This article examines Freya Stark's life-writing over a forty-year period in order to shed light on her experience of Baghdad from 1929 to 1933. The article focuses on Stark's resistance to expected feminine norms of the British community, and contextualizes her experience alongside that of Gertrude Bell and Stefana Drower. Stark's experiences, and those of Drower, reveal the ways in which British women resisted the mundane expatriate lifestyle, and gained a great deal of cultural understanding through their interaction with Iraqis. Furthermore, the article discusses Stark's work at the Baghdad Times, a literary apprenticeship that also led to the publication of Baghdad Sketches. The article not only highlights the plurality of autobiographical presentation characteristic of Stark's oeuvre, but also reveals how Stark refashioned her experiences throughout her life, taking into account her changing status and the different political and cultural climates in which the works were published.
STARK, FREYA Madeline (b. Paris, 31 January 1893; d. Asolo, Italy, 9 May 1993), British travel-writer. Her 1934 book The Valley of the Assassins and Other Persian Travels belongs to the canon of English travel literature. She was born to parents who divided their lives between England and Italy. Her feature articles—subsequently reprinted in Baghdad Sketches (1932)—included descriptions of the Shi’ite holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, rarely accessible to European and American visitors. In 1933 she returned to Italy by way of Amman, Petra, and Jerusalem. Arriving in London she enjoyed her first taste of public recognition. This Freya Stark bibliography includes all books by Freya Stark, including collections, editorial contributions, and more. Any type of book or journal citing Freya Stark as a writer should appear on this list. The full bibliography of the author Freya Stark below includes book jacket images whenever possible. This poll features Freya Stark in Southern Arabia Coat-tails of empire and more.

1. Coat-tails of empire Freya Stark. Stark's biographer, Jane Fletcher Geniesse—quoting Freya's cousin, Nora Stanton Blatch Barney—claimed that Freya's biological father was “a well-to-do young man from a prominent family in New Orleans” named Obediah Dyer. There is no known corroboration of this account, and it is not known if Stark herself was aware of it; she did not make any reference to it in any of her writings, including her autobiography.[4]. In November 1927 she visited Asolo for the first time in years. Later that month she boarded a ship for Beirut, where her travels in the East began.[8] She stayed first at the home of James Elroy Flecker in Lebanon, then in Baghdad, Iraq (then a British protectorate), where she met the British high commissioner.[8].