MR. AND MRS. EUROPE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649440498

Mr. and Mrs. Europe by Ruth Osborne Ewan

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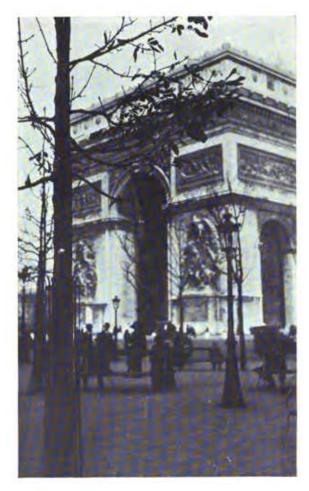
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RUTH OSBORNE EWAN

MR. AND MRS. EUROPE

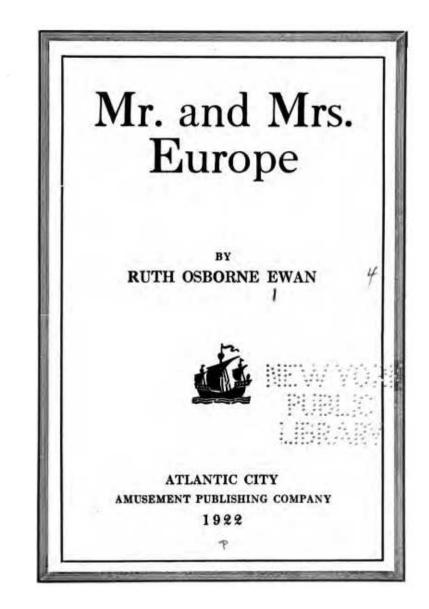
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The Arc de Triomphe, through which one sees all Paris, of a Sunday morning, strolling along the Champs Elysees



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:: Preface ::

Between a man in his evening clothes and that same man in his shirt sleeves, there is no greater gulf than between a girl in a dinner frock and that same maid in a gingham apron. It is a trait of humanity that with the putting aside of the formal dress, is cast off the artificial manner of speech and mood. Personality then stands clear.

So much has been said about Europe. So many people have said it. But always has it been said with that megaphone style, that pedagogic dignity and "hands-across-thesea" manner; and as we read we sit quite unconsciously stiff-backed in our chairs.

Ruth Osborne Ewan must have understood this; for she has chatted herein of Europe with its frock coat and crimson baldric put away, and its waistcoat comfortably unbuttoned.

I enjoyed it as I am sure you will. Mrs. Europe laughed at me roguishly and let me see her merry old eyes and loveable tricks. I smelled the exquisite, dreamy scent of her old, old romances, spread, as it were, upon the kerchief of her chic present. Mr. Europe compared notes. He talked randomly of shops and schools, of traffic and hotels; he spoke of prices, motors, and methods.

With her I languored atop the Rigi, lost in visions; with him I moved alertly through a work-a-day world.

A loveable pair this—Mr. and Mrs. Europe—he in his shirt sleeves, she in her gingham—friendly, interesting, genial. I am sure you will like them—and Miss Ewan, who introduced them to you.

W. C., JR.

January, 1922.

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