

**THE LIFE STORIES OF
UNDISTINGUISHED
AMERICANS AS TOLD BY
THEMSELVES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649635238

The Life Stories of Undistinguished Americans as Told by Themselves by Hamilton Holt & Edwin E. Slosson

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

HAMILTON HOLT & EDWIN E. SLOSSON

**THE LIFE STORIES OF
UNDISTINGUISHED
AMERICANS AS
TOLD BY THEMSELVES**

The Life Stories
of
Undistinguished Americans

As Told by Themselves

Edited by Hamilton Holt

With an Introduction by Edwin E. Slosson



NEW YORK
JAMES POTT & COMPANY

1906

TO WML
SINCE LAD

JV 4495
11/1

REESE

SE

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER I	
THE LIFE STORY OF A LITHUANIAN	9
CHAPTER II	
THE LIFE STORY OF A POLISH SWEATSHOP GIRL	34
CHAPTER III	
THE LIFE STORY OF AN ITALIAN BOOTBLACK	47
CHAPTER IV	
THE LIFE STORY OF A GREEK PEDDLER	63
CHAPTER V	
THE LIFE STORY OF A SWEDISH FARMER	80
CHAPTER VI	
THE LIFE STORY OF A FRENCH DRESSMAKER	99
CHAPTER VII	
THE LIFE STORY OF A GERMAN NURSE GIRL	125
CHAPTER VIII	
THE LIFE STORY OF AN IRISH COOK	143
CHAPTER IX	
THE LIFE STORY OF A FARMER'S WIFE	150
CHAPTER X	
THE LIFE STORY OF AN ITINERANT MINISTER	167

CONTENTS

CHAPTER XI	
THE LIFE STORY OF A NEGRO PEON	183
CHAPTER XII	
THE LIFE STORY OF AN INDIAN	200
CHAPTER XIII	
THE LIFE STORY OF AN IGORROTE CHIEF	225
CHAPTER XIV	
THE LIFE STORY OF A SYRIAN	238
CHAPTER XV	
THE LIFE STORY OF A JAPANESE SERVANT	257
CHAPTER XVI	
THE LIFE STORY OF A CHINAMAN	281

NOTE

The INDEPENDENT has published during the last four years about seventy-five autobiographies of undistinguished American men and women. The aim of each autobiography was to typify the life of the average worker in some particular vocation, and to make each story the genuine experience of a real person. From this list have been selected the following sixteen lives as most representative of the humbler classes in the nation, and of individuals whose training and work have been the most diverse. Thus we have the story of the butcher, the sweat-shop worker, the boot-black, the push-cart peddler, the lumber man, the dressmaker, the nurse girl, the cook, the cotton-picker, the head-hunter, the trained nurse, the editor, the minister, the butler and the laundryman. They also represent the five great races of mankind, the white, yellow, red, brown and black, and include immigrants from Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Syria, China and Japan. I am aware that some of these autobiographies, or "lifelets," are crude from a literary point of view, but they all have a deep human interest and perhaps some sociological importance.

HAMILTON HOLT.



UNDISTINGUISHED AMERICANS

INTRODUCTION

THE late Jules Verne about a year before his death created something of a sensation by saying that the novel had reached its height and would soon be displaced from its present position of influence and popularity by new forms of literature. Whether the fact that his later romances had not sold as well as his earlier had anything to do with this pessimistic view of the outlook for his trade, there is much to indicate that he was right. It is true that there are more novels written and read than ever before, and there is no decline in quality, whether we consider the average or the exceptional. But the habitual readers of fiction, notwithstanding their conspicuousness and vocality, form only a small and continually smaller proportion of the total number of readers. Most men and many women prefer to come into closer touch with reality and seek it, often in vain, in the newspapers. Consequently fiction is under-