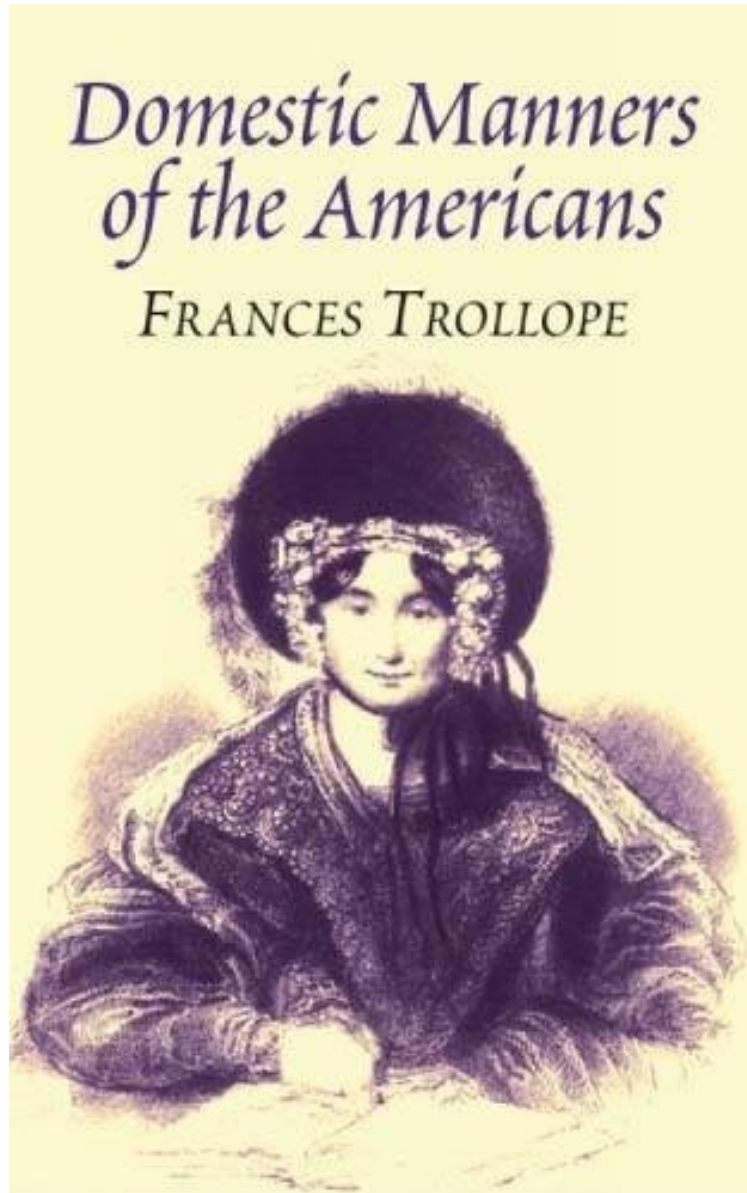


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## Domestic Manners of the Americans

*Frances Trollope*

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**Frances Trollope : Domestic Manners of the Americans** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Domestic Manners of the Americans:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like a letter from a friend, who happens to be from 1830.By Jack FavilleI thoroughly enjoyed this kind of a "travelogue" through c1830 America. The way Mrs Trollope wrote, it felt

like a letter from a friend about her trip, but she just happened to be writing from 1830. I am interested in the history of how every day people lived, and what things looked like and felt like, more than I am interested in just what war happened when (although it's important to know that too). I also enjoyed how she contrasted the habits of the Americans vs the habits of her upper class English world. She found the Americans to be hard working in their pursuit of their livelihood, maybe a bit too religious, and somewhat uninterested in the finer things in life, like the arts and literature. She also thought Americans were overly proud of their young country's accomplishments and too quick to defend what they saw as their American superiority. Kind of like today.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Fanny Trollope the mother of famed novelist Anthony Trollope tours the United States in 1832. By C. M. Mills. Fanny Trollope (1779-1863) wrote over 35 novels and several non-fiction books in her effort to rescue her family from poverty. However, the most read of all her books is "Domestic Manners of the Americans" which she published in 1832. It was in that distant year that Fanny and two of her children traveled across the Atlantic Ocean. Her purpose was to join a utopian community in Tennessee whose denizens were freed slaves. Fanny left her impecunious and feckless husband the barrister Thomas Trollope back home in England. Her famous son Anthony did not make the trip as he was a student at Harrow School. Fanny knew her husband would join her in the USA when money became available. Later the family would flee to Bruges to escape creditors. Fanny eventually lived out her life in Florence near her son Thomas Trollope. After leaving Tennessee the Trollopes settled for two years in the Queen City of the West Cincinnati, Ohio. Fanny did not like America or the American people! She found us xenophobic; boastful, prideful and violent. She hated the hypocrisy of life in Midwest Ohio although she did attend such cultural attractions as opera, plays and lectures. She favored the state Anglican Church of Great Britain not caring for America's separation between church and state. This book could well be read alongside Charles Dickens' "American Notes for General Circulation" based on his 1842 six month trip to the USA. Both Trollope and Dickens found the Americans crude, lacking in manners and eager to make a quick buck. Listen to Trollope at her most scathing: "...among the rich and the poor, in the slave states, and in the free states...I do not like them. I do not like their principals, I do not like their manners, I do not like their opinions." (p.314). Fanny Trollope's book is more interesting than Dickens since she discusses colorful characters and shares anecdotes about her sojourn in our young republic. Like Dickens she hates the odious practice of tobacco chewing and the mangling of the English language. Trollope found us Yankees to be too serious and viewing us as poorly read. Unlike the wealthy and famous Dickens, Mrs. Trollope was a middle-aged woman fighting off poverty with her pen. I enjoyed her descriptions of nature such as those she paints of the Potomac River, Northern Virginia and the Niagra Falls area in New York and Canada. She is aware of flora and fauna and describes them with knowledge and in beautiful prose. Dickens and Trollope give us the eye to see America in the days prior to the Civil War when the curse of chattel slavery ruled the land. Since those days America has granted freedom to all citizens. I wish both Fanny and Charles could visit us again in the 21st century. Their remarks would be of great interest to this reviewer and countless others!

10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read for students of American History. By E. V. Grant. Very well written, detailed, and (one is forced to believe) scrupulously fair. Eye opening picture of America in the 1820's. Fanny Trollope could only view American through the prism of her own culture and experience and she understandably lacks grounding in the origins of some of the behaviors and customs she reports but one has to admire her determination to report just what she saw without exaggeration leaving it to the reader to draw his/her own conclusions. When she is not talking about manners, her descriptions of the countryside and the natural wonders of the states she visited, fill one with a longing to see them as she did in pristine condition before the hand of man was too advanced.

Frances Trollope, mother of the great Victorian novelist Anthony Trollope, wrote more than 40 books in her lifetime, including provocative, landmark novels dealing with important social issues. Today, however, she's best known for her witty, entertaining, and controversial account of American life and culture *Domestic Manners of the Americans*. First published in 1832, this travel classic presents a lively portrait of early nineteenth-century America as observed by a woman of rare intelligence and keen perception. Mrs. Trollope left no stone unturned, commenting on American dress, food, speech, politics, manners, customs, the landscape, architecture, and more often critically, occasionally admiringly, but always with considerable insight and fine literary flair. Of her, Mark Twain observed: "Of all the tourists I like Dam Trollope best, she found a 'civilization' here which you, reader, could not have endured; and which you would not have regarded as civilization at all. Mrs. Trollope spoke of this civilization in plain terms plain and unsugared, but honest and without malice, and without hate." An immediate bestseller on its first publication, the book remains one of the most popular of all American travel accounts.

Frances Trollope's *Domestic Manners of the Americans* was a huge transatlantic sensation when it was first published in 1832. In it, Trollope used the cover of travel narrative to offer a not-always sympathetic portrait of the young United States that was brash, extreme, and more than a little naive. Trollope published *Domestic Manners* at the age of 53, and it has come to stand for the entirety of her work, but this was far from the case. Thanks to Sara R. Dangers painstaking editorial work in this volume and her insightful observations about transatlantic relations, Jacksonian America, early

Victorian England, and Trollope herself, this new edition is a vital contribution that establishes the socio-cultural significance of both a woman and her times. Brenda Weber, Indiana University Bloomington Scholars, teachers, and students alike rely on Broadviews ability to reframe familiar classics and recover neglected works, and Sara R. Danger upholds this tradition in her edition of *Domestic Manners of the Americans*. Though *Domestic Manners* was intended for her British audience at home, Trollopes unflattering caricatures so riled the American public that her book created a transatlantic publishing phenomenon. This new edition reminds us why Charles Dickens called the book one of the great pioneer exercises in transatlantic disparagement, and offers readers a feast of Anglophone print culture. Pamela Corpron Parker, Whitworth University From the Back Cover Richly informative on American manners and morals in the early nineteenth century, this famous travel account also reveals much about the contrast between British and American culture. About the Author John L. Larson is Professor of History, Assistant Department Head, and Director of Graduate Education at Purdue University. Since 1994 he has been coeditor, with Michael Morrison, of the *Journal of the Early Republic*. His publications include *Bonds of Enterprise: John Murray Forbes and Western Development in America's Railway Age* (1984) and *Internal Improvement: National Public Works and the Promise of Popular Government in the Early United States* (2001).