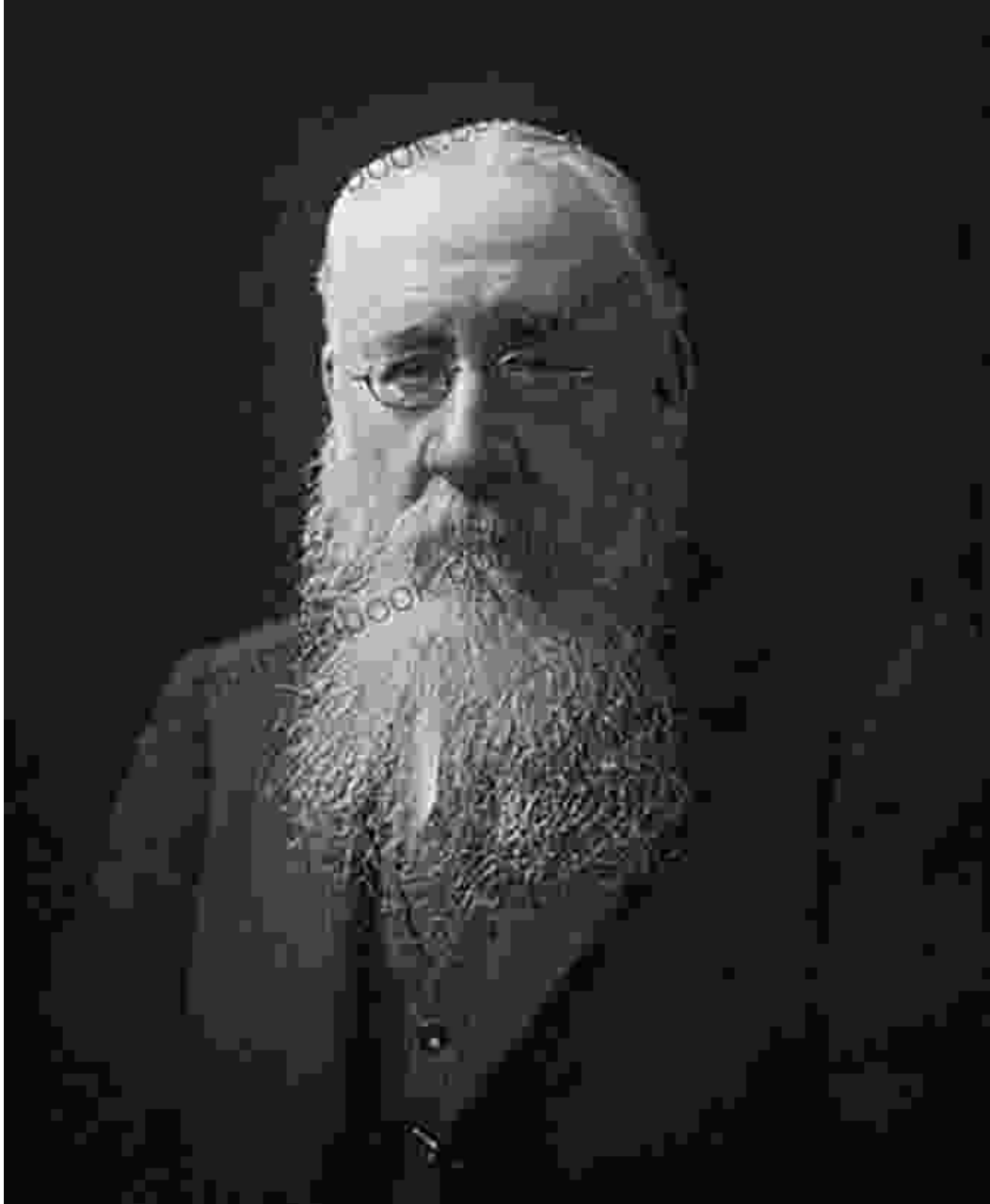


Der Mann Im Hintergrund: Exploring the Life and Legacy of George Saintsbury



In the annals of literary criticism, the name George Saintsbury stands tall as a towering figure. As "Der Mann Im Hintergrund" ("The Man in the Background"), Saintsbury played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of

English literature, leaving an enduring legacy that continues to inspire and inform. This article delves into the life, works, and far-reaching impact of this remarkable literary scholar.



Der Mann im Hintergrund by George Saintsbury

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4465 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 321 pages



Early Life and Education

George Edward Bateman Saintsbury was born on October 23, 1845, in Southampton, England. His early education took place at King's College School in London, where he showed a keen interest in language and literature. In 1863, he matriculated at Merton College, Oxford, where he excelled in classics and modern languages.

Literary Critic and Historian

After graduating from Oxford, Saintsbury embarked on a distinguished career as a literary critic and historian. He served as the principal reviewer for *The Saturday Review* from 1875 to 1895, where his insightful and often acerbic critiques helped establish his reputation as a formidable force in the literary world.

Saintsbury's influential work extended beyond journalism. He published numerous books on various aspects of literature, including *A History of Criticism* (1900-1904), *A History of English Prose Rhythm* (1912), and *A History of English Prosody* (1906-1908). These comprehensive works showcased Saintsbury's vast knowledge and deep understanding of literary forms and techniques.

Professor and Scholar

In addition to his literary criticism, Saintsbury was a renowned professor. He held chairs in English literature at the University of Edinburgh (1885-1895) and the University of Oxford (1913-1915). As a professor, Saintsbury imparted his knowledge and passion for literature to generations of students, leaving a lasting impact on the academic landscape.

Literary Style and Legacy

Saintsbury's literary style was characterized by its wit, erudition, and stylistic brilliance. He possessed an uncanny ability to distill complex literary concepts into clear and engaging prose. His writings entertained and informed readers alike, earning him a reputation as one of the most entertaining and erudite literary critics of his time.

Saintsbury's legacy extends far beyond his individual contributions to literary criticism. He is widely regarded as one of the founders of modern literary studies. His comprehensive histories provided a much-needed framework for understanding the evolution and significance of English literature. His emphasis on literary form and technique has influenced countless scholars and critics, shaping the way we approach and interpret texts.

Critical Reception

Saintsbury's work has garnered both praise and criticism over the years. Some critics have argued that his encyclopedic approach sometimes lacked depth and originality. However, most scholars recognize his immense contributions to the field of literary studies. His work remains an essential reference for researchers and students of English literature.

Personal Life and Death

Saintsbury married twice, first to Emily Cowper Johnson in 1873 and later to Ethel Devonshire in 1900. He had no children. Saintsbury passed away on January 28, 1933, in Bath, England.

George Saintsbury, "Der Mann Im Hintergrund," was a towering figure in the world of English literature. His insightful criticism, comprehensive histories, and passionate teaching left an enduring mark on the field. His work continues to inspire and influence scholars and critics alike, ensuring that his legacy will endure for generations to come.



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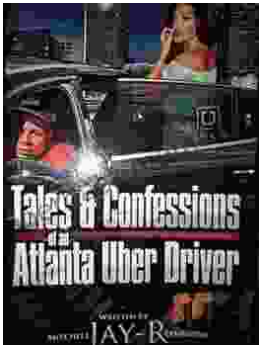
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