

**ESTO PERPETUA:  
ALGERIAN STUDIES  
AND IMPRESSIONS**

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Esto Perpetua: Algerian Studies and Impressions by H. Belloc

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**H. BELLOC**

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AND IMPRESSIONS**



**ESTO PERPETUA**  
ALGERIAN STUDIES AND IM-  
PRESSIONS BY H. BELLOC  
AUTHOR OF "THE PATH TO ROME"

*(Cada frontisp.)*

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TO  
E. S. P. HAYNES

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## INTRODUCTION

 ONCE, in a village that overlooked the Mediterranean, I saw a man working in an open shop, fitting together a builder's Ornament which was to go upon the ridge-end of some roof or other. He was making the base of the Ornament so as to fit on to a certain angle of the rafters, and the Ornament itself was a Cross. It was spring-time, and he was singing.

I asked him for whom he was making it. He answered, for a man who had ordered it of him over-sea in Algiers.

But another Ornament also stood by, carved in the same way, and similar in size. I asked him for whom he had

## INTRODUCTION

finished that other, and he said, "For the same man over-sea : he puts them upon buildings." This second Ornament, however, happened to be a Crescent.

The contrast moved me to cross the sea, to understand the land upon the further shore, and to write upon Africa some such little historical essay as follows.



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UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA



WHEN a man first sees Africa, if it is just before the rising of the sun, he perceives, right up against a clean horizon, what appear to be islands standing out distinct and sharp above the sea.

At this hour a wind is often blowing from the eastward, and awakens the Mediterranean as though it came purposely at dawn to make the world ready for the morning. The little waves leap up beneath it, steep towards their shadows, and the bows of the ship that had surged all night through a rolling calm begin, as sailors say, to