exactly the topic might be. My interpretation of the provided keywords follows, with the topics I discerned preceding each em dash:

Royalty —king queen gods ichtharion bill toff majesty man ludibras priest sniggers albert karnos back desert city tharmia chamberlain prophet hear

Italy-tito romola florence tessa man face fra san father baldassarre life tito's piero piazza  
men savonarola messer bernardo nello eyes

Home-eustacia yeobright wildeve clym thomasin don't mrs heath venn home man house  
woman face reddleman mother tis christian time fairway

Senses-made mind great make hand felt young world love work long thought moment  
hands brought sight feel god feeling knew

French and Italian names-hanaud ricardo wethermill celia mme helene rosa celie room  
vauquier mile adele dauvray monsieur alresca door night face villa cried

Simple descriptions-mrs grose you made donà didn it miles gave face felt oand oyou  
window ooh that miss straight couldna pretty

Women of society-elizabeth manning mrs darcy miss bennet jane borrowdean bingley  
good lady thing sister make great answered wickham collins dear mother

Idyllic scenes-sheila lavender ingram mrs mackenzie don't young girl good sea people  
house great husband borva boat london island mairi hef

Religion-brown monsieur maurice father arcade priest angel sariette angels flambeau  
d'espervieu madame man god don't black replied des prince garden

Romantic titles —lord lady betterton mistress stour dear barbara sir friend baggs hath  
douglas love mine man great heart gentlemen whilst doubt

People and objects-man looked back eyes face woman asked head house things life turned  
room thing hand people found sat told men

Celtic culture-rob man osbaldistone vernon hae rashleigh andrew miss sir roy father  
replied macgregor wad bailie great country hall jarvie owen

Permissible actions—don't strickland i'm love mrs wife knew it's ive thought felt gave made  
pictures stroeve life he's asked didn't can't

Small-town life -guy pauline margaret don't love i'm miss monica father rectory grey it's mrs  
wychford asked back mother rector richard mead

War and nationhood—desnoyers war order paris german great julio don man soldiers  
french marcelo time son castle men eyes country family people

Names of endearment-doggie jimmie norma peggy morland aline jeanne dear don't  
hardacre phineas mrs i'm oliver n't it's replied connie marmaduke i've

Power and process-men found received head continued general days taking master night  
remained service return order danger body power desire pleasure company

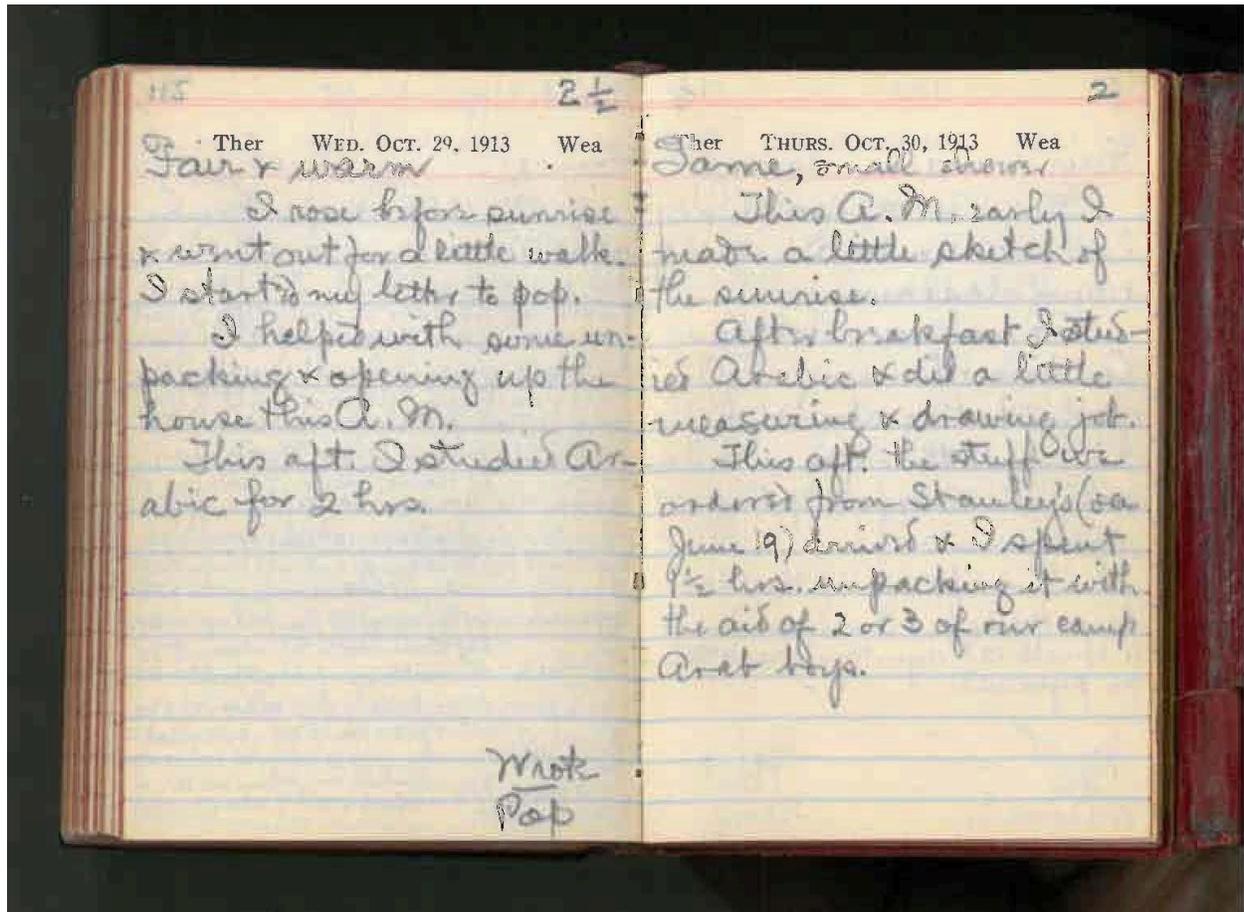
Comings and goings-good left place round night put young door made end voice road  
business full day set half gave father told

Positionality-time long give day heard speak place evening leave air part hear present hope  
life person manner reason side point

Eastern world-kim thou lama thee thy mahbub sahib man holy boy men river road colonel  
hills great babu ali art sahibs

Next, I imported the text file of topics into Microsoft Excel and used the software's chart function to visualize the most prominent topics in several of the novels. The visualization enabled me to confirm to a certain degree whether or not the topics I had identified from the keywords made sense. For instance, I could see that the topic "women of society" was most prevalent in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, while the topic of the "Eastern world" was central to Rudyard Kipling's *Kim*. As a result, I gained a rough understanding of the subject matter characterizing Hall's reading list.

## Learning Summary



Pages from Lindsley Foote Hall's diaries  
Courtesy of Sarah Ketchley

Over the course of this class, I have made both conceptual and practical gains.

What I understand now better than ever before is the importance of determining what methods and tools are best suited to answering certain research questions. Just as one would not turn to a literary encyclopedia for a comprehensive list of the scholarship on a given subject but rather would consult a bibliography, one would not use a named entity recognition tool to explore the culture of borrowing books. From the beginning of this project, I have been more interested in the qualitative question of how travelers acquired and transported their books than the question of what they were reading about, which could have been influenced by any number of factors - not simply the act of travel.

Therefore, I found that the computational tools have been of greatest use to me as a

means for exploring documents at a high level so that I could then focus my attention on certain documents to carry out close readings.

While the tools may have had limited use in providing evidence to answer my research question, I do feel that I better understand how they work, and I leave this class with greater confidence in my ability to teach myself how to use them and to apply them in future research projects.

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