

couple along with Mrs. Sprague's brother, Ameen Ullah Fareed, and father, Mirza Assad Ullah Fareed, for unrelated reasons. In 1931, Sydney Sprague began petitioning for readmission, which Shoghi Effendi granted in 1941, two years before Sprague's death.

Both the novella and Cobb's memoir allude to student disciplinary problems at Robert College. According to J.A. McLean (bahai-library.com/mclean_stanwood_cobb), Cobb "told us that because he was a Bahá'í, his life had been threatened by some of the Muslim students whom he taught at Robert College in Istanbul." This explanation could not have been incorporated into the novella, since the hero is not yet a Bahá'í at the time.

One remaining mystery is whether "Ayesha" was based on any real-life model. Was she perhaps a student known to Cobb, or even a girlfriend? (Her name would have been familiar to Western readers thanks to the alluring yet imperious titular character of Rider Haggard's *She*.) And who was the model for the drawing of Ayesha which appears on the cover (by Darius Cobb — the author's father, and a noted artist)? Note that the drawing must have been done in the USA. One likely possibility would be the aforementioned Mrs. Sprague, although I have not been able to find a photograph of her. Another candidate might be Ghodsea Ashraf, a progressive young Iranian Bahá'í who made headlines in 1910-1911, during a study visit to the USA. Her photo may be viewed at newspapers.com. [— Bei Dawei, 2014, rev. 2016]

2. Ayesha of the Bosphorus

by Stanwood Cobb, 1915

Download: [cobb_ayesha_bosphorus.pdf](#).

METADATA

Views10521 views since posted 2011-06-18; last edit 2026-02-22 01:43 UTC;

previous at archive.org.../cobb_ayesha_bosphorus

Language

English

Permission

public domain

Share

Shortlink: bahai-library.com/3057

Citation: [ris/3057](#)

select Collection:

Archives

Articles

Articles-unpublished

Audio

Bibliographies

BIC

Biographies
Books
Chronologies
Compilations
Compilations-NSA
Compilations-personal
Documents
East-asia
Encyclopedia
Essays
Etc
Excerpts
Fiction
Glossaries
Guardian
Histories
Introductory
Letters
Maps
Music
Newspapers
NSA-documents
NSA-letters
Personal
Pilgrims
Poetry
Presentations
Resources
Reviews
Scripts
Software
Statistics
Study
Talks
Theses
Transcripts
Translations
UHJ-documents
UHJ-letters
Video
Visual
Writings

home

sitemap

series

[chronology](#)

[search:](#)

[author](#)

[title](#)

[date](#)

[tags](#)

[adv. search](#)

[languages](#)

[inventory](#)

[bibliography](#)

[abbreviations](#)

[links](#)

[about](#)

[contact](#)

[RSS](#)

[new](#)

— [Ayesha of the Bosphorus: A Romance of Constantinople](#) (Used by permission of the curator)