

# Patricia St John

## Historical Examples

### Foundation

Patricia St John was born just over a century ago in 1919. Her parents had been missionaries in South America. She became famous for the children's books that she wrote, though they are a favourite with many adults too.

At the age of twelve she began a sort of Sunday school for children in her village. Afterwards many spoke about how memorable those times were and how full of energy and joy she was. She was noted for the same things whilst teaching Sunday School in a village near Coventry shortly before she died aged 74.

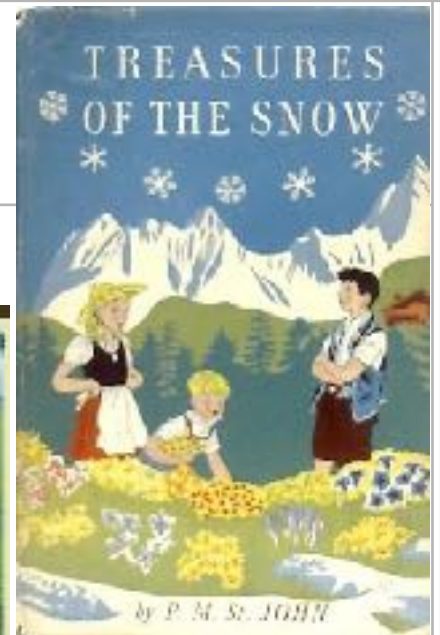
In between she lived in a wide variety of places and countries. Those locations and experiences are the backdrop for many of the her books. *Treasures in the Snow*, for example, was set in Switzerland.

“If you spend your time putting the love of your heart into what you do for those who are not your friends, you may often be disappointed and discouraged. But if you keep on trying you will find your happiness in loving, whether you are loved back or not.”  
Patricia St John, *Treasures of the Snow*

After she finished school Patricia trained as a nurse and during the Second World war cared for many victims of the, some of that time is described in her autobiography, “In Her Words” written in 2017.

Just after the war she was a housemistress, looking after girls boarding in a school run by her aunt. It was then that she wrote the first of her books, *The Tanglewood's Secret*, which was published in 1948.

*First edition of Treasures of The Snow (1950)*



*Japanese Anime DVD series.*

This was soon followed by her most famous book, *Treasures of the Snow*. Most of her books continue to sell and all have a common aim, to help young people understand about being followers of Jesus. They deal with the everyday struggles of ordinary lives of children living in a broken world.

The royalties she earned from the sale of her first books enabled her to give up her work. Her brother Farnham, and his family were, living in Tangiers in Morocco. He himself was an extraordinary missionary doctor and she joined them. She worked in the hospital, self-funded, for 27 years as a missionary nurse serving people where there was no other medical care. She also continued to teach children and write books

Her last book, *The Victor*, was published shortly before her death in 2020.

Most her books are still in print and continue to be translated into new languages. At least four have been adapted into films.



**The theme running through Patricia St John's books is the love of God. It was that love which drove her to serve others.**