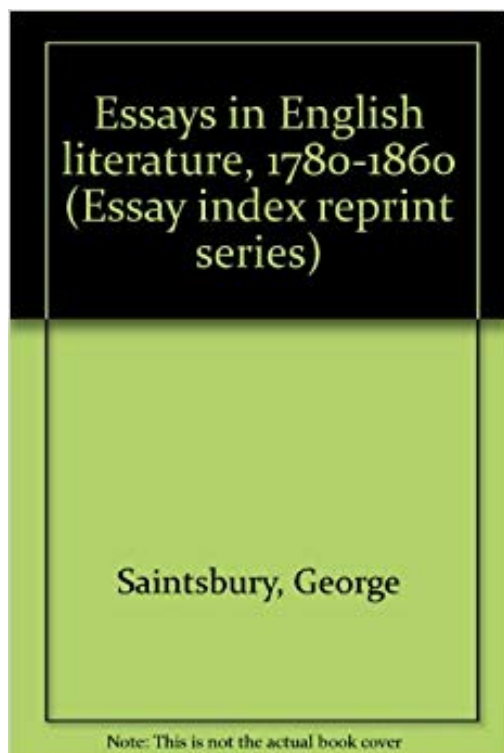


Essays in English literature, 1780-1860 (Essay index reprint series) by George Saintsbury



ISBN: 0836972929

ISBN13: 978-0836972924

Author: George Saintsbury

Book title: Essays in English literature, 1780-1860
(Essay index reprint series)

Publisher: Books for Libraries Press (1972)

Language: English

Category: Essays & Correspondence

Size PDF version: 1479 kb

Size ePUB version: 1687 kb

Size DJVU version: 1752 kb

Other formats: mbr doc txt mobi

0836972929



Reviews of the Essays in English literature, 1780-1860 (Essay index reprint series) by George Saintsbury

Madis

"... We have recently seen revived the sempiternal argument between authors and critics—an argument in which it may be as well to say that the present writer has not yet taken part either anonymously or otherwise. The authors, or some of them, have remarked that they have never personally benefited by criticism; and the critics, after their disagreeable way, have retorted that this was obvious."

Best to start with some of Saintsbury's wit, because the table of contents is... daunting:

INTRODUCTORY ESSAY— The Kinds of Criticism ix

I. Crabbe 1

II. Hogg 33

III. Sydney Smith 67

IV. Jeffrey 100

V. Hazlitt 135

VI. Moore 170

VII. Leigh Hunt 201

VIII. Peacock 234

IX. Wilson 270

X. De Quincey 304

XI. Lockhart 339

XII. Praed 374

XIII. Borrow 403

APPENDIX— A. De Quincey 440 B. Lockhart 444

Some of these poets and essayists, like Crabbe and De Quincey, are also dealt with by Leslie Stephen and Augustine Birrell; but Saintsbury drills down even deeper:

"... The greatest of all critics was accused, unjustly, of having a certain dislike of clear, undoubted supremacy. It would be far more fair to say that Sainte-Beuve had eminently, what perhaps all critics who are not mere carpers on the one hand, or mere splashers of superlatives on the other, have more or less—an affection for subjects possessing but qualified merit, and so giving to criticism a certain additional interest in the task of placing and appraising them."

This book did take a long time to read. And another name for 'drilling down' is 'boring.' But I will give one more sample of Saintsbury at his best:

Indeed, the truth is that while this attitude has in some periods been very rare, it cannot be said to be the peculiar, still less the universal, characteristic of any period. It is a personal not a periodic distinction; and there are persons who might make out a fair claim to it even in the depths of the Middle Ages or of the nineteenth century. However this may be, Peacock certainly held the theory of those who take life easily, who do not love anything very much except old books, old wine, and a few other things, not all of which perhaps need be old, who are rather inclined to see the folly of it than the pity of it, and who have an invincible tendency, if they tilt at anything at all, to tilt at the prevailing cants and arrogances of the time. These cants and arrogances of course vary. The position occupied by monkery at one time may be occupied by physical science at another; and a belief in graven images may supply in the third century the target, which is supplied by a belief in the supreme wisdom of majorities in the nineteenth. But the general principles—the cult of the Muses and the Graces for their own sake, and the practice of satiric archery at the follies of the day—appear in all the elect of this particular election, and they certainly appear in Peacock.

Rarranere

Great book

Dusho

Good because for free.

Arabella V.

small text

Related PDF to Essays in English literature, 1780-1860 (Essay index reprint series) by George Saintsbury

1. [Recent developments in European thought:: Essays \(Essay index reprint series\) by Francis Sydney Marvin](#)
2. [Estimates in art: Series II. Sixteen essays on American painters of the nineteenth century \(Essay index reprint series\) by Frank Jewett Mather](#)
3. [Art and the life of action, with other essays \(Essay index reprint series\) by Max Eastman](#)
4. [Thirty-one bedside essays \(Essay and general literature index reprint series\) by R. L Megroz](#)
5. [Book and heart, essays on literature and life \(Essay index reprint series\) by Thomas Wentworth Higginson](#)
6. [Essays in biography and criticism;: Second series \(Essay index reprint series\) by Peter Bayne](#)
7. [Essays on the Civil War and Reconstruction \(Essay Index Reprint Series\) by William Archibald Dunning](#)
8. [A certain blind man,: And other essays on the American mood, \(Essay index reprint series\) by Robert Elliot Fitch](#)
9. [First Impressions: Essays on Poetry, Criticism and Prosody \(Essay Index Reprint Series\) by Llewellyn Jones](#)
10. [Libraries and living;: Essays and addresses of a public librarian \(Essay index reprint series\) by L. Stanley Jast](#)