

VIENNESE IDYLLS

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Viennese idylls by Arthur Schnitzler

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ARTHUR SCHNITZLER

**VIENNESE
IDYLLS**



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Viennese Idylls

BY ARTHUR SCHNITZLER

*Translated by
Frederick Eisemann*

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ARTHUR SCHNITZLER

While a comparison of Guy de Maupassant with Arthur Schnitzler may at first seem extravagant, still the Austrian writer has brought his short story to a level high enough to dare comparison with any modern author. While de Maupassant's eroticism is very evident, Schnitzler's is far more delicate, subtle, and not so much on the surface, and there is in the French author a sameness of treatment not to be found in Schnitzler. The latter occupies a place in modern Austrian literature comparable only with the position held by Sudermann and Hauptmann in Germany.

Arthur Schnitzler was born in Vienna in 1862. The son of a physician, he followed his father's career and took his degree in 1885. His first literary attempt was made the following year, but it was not until six years later, in 1892, that he came into prominence with the publication of "Anatol." This series of episodes,

which still enjoys a great vogue in Europe, has recently attracted wide attention both in England and the United States with the publication of Mr. Granville Barker's paraphrase. Some of these episodes have also been staged by the Toy Theater of Chicago. Schnitzler's masterful psychological novelette, "Dying," was also published in 1892. "Flowers" followed the next year, and "The Farewell" appeared in 1896. From that time on short stories, plays, dialogues, and several novels have come from his versatile pen.

There is a certain grace in Schnitzler's stories and plays that distinguishes him from most German and Austrian writers; a grace that is usually incompatible with the German language. His lines are filled with delicate nuances, and a subtle, and almost sensuous beauty breathes forth from his pages. Unlike Wedekind, there there is something of the mystic in the Austrian master, which, had it continued to develop, might have reached the supreme heights of a Maeterlinck. But