



Works on Paper: The Craft of Biography and Autobiography

Michael Holroyd

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A stunning collection of essays on the craft of biography and autobiography by the acclaimed biographer of George Bernard Shaw and Lytton Strachey.

Works on Paper is a selection by one of today's leading biographers from his lectures, essays, and reviews written over the last quarter of a century --mainly on the craft of biography and autobiography but also covering what Michael Holroyd describes as his "enthusiasms and alibis."

Opening with a startling attack on biography, which is answered by two essays on the ethics and values of non-fiction writing, the book goes on to examine the work of several contemporary biographers, the place of biography in fiction and of fiction in biography, and the revelations of some extravagant autobiographers, from Osbert Sitwell to Quentin Crisp--to which he adds some adventures of his own, in particular an important and unpublished piece "The Making of GBS," a riveting story of internecine literary warfare.

The book ends with a series of satires, celebrations, apologias, and polemics which throw light not only on Michael Holroyd's progress as a biographer but also his record as an embattled campaigner in the field of present-day literary politics.

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