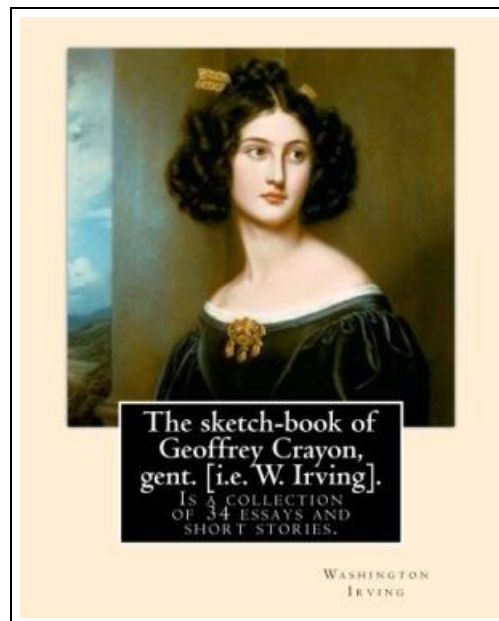


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent., commonly referred to as The Sketch Book, is a collection of 34 essays and short stories written by the American author Washington Irving. It was published serially throughout 1819 and 1820. The collection includes two of Irving s best-known stories, attributed to the fictional Dutch historian Diedrich Knickerbocker: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Rip Van Winkle. It also marks Irving s first use of the pseudonym Geoffrey Crayon, which he would continue to employ throughout his literary career. The Sketch Book, along with James Fenimore Cooper s Leatherstocking Tales, was among first widely read works of American literature in Britain and Europe. It also helped advance the reputation of American writers with an international audience.Background[edit] Irving began writing the tales that would appear in The Sketch Book shortly after moving to England for the family business, in 1815. When the family business spiraled into bankruptcy throughout 1816 and 1817 - a humiliation that Irving never forgot - Irving was left with no job and few prospects. He tried at first to serve as an intermediary between American and English publishers, scouting for English books to reprint in America and vice versa, with only marginal success. In the autumn of 1818, his oldest brother William, sitting as a Congressman from New York, secured for him a political appointment as chief clerk to the Secretary of the U.S. Navy, and urged Irving to return home.[4] Irving demurred, however, choosing to remain in England and take his chances as a writer. As he told friends and family back in the United States: I now wish to be left for a little while entirely to the bent of...

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