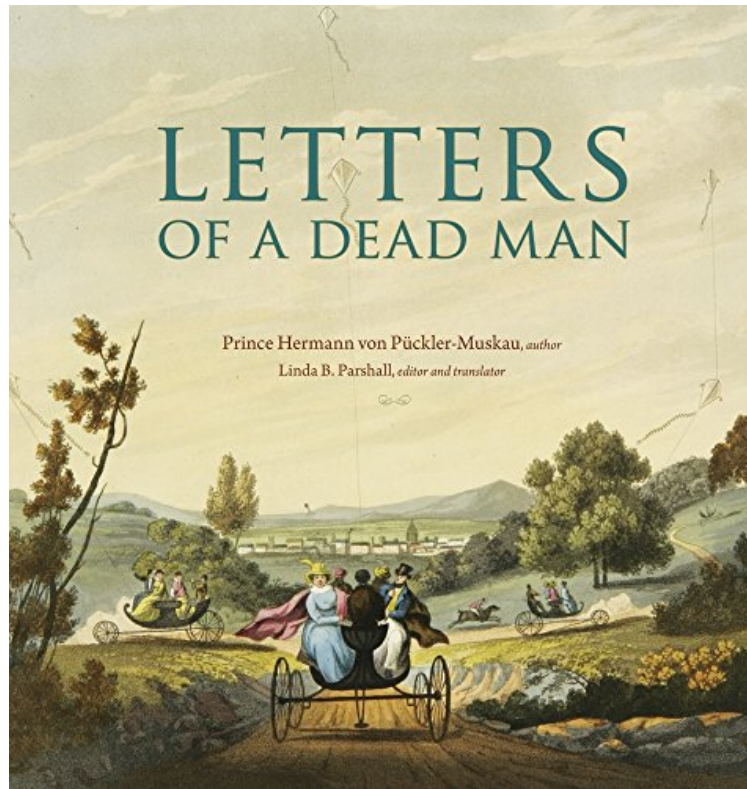


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Letters of a Dead Man (Ex Horto: Dumbarton Oaks Texts in Garden and Landscape Studies)

Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau
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Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau : Letters of a Dead Man (Ex Horto: Dumbarton Oaks Texts in Garden and Landscape Studies) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Letters of a Dead Man (Ex Horto: Dumbarton Oaks Texts in Garden and Landscape Studies):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful but unwieldy!By BP MillsThis is a wonderful book. The writing and editing are excellent. Full appreciation to Dumbarton for bringing this project to fruition.My 4 star rating is solely because of the format.This book is huge and heavy and the format is completely wrong for this type of book. It is too heavy to hold in your hands, or read in bed. You must be seated at a table. I am 52 and in good health, but the thought of the physical work needed to read this makes tired just thinking about it.The end notes should have been foot notes. Because the book is so unwieldy, it is a physical effort to have to turn to the back of this massive tome to read each numbered note. If the notes had been at the bottom of each page, it would have made reading and full understanding possible. As it is, I just don't want the hassle of lifting the pages to get the deeper understanding.This would have been wonderful as two standard size, maybe slightly oversized, slipcased volumes. The effort to read it

would have been eliminated. I'd love to give this to older relatives as a Christmas gift, but I really think it would be too much effort for them, and that is a shame. Perhaps I will anyway, because the book is that good. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Long-ago Travels By Robin C. Brown Lovely and very interesting book. I expected more pictures, but the ones that are there are fine. Thanks! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By guido goldman A magnificent book with wonderful illustrations.

In 1826, the prince of Pckler-Muskau embarked on a tour of England, Wales, and Ireland. Although captivated by all things British, his initial objective was to find a wealthy bride. He and his wife Lucie, having expended every resource on a plan to transform their estate into a vast landscape park, agreed to an amicable divorce, freeing him to forge an advantageous alliance that could rescue their project. For over two years, Pckler's letters home conveyed a vivid, often quirky, and highly entertaining account of his travels. From the metropolis of London, he toured the mines and factories of the Industrial Revolution and visited the grand estates and spectacular art collections maintained by its beneficiaries. He encountered the scourge of rural and urban poverty and found common cause with the oppressed Irish. With his gift for description, Pckler evokes the spectacular landscapes of Wales, the perils of transportation, and the gentle respite of manor houses and country inns. Part memoir, part travelogue and political commentary, part epistolary novel, Pckler's rhetorical flare and acute observations provoked the German poet Heinrich Heine to characterize him as the most fashionable of eccentric men Diogenes on horseback.

[A] classic of travel literature Von Pckler-Muskau writes with an engaging intimacy, charm and eye for detail. At times he almost resembles his contemporary Stendhal, vivaciously describing Britain instead of Italy Superbly edited, translated and annotated by Linda B. Parshall, this richly illustrated edition of the Letters of a Dead Man is one of those books that bring an era to life Letters of a Dead Man, especially in this gorgeous edition, is a book you can happily live in for weeks. (Michael Dirda Washington Post 2016-05-04) The first complete translation into English of what is, after all, one of the most remarkable and comprehensive portraits of Britain in this period and one made by a writer who is well known in Germany if little known in the English-speaking world, except to experts on landscape and gardening. Pckler's descriptions of wild scenery are astonishing, as are his intrepidity and stamina when traversing such terrain; his accounts of magnificent parks, flower gardens and long-vanished garden buildings are especially valuable because they were made at a moment when concern for privacy and security were, increasingly, an impediment to curiosity. But the letters are of equal interest for historians who wish to understand the social rituals of that period, providing, for example, accounts of country house dinner conversation conducted against the background music of torrential male urine; of an audience, attired in deepest mourning for the deceased Duke of York, screeching with laughter at a pantomime; and of an awkward moment at court when, as George IV attempts to confer a knighthood, the sword sticks in its scabbard We also gain insight into the aesthetic values and modes of interpretation characteristic of a cosmopolitan man of taste at that date. (Nicholas Penny London of Books 2016-06-16) [Pckler-Muskau] is sharp, witty and has an ear for a good story. What more could be asked of a companion? Goethe and Heine both hailed the prince's book as a new classic. They were probably right to do so. This splendid publication is an example of travel-writing at its best. (Leslie Mitchell Literary 2016-07-01) Linda Parshall's elegant new translation provides the first complete English edition It is in Pckler's observations of the society he encounters that the Letters really come into their own. His impressions of the English, especially the upper classes, are relayed with an anthropologist's detachment The success of the letters is more than the result of a happy accident. They are a joy to read: lively, well observed, imbued with gentle self-irony and a good eye for a story even, and perhaps especially, when the author is the butt of it. (Maren Meinhardt Times Literary Supplement 2016-09-07) Letters of a Dead Man, by Prince Hermann von Pckler-Muskau, first published in 1831 in a heavily expurgated edition, records the travels of this minor German nobleman through England and Wales, and is full of acute and entertaining observations of English society and mores. Now it has been issued in a new translation by the Germanist Linda Parshall (in the Dumbarton Oaks Library series from Harvard University Press), with the cuts restored and the author's own illustrations including many that testify to his interest in parks and gardens all reproduced in a sumptuous, large-format single volume: a treat and a treasure. (Richard C. Evans New Statesman 2016-11-18) [The] translator, Linda Parshall, deserves the highest praise and surely a prize It is the most beautifully printed, produced and color-illustrated book I have bought in my lifetime. Color prints of the period complement the text and conjure up its setting [It] belongs in the library of every civilized garden owner Goethe admired Pckler's writings and so do I. He is an essential source for garden historians as well as for historians of social class. (Robin Lane Fox Financial Times 2017-03-08) About the Author Linda B. Parshall is an independent scholar.