

**MODERN ENGLISH  
ESSAYS;  
VOLUME THREE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649312160

Modern English essays; Volume three by Ernest Rhys

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ERNEST RHYS**

**MODERN ENGLISH  
ESSAYS;  
VOLUME THREE**



MODERN  
ENGLISH ESSAYS

EDITED BY ERNEST RHYS



*Augustus Jones*

MODERN  
ENGLISH ESSAYS  
VOLUME THREE



"Q"

A. H. BULLEN  
VERNON LEE  
G. W. E. RUSSELL  
MAX BEERBOHM  
T. WATTS-DUNTON  
GEORGE SAINTSBURY  
J. ADDINGTON SYMONDS  
AUGUSTINE BIRRELL  
RICHARD JEFFERIES  
WILLIAM ARCHER  
VISCOUNT BRYCE  
ANDREW LANG  
MRS. MEYNELL  
W. E. HENLEY  
W. B. YEATS



1922

LONDON & TORONTO  
J. M. DENT & SONS LTD.  
NEW YORK: E. P. DUTTON & CO.

PK 1366

1963

23

*All rights reserved*

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN



## EDITOR'S NOTE

"I LOVE a man that doth stoutly express himself," said Montaigne, and his preference might well point to the stout comments of W. E. Henley on Hazlitt the essayist that give backbone to this volume. Henley led at the close of last century a little phalanx of his own, and made of *The Scots* (that became *The National*) *Observer* (1889-1894) another in the long succession of journals that fostered the essay. His account of Hazlitt comes, however, not from that source, but from an edition of Hazlitt's works.

It may be placed with Augustine Birrell's account of Lamb, also from a new edition of a favourite author, in that series of justificative pieces on which essayists rest their case for an independent canon. Of their near contemporaries, Richard Jefferies is a little master among the essayists of nature. "The Sun and the Brook" comes from a posthumous collection entitled *The Hills and the Vale*. Mrs. Meynell, individual in her method as any of this group, was a *National Observer* contributor who had a pen sensitive and sure. She and "Vernon Lee" (Miss Paget) have both written delightfully, in their different ways, on the power and spirit of place. The essay "Genius Loci" is from the volume of that name. Mrs. Meynell's "Point of Biography" is from her *Collected Essays*.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Among the recognised veterans of the critical essay at the century's close included in this group, John Addington Symonds, Andrew Lang, the late Lord Bryce, George Saintsbury, the late A. H. Bullen, and the sometime oracle of *The Athenæum*, Theodore Watts-Dunton, serve to knit up the late Victorian and the next generation. William Archer on Dr. Brandes and his *Shakespeare* marks in the account the place of the stage-critic as essayist. A causerie on the death of Robert Louis Stevenson (1894), by A. T. Q.-C., recalls the days when *The Speaker*, eventually merged in *The Nation*, was hospitable to new writers. W. B. Yeats was another of its contributors with a rare Celtic fantasy to maintain. His essay comes from an early volume of Irish folk-tales which he collected for the present editor many years ago. As for Max Beerbohm, wise and witty and joyously satirical by turns, he gave the essay a new commission in gaiety when he began, where other people end, by collecting his Works in a first book. In the same year (1896), let us recall, appeared his *Caricatures of Twenty-five Gentlemen*. The essays on *Joseph Andrews*, *Wild Wales*, *Peter Wilkins* and Abraham Lincoln are from the volumes of "Everyman's Library." Andrew Lang's Walton essay is from an edition of the *Compleat Angler* (1896).

E. R.

For permission to use copyright essays in this volume, special acknowledgments are due to Mr. Duckworth for the essay by Richard Jefferies; to Mrs. Meynell and Messrs. Burns and Oates for "A Point of Biography"; to Miss Paget ("Vernon Lee") and Mr. John Lane for "Genius Loci"; to the Executors of the Walter Scott Co. for J. Addington Symonds' essay on the *Religio Medici*; and for Mr. W. B. Yeats' "Irish Folk and Fairy Tales"; to which should be added that poet and essayist's own consent.

To Sir Arthur T. Quiller-Couch, and to Messrs. Cassell and Co., the publishers are indebted for permission to use the essay on the Death of R. L. Stevenson; to Mr. William Archer and Mr. Grant Richards for that on Dr. Brandes' *Shakespeare*; and to Mr. Max Beerbohm, Mr. John Lane and Messrs. Dodd, Mead and Co. for "A Cloud of Pinafores." The other copyright items are reprinted from books in Messrs. Dent's own list of publications.