



A Sentimental Journey Through France and Italy

By Laurence Sterne

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A Sentimental Journey Through France and Italy is a novel by the Irish-born English author Laurence Sterne, written and first published in 1768, as Sterne was facing death. In 1765 Laurence Sterne travelled through France and Italy as far south as Naples, and after returning determined to describe his travels from a sentimental point of view.

The novel was extremely popular and influential and helped establish travel writing as the dominant genre of the second half of the 18th century. Unlike prior travel accounts which stressed classical learning and objective non-personal points of view, *A Sentimental Journey* emphasized the subjective discussions of personal taste and sentiments, of manners and morals over classical learning. The narrator is the Reverend Mr. Yorick, who is slyly represented to guileless readers as Sterne's barely disguised alter ego. The book recounts his various adventures, usually of the amorous type, in a series of self-contained episodes.

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Editorial Review

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About the Author

Irish-born Laurence Sterne was an eighteenth century English author and Anglican clergyman. Though he is perhaps best known as a novelist, Sterne also wrote memoirs, articles on local politics, and a large number of sermons for which he was quite well known during his lifetime. Sterne's works include *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*, *A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy*, and the satire *A Political Romance* (also known as *The History of a Good Warm Watch-Coat*). Sterne died in 1768 at the age of 54.

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