

**PASTELS AND  
SILHOUETTES: A  
BOOK OF VERSE**

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Pastels and Silhouettes: A Book of Verse by Mable Holmes Parsons & Phyllis Muirden

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**MABLE HOLMES PARSONS & PHYLLIS MUIRDEN**

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AND  
SILHOUETTES

A Book of Verse  
BY  
MABLE HOLMES PARSONS

*Illustrations by Phyllis Muirden*



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and *The Spectator* for their kind per-  
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poems which first appeared in their  
pages.

## Preface

**T**HOUGH haltingly and imperfectly bespoken in the lines, a certain faith has lent to the verses such color and movement as they possess. Resting upon that faith, the versifier has sought to re-convey what have been felt to be the rhythms of nature,—the impersonal lightness of greeting things, the buoyant fullness of motion in sea and ships, the redundant urge and crowding of humanity in cities, the slow-pulsed, reluctant charm of days-between; to subdue expression to that of the analogy itself, arrogating no rights of pre-considered form; in short, as nearly as possible to grant to each mood or emotion its peculiar image and rhythmic direction. Moreover, part of the author's belief has been concerned with the perceptions that lie between illusion and disillusion: she has not looked toward the realm where "fatuous fires and meteors take their birth," nor yet to discouraged regions of denial, but rather to that swift current with its inevitable impulses and reverses wherein life actually maintains and

renews itself. From this angle or view she has more or less consciously proceeded, in the sincere persuasion that if there be aught for the artificer of words to celebrate, it must be found in the seldom confessed or praised What Is, rather than in What Should or What—more comfortably—Might Be. “The drawing will not be adequate, but I must continue to draw because of my belief in that perfect bridge we shall never build.”

M. H. P.



*To My Husband*

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