

Rosemary Sweet, Gerrit Verhoeven and Sarah Goldsmith (eds.), *Beyond the Grand Tour: Northern Metropolises and Early Modern Travel Behaviour* (London/New York: Routledge, 2017). 228 p. ISBN 9781472485809.

DOI: 10.18352/tseg.1092

Travel in early modern Europe is often associated with the Grand Tour to Italy, but besides a British-led visit to the ‘female goddess’², many other places lured the early modern leisure-seeker. Not only the destinations of the early modern traveller were manifold, also the motivations and background of the travellers. The diversity in early modern European travel cultures is the main topic of *Beyond the Grand Tour*, in which the authors explicitly move the focus away from the dominant paradigm in Anglophone scholarship on the Grand Tour to Italy. The editors of the collected volume highlight the need to provide a different perspective on early modern travel, directed towards the actual experience of travelling in Northern Europe including its complexities and methodological issues.

The chapters in *Beyond the Grand Tour* are divided in three parts. The first part concentrates on travel as experienced by the European elite, their motives for travelling and how itineraries through northern and central Europe evolved during the seventeenth and eighteenth century. The second and third part of the volume reflect more directly the main aim of the book to offer a new perspective on travel cultures, with thought-provoking articles themed around travel for leisure and business and new patterns of travel, such as the visit of Italian entrepreneurs to northern industrial Europe in pursuit of commercial and technological knowledge. The fact that in all the contributions the central themes of the evolving topography of travel behaviour, the social profile of travellers and the motivation for travel are highlighted and that the authors refer to other chapters in the volume makes *Beyond the Grand Tour* into a whole. Furthermore, the continuous references to the main aim of the collected volume shows the determination of its contributors to really make a case for a different approach in research on early modern travel.

The examination of other categories of travellers and source material beyond the canonical texts of travel literature results in several intriguing contributions. Richard Ansell shows for example through Foubert’s Academy that was first located in Paris and moved to London in 1697 how academies – training institutions focusing on the development of the body as social symbol centered at horsemanship, dancing, fencing and military mathematics, complemented with languages, history and civil law – were part of a broader travel culture, bringing the impor-

² C. de Seta, ‘Grand Tour. The lure of Italy in the eighteenth century’, in: I. Bignamini and A. Wilton (eds.), *Grand Tour: The lure of Italy in the eighteenth century* (London 1996) 15.

tant learning element in male voyages closer to home. Foubert's Academy offered new access to accomplishments previously restricted to those who could not afford foreign travel or cultural advantages of French travel without its religious dangers. The history of academies like Foubert's provides insight in how travel culture and societal developments are strongly interwoven and how domestic and foreign travel often overlapped in diverse educational strategies.

There are more examples of refreshing contributions in *Beyond the Grand Tour*: through the examination of lists of visitors, diaries, patient case notes and guidebooks Richard Bates shows how an early leisure and travel industry developed to support the cultural 'Petit Tour' to Spa and to what extent travel could involve families, men, women and small children and people from the British middle classes. Also Elodie Duché mentions a greater diversity in the travelling population, by pointing out the returning soldiers and the more 'modest visitor' to France after the peace of Amiens (1802), such as textile workers and the eloped and poor in quest of employment who travelled without legal documents but whose traces can be found in judiciary reports and local newspapers, in her contribution on the role of foreign travellers in the consumption of revolutionary ruins on the re-imagination of French touristic sites.

By describing youth travel in the late seventeenth and eighteenth century Gerrit Verhoeven offers a new and compelling perspective on an understudied category of early modern travel. This results in an interesting hypothesis since, according to Verhoeven, the travels of young cosmopolitans led to a more personal manner of writing and observing in travel writings. Furthermore, the development of youth travel reflects changes in family relations and shows that domesticity and leisure became more intertwined in this period. This is one of the many examples in *Beyond the Grand Tour* that demonstrates the importance of researching the history of travel, exactly because of its continuous dialogue with political, cultural and economic societal developments.

Beyond the Grand Tour succeeds in showing the richness of travel cultures in the early modern northern metropolises. From the many motivations and purposes to travel to domestic travel and other varieties in destinations. Moreover, by revealing distinct travel experiences through the examination of diverse sources and by propagating a different reading of archival material it also encourages the researcher to look beyond.

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