

**PREJUDICES,
FIRST SERIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649106110

Prejudices, first series by H. L. Mencken

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

H. L. MENCKEN

**PREJUDICES,
FIRST SERIES**

By H. L. MENCKEN

VENTURES INTO VERSE

Out of print

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW: HIS
PLAYS

Out of print

THE PHILOSOPHY OF FRIEDRICH
NIETZSCHE

MEN VERSUS THE MAN

With R. R. La Monte

Out of print

THE ARTIST

Out of print

A BOOK OF BURLESQUES

A LITTLE BOOK IN C MAJOR

Out of print

A BOOK OF CALUMNY

Out of print

IN DEFENSE OF WOMEN

A BOOK OF PREFACES

THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE

Out of print

PREJUDICES: FIRST SERIES

EUROPE AFTER 8.15

With George Jean Nathan

Out of print

THE AMERICAN CREDO

With George Jean Nathan

HELOGABALUS

With George Jean Nathan

PREJUDICES

FIRST SERIES

By H. L. MENCKEN



PUBLISHED AT THE BORZOI · NEW YORK · BY
ALFRED · A · KNOPF

CONTENTS

- I CRITICISM OF CRITICISM OF CRITICISM, 9
- II THE LATE MR. WELLS, 22
- III ARNOLD BENNETT, 36
- IV THE DEAN, 52
- V PROFESSOR VEBLER, 59
- VI THE NEW POETRY MOVEMENT, 83
- VII THE HEIR OF MARK TWAIN, 97
- VIII HERMANN SUDERMANN, 105
- IX GEORGE ADE, 113
- X THE BUTTE BASHKIRTSEFF, 123
- XI SIX MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE, 129
 - 1. The Boudoir Balzac, 129
 - 2. A Stranger on Parnassus, 134
 - 3. A Merchant of Mush, 138
 - 4. The Last of the Victorians, 139
 - 5. A Bad Novelist, 145
 - 6. A Broadway Brandes, 148
- XII THE GENEALOGY OF ETIQUETTE, 150
- XIII THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE, 171
- XIV THE ULSTER POLONIUS, 181
- XV AN UNHEEDED LAW-GIVER, 191
- XVI THE BLUSHFUL MYSTERY, 195

CONTENTS

1. Sex Hygiene, 195
 2. Art and Sex, 197
 3. A Loss to Romance, 199
 4. Sex on the Stage, 200
- XVII GEORGE JEAN NATHAN, 208
- XVIII PORTRAIT OF AN IMMORTAL SOUL, 224
- XIX JACK LONDON, 236
- XX AMONG THE AVATARS, 240
- XXI THREE AMERICAN IMMORTALS, 246
1. Aristotolean Obsequies, 246
 2. Edgar Allan Poe, 247
 3. Memorial Service, 249

PREJUDICES
FIRST SERIES

PREJUDICES: FIRST SERIES

I. CRITICISM OF CRITICISM OF CRITICISM

EVERY now and then, a sense of the futility of their daily endeavors falling suddenly upon them, the critics of Christendom turn to a somewhat sour and depressing consideration of the nature and objects of their own craft. That is to say, they turn to criticizing criticism. What is it in plain words? What is its aim, exactly stated in legal terms? How far can it go? What good can it do? What is its normal effect upon the artist and the work of art?

Such a spell of self-searching has been in progress for several years past, and the critics of various countries have contributed theories of more or less lucidity and plausibility to the discussion. Their views of their own art, it appears, are quite as divergent as their views of the arts they more commonly deal with. One group argues, partly by direct statement and partly by attacking all other groups, that the one defensible purpose of the critic is to encour-