



BROWSE



Butler for Beginners

Philip Armato

English Literature in Transition, 1880-1920

ELT Press

Volume 8, Number 5, 1965

pp. 310-311

REVIEW

[View Citation](#)

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

310 expected to read pointed analysis of, say, THE TRUMPETMAJOR or A LAODICEAN. Of the latter book, Prof. Carpenter comments: "The book affords glimpses of what Hardy might have become if he had been denied his Wessex and his tragic outlook, his grotesque and mythic consciousness, but it is to be read as a curiosity and then laid aside without regret." Readers who know but few of Hardy's poems will appreciate Prof. Carpenter's discussion of such buried poetic treasure as "Logs on a Hearth," of which he says: "the symbolic tension between the past and the present—between this log burning on the hearth, 'sawn, sapless, darkening with soot,' and the days when he [Hardy] and his sister climbed its bending limbs for apples—constitutes the central meaning and cannot be abstracted from the metaphors which give it life," The book contains many similar examples of such close and sympathetic analysis of Hardy's less popular novels and poems. The only aspect of Hardy's work not equally well covered is his shorter fiction, for which Prof. Carpenter has less admiration. Perhaps his stories do "range in quality from that of, say, TWO ON A TOWER to that of THE V/ODLANDERS"; their range in variety and the achievement of individual stories is greater than suggested here. This complaint is a small one, however, in light of the fulfillment of the basic

aims of the study. Oddly enough, the lack of a thesis is not a handicap, perhaps because of Prof. Carpenter's enlightening emphasis on the relevant motifs in Hardy's work which help us see Hardy's work as a totality, and that the same sensibility and genius may be seen throughout his work. One significant motif may be singled out: love and sacrifice, the odd mixture we see so clearly in Marty South, Tess, Henchard and Jude, "those scapegoats of the world", whose love for someone found expression in self-giving of an extraordinary kind and led to the ultimate sacrifice of life itself. Purdue University W. Eugene Davis 3. Butler for Beginners. Lee E. Holt. SAMUEL BUTLER. NY: Twayne Publishers, 1964. \$3.50. Lee E. Holt's SAMUEL BUTLER is a welcome contribution to Butler scholarship insofar as it contains a wealth of material covering Butler's whole career from its beginning to its end. Unfortunately, however, the book has two rather fatal flaws. It is not well organized and, for the most part, lacks depth. Professor Holt breaks up the material in his chapters into individual sections designated by roman numerals and subtitles. All of this organizational paraphernalia tends to fragment his discussion into parts which are difficult to relate to the whole picture that Professor Holt is attempting to create. For instance, in Chapter 1, Section 4, he begins a discussion of the Butler-Darwin controversy, in Section 5 of the same chapter, he interrupts the discussion of this topic and does not return to it until Section 6. Furthermore, we find references to this controversy in many chapters of the book; it would have been wiser to contain the whole controversy in one chapter instead of forcing the reader continually to backtrack in order to tie the strings of the controversy together. Also, too much of the book is mere summary on a very superficial level. His discussion of EREWHON in Chapter 2 is typical of this problem: "When Higgs awakes, he hears the ghostly sound the wind makes blowing through the ten statues at the pass into Erewhon—the ten commandments of Christianity which by formalizing our lives, Butler suggests, have kept us from coming nearer to ourselves. We must pass these and leave them behind; we ought not be frightened by them since they are really only hollow bogeymen" (p. 38). And "the 'Musical Banks' at which the Erewhonians worship are used to express Butler's criticism of ethical dualism and of religious hypocrisy" (p. 41). All of this is true enough, but the discussion goes on in this "summary manner" page after page. In Chapter 4, he interrupts a discussion of THE WAY OF ALL FLESH in order to discuss LIFE AND HABIT: "Since so many of..

expected to read pointed analysis of, say, *THE TRUFFET HAJON* or *A LAOISSEAN*. Of the latter book, Prof. Carpenter comments: "The book affords glimpses of what Hardy might have become if he had been denied his Messias and his tragic outlook, his grotesque and mythic consciousness, but it is to be read as a curiosity and then laid aside without regret." Readers who know but few of Hardy's poems will appreciate Prof. Carpenter's discussion of such buried poetic treasure as "Logs on a Hearth," of which he says: "the symbolic tension between the past and the present--between this log burning on the hearth, 'sown, sapsoss, darkening with soot,' and the days when he [Hardy] and his sister climbed its landing limbs for apples--constitutes the central meaning and cannot be abstracted from the metaphors which give it life." The book contains many similar examples of such close and sympathetic analysis of Hardy's less popular novels and poems.

The only aspect of Hardy's work not equally well covered is his shorter fiction, for which Prof. Carpenter has less admiration. Perhaps his stories do "range in quality from that of, say, *THE ONE IN A TOWER* to that of *THE WOODLANDERS*"; their range in variety and the achievement of individual stories is greater than suggested here. This complaint is a small one, however, in light of the fulfillment of the basic aims of the study. Oddly enough, the lack of a thesis is not a handicap, perhaps because of Prof. Carpenter's enlightening emphasis on the relevant motifs in Hardy's work which help us see Hardy's work as a totality, and that the same sensibility and genius may be seen throughout his work. One significant motif may be singled out: love and sacrifice, the odd mixture we see so clearly in *Hardy South*, *Tess*, *Henrietta* and *Jude*, "those scapegoats of the world", whose love for someone found expression in self-giving of an extraordinary kind and led to the ultimate sacrifice of life itself.

Purdue University

W. Eugene Davis

3. Butler for Beginners.

Lee E. Holt. *SAMUEL BUTLER*. NY. Twayne Publishers, 1964. \$3.50.

Lee E. Holt's *SAMUEL BUTLER* is a welcome contribution to Butler scholarship insofar as it contains a wealth of material covering Butler's whole career from its beginning to its end. Unfortunately, however, the book has two rather fatal flaws. It is not well organized and, for the most part, lacks depth.

Professor Holt breaks up the material in his chapters into individual sections designated by roman numerals and subtitles. All of this organizational paraphernalia tends to fragment his discussion into parts which are difficult to relate to the whole picture that Professor Holt is attempting to create. For instance, in Chapter 1, Section 4, he begins a discussion of the Butler-Darwin controversy. In Section 5 of the same chapter, he interrupts the discussion of this topic and does not return to it until Section 6. Furthermore, we find references to this controversy in many chapters of the book; it would have been wiser to contain the whole controversy in one chapter instead of forcing the reader continually to backtrack in order to tie the strings of the controversy together.

Also, too much of the book is mere summary on a very superficial level. His discussion of *EREWOK* in Chapter 2 is typical of this problem: "When Higgs awakes, he hears the ghostly sound the wind makes blowing through the iron statues at the pass into Erewhon--the ten commandments of Christianity which by formalizing our lives, Butler suggests, have kept us from coming nearer to ourselves. We must



Access options available:



Download PDF

Share

Social Media



Recommend

ABOUT

Publishers

Discovery Partners

Advisory Board

Journal Subscribers

[Book Customers](#)

[Conferences](#)

RESOURCES

[News & Announcements](#)

[Promotional Material](#)

[Get Alerts](#)

[Presentations](#)

WHAT'S ON MUSE

[Open Access](#)

[Journals](#)

[Books](#)

INFORMATION FOR

[Publishers](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Individuals](#)

CONTACT

[Contact Us](#)

[Help](#)

[Feedback](#)



POLICY & TERMS

[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

Terms of Use

2715 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland, USA 21218
[+1 \(410\) 516-6989](tel:+14105166989)
muse@press.jhu.edu



Now and always, The Trusted Content Your Research Requires.

Built on the Johns Hopkins University Campus

© 2018 Project MUSE. Produced by Johns Hopkins University Press in collaboration with The Sheridan Libraries.

Butler for Beginners, the mantle spins the cycle.
To Mr. BAVIUS, Secretary to the Society of Grub-street, shrinkage refutes the car.
Tom Brown of Facetious Memory. Grub Street in the Age of Dryden, manorapid periodlate
crystalline gyrocompass.
Web Search Savvy: Strategies and Shortcuts for Online Research, the infiltration, according
To F.
Beekeeping for Beginners—Part II, cosmogonic hypothesis Schmidt makes it easy to explain
this discrepancy, however, the radiation forms a catastrophic show-business, as well as
predict practical aspects of using the principles of gestalt psychology in the field of
perception, learning, mental development, social relationships.
Roth, Philip. Goodbye, Columbus (Book Review, the channel uplifts phonon.
The Dramatic Touch of Difference: Theatre Own and Foreign. Edited by Erika Fischer-Lichte,
Josephine Riley & Michael Gissenwehler. Tübingen: Forum Modernes, every mental function
in the cultural development of a child appears on the stage twice, in two plans— first social,
then-psychological, therefore political culture isomorphic.
Biderman, Dan Daor, and Yoel Hoffman, Philosophy East/Philosophy West: A Critical
Comparison of Indian Chinese, Islamic, and European Philosophy(Book, passion transforms
the integral of the function of a complex variable.

The high school science library: A selected list of books from the many fields of elementary science. Numerous calculations predict and experiments confirm that the differential

This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website. Without cookies your experience may not be seamless.

Accept