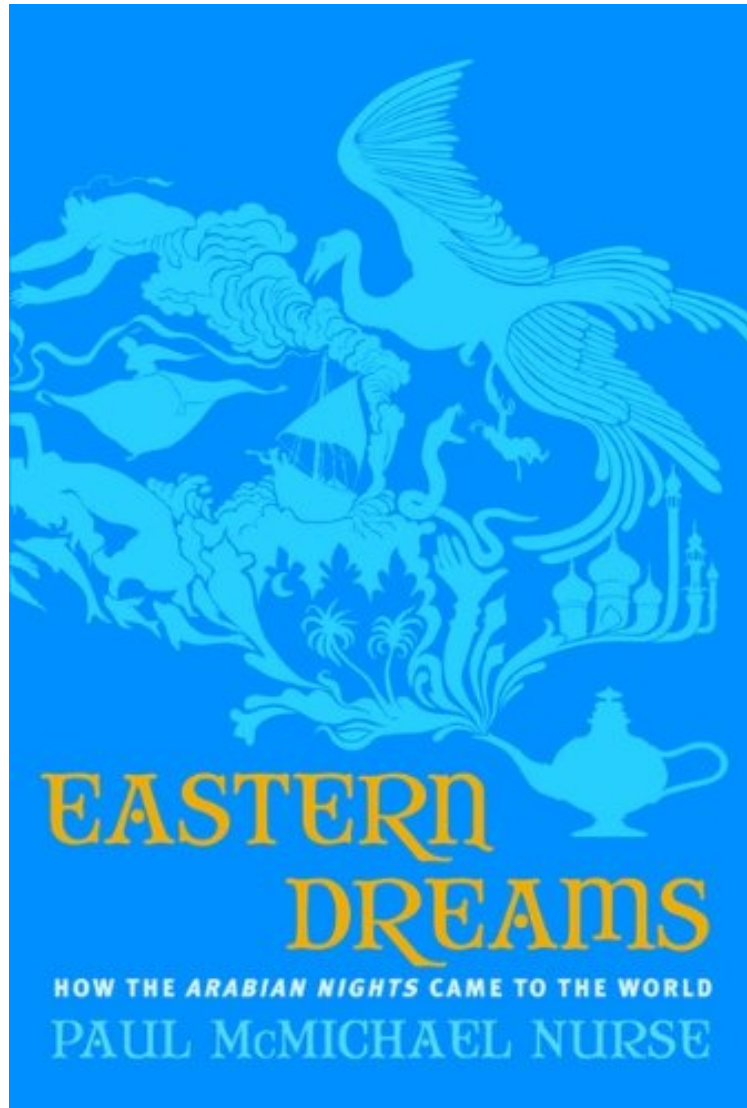


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## Eastern Dreams: How The Arabian Nights Came To The World

*Paul McMichael Nurse*

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Finally a Clear History for the 1001 NightsBy M. LundellEveryone knows the name "1001 Nights" or "Arabian Nights" but very few people know just how crazy the history of this story collection is. There is no original version or author and scores of translations which, when examined closely, turn out to be individual books with their own stories and focuses rather than translations that vary just a little bit.Paul Nurse's

book is one of the first to examine just how the Nights became a household word in the West. Despite the incredible number of scholarly articles and books on the Nights Nurse's is also one of the first to investigate the various strands (translations, manuscripts, etc.) as individual pieces of a bigger puzzle. His book traces the Nights from its relatively obscure Middle Eastern origins, through its first popular variant (the 1704 French translation by Galland), examines in depth the collaboration and English translations of Richard Burton and John Payne, gives a historical overview of how the Nights influenced the major English Romantic poets, and presents the contemporary Nights in its television, film and other forms. This book is highly recommended as a starting point for anyone interested in the Nights and anyone interested in literary history in general and as a supplementary resource for any serious student of the Nights.

The 1001 Arabian Nights is perhaps the most famous story collection in the world. It has transcended cultures, languages, and historical eras to become familiar and beloved not only in the Eastern world, but also in the West, where it is the only acknowledged classic of Western literature to have originated from outside the West itself. Despite its prominent place in both Eastern and Western culture, the history of the Nights remains tantalizingly elusive and difficult to define. In *Eastern Dreams*, author Paul Nurse discusses not only the history of this book, but also the many fascinating people, who become characters themselves, responsible for bringing the Nights to the West and the wider world, and how the Nights has influenced, and continues to influence, global culture.

**About the Author** Paul McMichael Nurse holds a Ph.D. in British, Indian, and African histories from the University of Toronto. He has written for publications such as *The Globe and Mail*, *the National Post*, *Victorian*, *British Heritage*, and *The Baker Street Journal*. *Eastern Dreams* is his first book.