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TRAVELS IN ITALY, BETWEEN THE YEARS 1792 AND 1798

CONTAINING A VIEW OF
THE LATE REVOLUTIONS IN THAT
COUNTRY AND A SUPPLEMENT,
COMPRISING INSTRUCTIONS FOR
TRAVELLING IN FRANCE

VOLUME 1

MARIANA STARKE



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Travels in Italy, Between the Years 1792 and 1798

Mariana Starke (c.1762–1838) published this work in 1802, launching her career as a travel writer. The work, consisting of twenty-five letters spread over two volumes, describes the political situation in Italy after the first Napoleonic campaigns and offers practical guidance for tourists visiting Italy's cultural sites. Volume 1 contains sixteen letters: the first seven describe Starke's experience of the Napoleonic conquest and the following nine describe the architecture, paintings and sculptures of Pisa, Florence, Siena, Rome, Naples, Bologna and Venice. The work quickly became popular as it took into account the increasing trend for less affluent families to travel abroad. Starke offers a wealth of advice on affordable food, accommodation, transport and entertainment; her famous rating system, employing exclamation marks to signify the quality of a cultural site, was the precursor of modern-day systems of star-ratings. This is a classic of Georgian travel writing. For more information on this author, see http://orlando.cambridge.org/public/svPeople?person_id=starma

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TRAVELS IN ITALY,

BETWEEN THE
YEARS 1792 AND 1798;

CONTAINING
A VIEW OF THE LATE REVOLUTIONS
IN THAT COUNTRY.

Likewise pointing out
The matchless Works of Art which still embellish Pisa, Florence, Siena, Rome, Naples, Bologna, Venice, &c.

WITH INSTRUCTIONS
For the Use of Invalids and Families,
Who may not chuse to incur the Expence attendant upon Travelling
with a COURIER.

ALSO
A SUPPLEMENT,
Comprising Instructions for
TRAVELLING IN FRANCE,
With Descriptions of all the principal Roads and Cities
IN THAT REPUBLIC.

BY MARIANA STARKE,
Author of the Widow of Malabar, the Tournament, &c.

IN TWO VOLUMES.
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INTRODUCTION.

HAVING witnessed the first entrance of the French into Italy, resided in Tuscany when they seized Leghorn and endeavoured to revolutionize Florence, and having been at Rome in March 1797, when they threatened to overthrow the papal Government, and in February 1798, when that threat was realized, I am tempted to give such a short account of these transactions as Persons on the spot only are capable of detailing.

I shall likewise point out the Architecture, Paintings, and Sculpture, which still embellish Italy; lest Persons disposed to visit that Country should be led, by common report, to conclude that all her choicest works of

genius are destroyed, or removed to Paris. The *tempera*, or, (as they are more usually denominated) *fresco-paintings*, of Pisa, Florence, and Rome, still remain uninjured; and a considerable number of Statues, *Rilievi*, and even Paintings in oil, have hitherto escaped the ravages of War; while the elegant Buildings of Tuscany, the remains of ancient Rome, the Antiquities and Natural Curiosities in the environs of Naples, the Master-Pieces which yet adorn Bologna, and the majestic Edifices of Venice, still render Italy a most interesting and useful school of Art. With regard to the danger of residing there at present, I am happy to say, my letters recently received from Tuscany represent that Country to be more loyal, more tranquil, and more eligible as an abode for Foreigners than any other part of the Continent; and, judging from my own experience, I am strongly inclined to believe, that

that English Families travelling for health may, at this moment, reside in any City of Italy with as little risk of inconvenience attributable to war, as they could before the invasion of BUONAPARTE.*

I am likewise encouraged by a hope of being serviceable to those of my Country-
who, in consequence of pulmonary complaints, are compelled to exchange their native soil for the renovating sun of Italy, to insert a few observations (relative to health), the result of seven years experience, during which period my time and thoughts were chiefly occupied by endeavours to mitigate the sufferings of those most dear to me.

* From a letter, dated October 16, 1799, and written by Mr. PARTRIDGE, one of the longest established and most respectable Merchants at Leghorn, it appears, that Tuscany, when he wrote, was perfectly tranquil, and quite uninjured by the late revolutions, so far as affects the comfort of Travellers: provisions, too, were plentiful, and very little enhanced in price

I presume not to imagine myself correct in every thing which I have advanced. The occupation of a Nurse has often prevented me from obtaining accurate knowledge on points worthy of minute investigation. Nevertheless, general outlines will sometimes convey tolerably just ideas of a country, even though the picture be not shaded by a Master's hand ; hence, I trust, that the little knowledge I have been able to collect may so far inform Travellers, as to guard them against those serious inconveniences which too generally retard, and not unfrequently prevent, the recovery of consumptive Persons.

I have also given, in the APPENDIX, some particulars relative to Expences upon the Continent, that Families, induced by motives of prudence to reside in Countries where the elegancies of life may be commanded by a fortune barely adequate to furnish necessaries in their own, may not have
the

the mortification of finding their plans defeated by the extravagance of a COURIER, or, by the impositions frequently practised upon Strangers.

In my account of the Cities of Italy I have mentioned, in notes, those Statues, Paintings, &c. which I believe to have been either seized by the French, or sold by their lawful Possessors;* and at the same time have given in the body of my Work, such a description of every remaining Object worthy of notice, as will, I hope, in some measure supply to Travellers the loss of those Antiquarians, whom war may have constrained to abandon their profession.

* Though I have mentioned, in notes, the statues and oil-paintings of the Florentine-Gallery and Palazzo Pitti, I lately heard that all the treasures of the former remain unmutilated, and that many pictures which adorned the latter have been retaken from the French and restored to the Grand-Duke.

In consequence of the Author's distance from the press, some inaccuracies have taken place, which will require the correction of the Reader; it has not been thought necessary to note some others of less consequence.

ERRATA.

- Page 11 line 9, for *goëtres* read *goîtres*.
 24 — 6, for *Française* read *Français*.
 42 — 12, before *one* insert *only*.
 50 — 14, for *it's* always read *its*.
 51 — 18, for *facinated* read *fascinated*.
 56 — 17, for *Directory* read *Convention*.
 68 — 1, after *fortresses* insert *of*.
 73 — 1, for *Cozmona* read *Cremona*.
 182 — 12, for *Libecis* read *Libecio*.
 185 — 12, for *Matheo* read *Matteo*.
 218 — 5, for *to represent* read *represents*.
 243 — 11, for *he* read *she*.
 254 — 2, for *for* read *of*.
 258 — in line 15 of note, for *goods* read *gods*.
 265 — 4, for *Muses* read *Musæo*.
 274 — 15, after *walls* add *are*.
 287 — 1, for *picture of a* read *a picture of*.
 304 — 1, for *bad* read *bas*.
 340 — 12, for *de* read *di*.
 344 — 10, for *scenes* read *scene*.

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