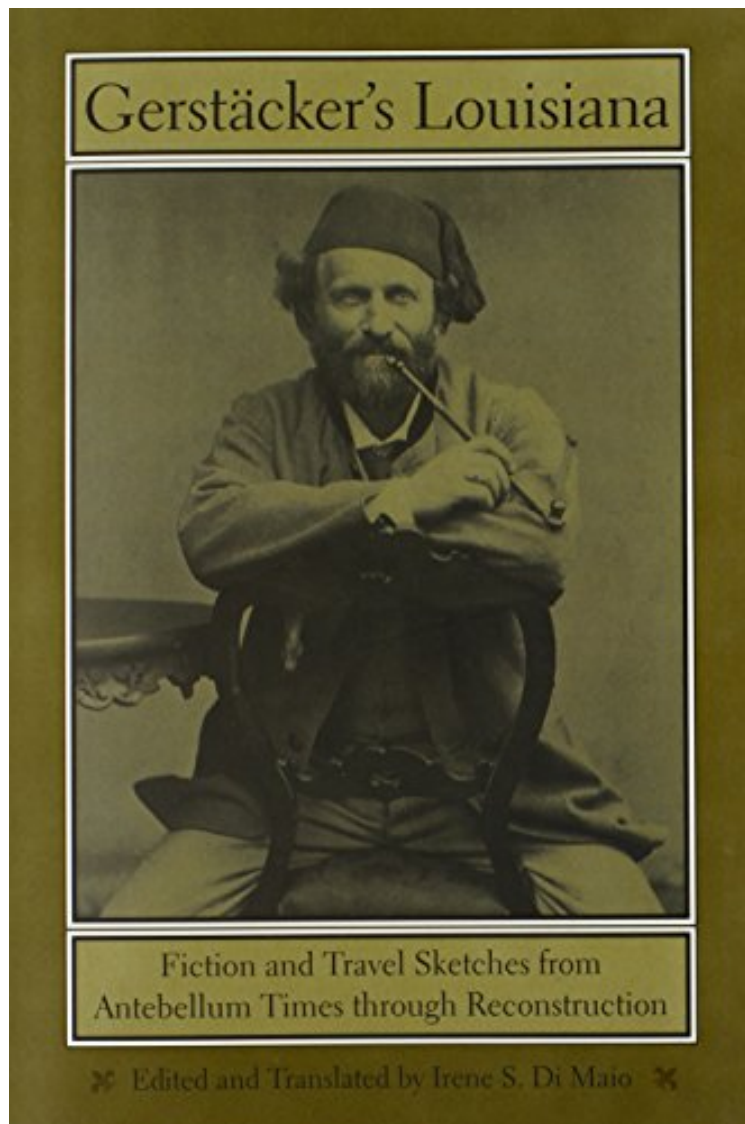


(Free) Gerstcker's Louisiana: Fiction and Travel Sketches from Antebellum Times through Reconstruction (A History of the South)

## Gerstcker's Louisiana: Fiction and Travel Sketches from Antebellum Times through Reconstruction (A History of the South)

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**From Brand: Louisiana State Univ Pr : Gerstcker's Louisiana: Fiction and Travel Sketches from Antebellum Times through Reconstruction (A History of the South)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gerstcker's Louisiana: Fiction and Travel Sketches from Antebellum Times through Reconstruction (A History of the South):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Journal of adventures By Thomas Hofer To begin with, Friedrich Gerstaecker was an adventurer who travelled worldwide and had an exceptional skill of experiencing and then sharing his experiences in writing so that the reader could share in his experiences. He never fantasizes, he never creates fictitious characters. His writings have not only literary but also historical value. And what he writes in this book about Louisiana is ample proof of that. He travels through the state and writes down his experiences and observations, and, as is the case with all of his other writings, he shares in the knowledge of history. Speaking personally, I have read several of Gerstaecker's writings in my youth years in Germany, and already at that time, was fascinated with him. I sincerely hope that teachers of Louisiana history will use this book as a resource for students to read. To my knowledge, only one American author compares to Gerstaecker - Mark Twain, with his book LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

A global traveler and adventurer, the German author Friedrich Gerstcker (1816--1872) first arrived in Louisiana in March 1838, paddling the waterways leading from the wilds of the northwestern part of the state near Shreveport south to cosmopolitan New Orleans. He returned to the state in 1842, living for a year in the areas of Bayou Sara, St. Francisville, and Pointe Coupe -- then considered the most beautiful garden and plantation land along the Mississippi River. In 1867 he briefly visited Louisiana again, observing the devastation wrought by the Civil War and the turmoil of Reconstruction. No mere armchair tourist, Gerstcker fully engaged himself in exploring Louisiana -- its landscapes, peoples, and Peculiar Institution. He was in the unique position of being both an insider and an outsider, and his sojourns in the state served as the basis for travel books, short stories, and novels. Gerstcker was a remarkable raconteur and a highly popular author. During his lifetime and beyond, his writings conveyed the tenor of southern life to a German-speaking audience. Now, compiled and translated into English by Irene S. Di Maio, they offer a window on nineteenth-century Louisiana across several decades of growth and upheaval. Gerstcker's aim as a writer was to inform and entertain, especially through humor, drama, and suspense. His works -- including his fiction -- sustain an almost ethnographic level of detail. The stories, travel sketches, and novel excerpts included here comment on slavery and its aftermath, ethnic and racial diversity, transcultural relations, and immigration and multilingualism. Gerstcker's impressions of Louisiana remain relevant and deeply engaging

About the Author Irene S. Di Maio is the author of *The Multiple Perspective: Wilhelm Raabe's Third-Person Narratives of the Braunschweig Period*. She is an associate professor of German at Louisiana State University