PREFACE

The legacy of travel-literature is unique and old in England. Men and Women of English origin have been travelling to other nations since medieval ages and most often they took delight in writing down their experiences or impressions about the countries they visited. Not unoften such travel books proved to be the only source of information about a country or a region rarely visited by common Englishmen. Thus it can be justly argued that travelogues have been playing a vital role in the making of the image of various people and nations in England.

Direct contacts between Arabia and England were made in the eleventh and twelfth centuries when many crusaders of English origin went to the holy land to deliver Jerusalem. Since then the Englishmen, travellers, scholars, merchants, missionaries and politicians, have been frequently travelling to and writing about Arabia. Some of the works produced in various ages were serious and made valuable contributions to the common fund of human knowledge. But unfortunately majority of the writers published superficial materials about the Arab world which, as can be imagined, created an unrealistic, even fictitious and misleading, image of the Arabs.
This thesis aims to deal with some major travel writers of the twentieth century who especially wrote in its first half. The author's approach has been to find out the motivations or the ideologies and world views with which the travellers of the period under discussion went to the Arab world. For it were their personal ideologies or, at least, their individual predilections which greatly influenced their view and vision of the Arabs. Thus it can be reasonably concluded that the Arab society or 'realities' they presented in their works, to a great extent, were not objectively studied or comprehended the way the Arabs themselves liked and saw them. Exceptions, however, can not be denied.

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