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Thackeray] illiam Makepeace Thackeray was born in Calcutta on 18 July Richmond Thackeray died of a fever in , and his son was sent home to England at five years old to be educated, stopping at St. Helena on the way and having a servant point out to him the prisoner Napoleon, who "eats three sheep every day, and all the little children he can lay hands on! The separation from his mother, who stayed in India to marry her childhood sweetheart, was recalled by Thackeray nearly half a century later--"A ghaut, or river-stair, at Calcutta; and a day when, down those steps, to a boat which was in waiting, came two children, whose mothers remained on shore" Ray 1. Thackeray was given the "education of a gentleman" at private boarding schools so-called " public schools " , including six years at Charterhouse, and the canings and other abuses he suffered in these institutions became the basis for remembrances in essays, such as The Roundabout Papers, as well as episodes in novels Vanity Fair and The Newcomes, again, offer important examples. He was not a standout as a student, but he went on to Cambridge, where he entered Trinity College in Thanks to such amusements, his own inability to excel at mathematics, the poor preparation he had received at Charterhouse, and a penchant for gambling and trips to the Continent, Thackeray left the university without a degree after two years. The life of the undergraduate at "Oxbridge" is represented obliquely--for "the life of such boys does not bear telling altogether"--in Pendennis. Thackeray did, however, form friendships at Cambridge that were lasting, the most important of which was with Edward Fitzgerald. And while he failed to distinguish himself at school, he did develop the fondness for Horace and other classical authors his childhood experiences had almost robbed him of. After leaving Cambridge, Thackeray traveled on the Continent, spending a winter at Weimar, which included an introduction to the aged Goethe. Thackeray took away from Weimar a command of the language, a knowledge of German Romantic literature, and an increasing skepticism about religious doctrine. The time he spent here is reflected in the "Pumpnickel" chapters of Vanity Fair. On his return from Germany, Thackeray lived the life of a propertied young gentleman, including more gambling, drinking in taverns, and, undoubtedly, sexual encounters with women. Ray next places Thackeray in the shady world of bill-discounters in London, but soon he invested part of his patrimony in a weekly paper, The National Standard, which he took over as editor and proprietor. Though the paper went under quickly, it gave Thackeray his first taste of the world of London journalism, where he was soon to begin a long and haphazard apprenticeship. This financial disaster forced Thackeray out of idleness and into serious work as a journalist. It was in Paris, as well, that he met his wife, Isabella Shawe, and the two settled briefly here when first married in before returning to London. Two portraits of William Makepeace Thackeray: The one at left by Frederic, Lord Leighton Metropolitan Museum of Art Accession Number: Meszzotint by John Sartain from a painting by Samuel Laurence During this apprenticeship, Thackeray also produced his first books, collections of essays and observations published as travel books. The Paris Sketch Book sold enough to cover its costs, provide its author with decent payment, and, perhaps most importantly for Thackeray, interest publishers in seeing more of his work. Thackeray and Isabella Shawe had had a happy marriage during their first years of penury. But as financial demands forced Thackeray into more and more work, Isabella was more isolated and lonely. When she became suicidal, leaping into the ocean during a trip to see her unsympathetic mother in Ireland whom her son-in-law later represented as the termagent Mrs. Mackenzie in The Newcomes , Thackeray began a series of futile searches for a cure. He continued to hope for some time that she would make a full recovery. For the next several years he shuttled back and forth between London and Paris, from the journalism that supported himself and his debt-laden family, to his parents and children in Paris, and to his wife in French asylums. Once Thackeray had established himself as a writer with the moderate success of his travel books, the greater success of his Punch series, and the beginning of a full-fledged novel, he brought his daughters and wife over from the Continent lodging Isabella not in one of the terrible asylums he toured but with two women in Camberwell. In he hit the big time with Vanity Fair. The novel had a slow start--the first chapters were rejected by several publishers--but eventually it sold in the neighborhood of 7, numbers a

month. Just as importantly, it was the talk of the town, and Thackeray finally had a name that gained notice and reviews in journals such as the *Edinburgh Review*. He also finally found relief from the harrowing grind of writing anything that would sell so he could support his household. *Pendennis* followed in , but it was interrupted at roughly the midpoint for 3 months by a severe illness which may have been cholera. This novel ran concurrently with *David Copperfield*, and their dual appearance brought about the first of many comparisons with Dickens , by David Masson in the *North British Review* May In , *The History of Henry Esmond* was published as a 3-volume novel without first being serialized and with special type meant to imitate the appearance of an eighteenth-century book. The book was celebrated for its brilliance, and Thackeray recognized it as "the very best I can do. At the time, it caused a sensation thanks to its controversial ending, wherein the hero marries a woman who early in the novel seemed a "mother" to him. During these years of success, Thackeray lived virtually a bachelor life in London, even though now he had his daughters and grandmother with him. He spent much time with friends, enlivening the weekly staff dinners for *Punch*, attending the social functions of a fashionable society hitherto closed to him, and becoming the constant attendant on Jane Brookfield, the wife of an old friend from Cambridge. Thackeray and the Brookfields were involved in an increasingly tense emotional triangle, until his first trip to America in provided the time and distance for Thackeray to extricate himself emotionally. Thackeray eventually caused a dramatic break in these arrangements by berating Brookfield for his neglectful treatment of his wife. A reprise of his tour of the British Isles speaking on *The English Humourists*, these lectures were profitable for Thackeray and also provided influential--if now exploded--views of both Swift and Sterne. Thackeray saw America through the eyes of friendly hosts, and he was more careful not to offend than Dickens had been, choosing, for instance, not to write a profitable account of his journey. Thackeray was also more tolerant of slavery--he wrote home to his mother that he did not recognize blacks as equals, though he did condemn the institution on moral grounds. Susceptible to criticism from his hosts that the living conditions for English workers were worse than those for slaves, he chose to believe at least on this first tour that the whipping of slaves was rare and that families were not normally separated on the auction block. Thackeray made enduring friendships during his trip, most significantly with the Baxter family of New York. The eldest daughter, Sally, enchanted the novelist--as a number of vibrant, intelligent, beautiful young women had done before her--and she became the model for Ethel Newcome. He visited her on his second tour of the States when she was married to a South Carolina gentleman, and he lamented her sad life when she sat alone in Charleston, dying of tuberculosis, after the outbreak of the Civil War. The panoramic novel *The Newcomes* --one of the books Henry James called "loose, baggy monsters"--brought Thackeray back to both novel-writing after more than a year off and his own century, as well as to the social satire of *Vanity Fair*. The main targets of this novel are snobbery and mercenary marriages. He also brought out in his most enduring Christmas book, the fairy tale *The Rose and the Ring*, which he called a "Fireside Pantomime. Thackeray believed his advocacy of entertainment on the Sabbath was also crucial in his defeat. In , he published *The Virginians*, a novel set before and during the American Revolution, which is a sequel to *Henry Esmond*, and which Thackeray intended as a fond tribute to the country where he made a number of friends--though he inadvertently angered some particularly patriotic Americans with his mild but not-especially-heroic portrait of George Washington. The novel is noteworthy for the problems Thackeray had with the plot, its action being repeatedly forestalled by narrative intrusions, and the Revolutionary War being postponed till the book is almost over. Thackeray had taken offense at some personal remarks in a column by Edmund Yates and demanded an apology, eventually taking the affair to the Garrick Club committee. In , Thackeray accepted the editorship of a new magazine to be published by George Smith, and he was both astounded and delighted with the money he was offered for his name and labors. Never completely comfortable with editorial duties, however, he resigned after a tenure of approximately two years. He also published his last complete novel, *The Adventures of Philip* in the magazine, and the incomplete *Denis Duval* appeared there after his death. Toward the end of his life, Thackeray was proud that through his writing he had recouped the patrimony lost to bank failures and gambling, and that he passed on to his daughters an inheritance sufficient for their support and a grand house in Kensington he had built during his Cornhill years. His health had been declining for some years--he had had recurring pain from the stricture

â€” but he died suddenly from the bursting of a blood vessel in the brain on December 24, He was buried in Kensal Green Cemetary on December 30, with an estimated two thousand mourners paying their respects. Shifting Worlds of Imagination and Reality.

Chapter 2 : The Yellowplush Papers by Thackeray, William Makepeace

Memoirs of Mr. Charles J. Yellowplush; The Fitzboodle Papers; Miscellanies (Handy Volume Edition) by William Makepeace Thackeray and a great selection of similar Used, New and Collectible Books available now at calendrierdelascience.com

Biography[edit] This section possibly contains original research. Please improve it by verifying the claims made and adding inline citations. Statements consisting only of original research should be removed. October Learn how and when to remove this template message Thackeray, an only child, was born in Calcutta , [1] British India, where his father, Richmond Thackeray 1 September – 13 September , was secretary to the Board of Revenue in the British East India Company. The ship on which he travelled made a short stopover at Saint Helena , where the imprisoned Napoleon was pointed out to him. Once in England he was educated at schools in Southampton and Chiswick , and then at Charterhouse School , where he became a close friend of John Leech. Thackeray disliked Charterhouse, [2] and parodied it in his fiction as "Slaughterhouse". Nevertheless, Thackeray was honoured in the Charterhouse Chapel with a monument after his death. Illness in his last year there, during which he reportedly grew to his full height of six foot three, postponed his matriculation at Trinity College, Cambridge , until February He returned to England and began to study law at the Middle Temple , but soon gave that up. On reaching the age of 21 he came into his inheritance from his father, but he squandered much of it on gambling and on funding two unsuccessful newspapers, The National Standard and The Constitutional, for which he had hoped to write. He also lost a good part of his fortune in the collapse of two Indian banks. Forced to consider a profession to support himself, he turned first to art, which he studied in Paris, but did not pursue it, except in later years as the illustrator of some of his own novels and other writings. The Thackerays had three children, all girls: Anne Isabella – , Jane who died at eight months old and Harriet Marian – , who married Sir Leslie Stephen , editor, biographer and philosopher. Thackeray now began "writing for his life", as he put it, turning to journalism in an effort to support his young family. Between and he also reviewed books for The Times. Later, through his connection to the illustrator John Leech , he began writing for the newly created magazine Punch , in which he published The Snob Papers, later collected as The Book of Snobs. This work popularised the modern meaning of the word "snob". Struck by guilt, he set out with his wife to Ireland. During the crossing she threw herself from a water-closet into the sea, but she was pulled from the waters. They fled back home after a four-week battle with her mother. From November to February Isabella was in and out of professional care, as her condition waxed and waned. Thackeray desperately sought cures for her, but nothing worked, and she ended up in two different asylums in or near Paris until , after which Thackeray took her back to England, where he installed her with a Mrs Bakewell at Camberwell. Isabella outlived her husband by 30 years, in the end being cared for by a family named Thompson in Leigh-on-Sea at Southend until her death in In Mr Brookfield barred Thackeray from further visits to or correspondence with Jane. Even before Vanity Fair completed its serial run Thackeray had become a celebrity, sought after by the very lords and ladies whom he satirised. They hailed him as the equal of Dickens. He twice visited the United States on lecture tours during this period. Thackeray also gave lectures in London on the English humorists of the eighteenth century, and on the first four Hanoverian monarchs. The latter series was published in book form as The Four Georges. He was narrowly beaten by Cardwell , who received 1, votes, as against 1, for Thackeray. He also felt that he had lost much of his creative impetus. He worsened matters by excessive eating and drinking, and avoiding exercise, though he enjoyed riding he kept a horse. He has been described as "the greatest literary glutton who ever lived". His main activity apart from writing was "gutting and gorging". On 23 December , after returning from dining out and before dressing for bed, he suffered a stroke. He was found dead in his bed the following morning. His death at the age of fifty-two was entirely unexpected, and shocked his family, his friends and the reading public. An estimated 7, people attended his funeral at Kensington Gardens. In his earliest works, written under such pseudonyms as Charles James Yellowplush, Michael Angelo Titmarsh and George Savage Fitz-Boodle, he tended towards savagery in his attacks on high society, military prowess, the institution of marriage and hypocrisy. Originally

intended as a satire of the Newgate school of crime fiction, it ended up being more of a picaresque tale. He also began work, never finished, on the novel later published as *A Shabby Genteel Story*. Thackeray is probably best known now for *Vanity Fair*. In contrast, his large novels from the period after *Vanity Fair*, which were once described by Henry James as examples of "loose baggy monsters", have largely faded from view, perhaps because they reflect a mellowing in Thackeray, who had become so successful with his satires on society that he seemed to lose his zest for attacking it. These later works include *Pendennis*, a Bildungsroman depicting the coming of age of Arthur Pendennis, an alter ego of Thackeray, who also features as the narrator of two later novels, *The Newcomes* and *The Adventures of Philip*. Also notable among the later novels is *The History of Henry Esmond*, in which Thackeray tried to write a novel in the style of the eighteenth century, a period that held great appeal for him. Richmond fathered a daughter, Sarah Redfield, in with Charlotte Sophia Rudd, his possibly Eurasian mistress, and both mother and daughter were named in his will. Calcutta, of an old Bengal civilian family "noted for the tenderness of its women". Anne Becher, her sister Harriet and their widowed mother, also Harriet, had been sent back to India by her authoritarian guardian grandmother, Ann Becher, in on the Earl Howe. Neither of these assertions was true. Surviving family letters state that she wanted a better match for her granddaughter. Their only child, William, was born on 18 July The couple moved to England in , after having sent William off to school there more than three years earlier. Descendants[edit] Thackeray is an ancestor of the British financier Ryan Williams, and is the great-great-great-grandfather of the British comedian Al Murray. August Learn how and when to remove this template message Etching of Thackeray, ca. It is perhaps for this reason that they have not survived as well as *Vanity Fair*, which satirises those values. Thackeray saw himself as writing in the realistic tradition, and distinguished his work from the exaggerations and sentimentality of Dickens. Some later commentators have accepted this self-evaluation and seen him as a realist, but others note his inclination to use eighteenth-century narrative techniques, such as digressions and direct addresses to the reader, and argue that through them he frequently disrupts the illusion of reality. In the Royal Society of Arts unveiled a blue plaque to commemorate Thackeray at the house at 2 Palace Green, London, that had been built for him in the s. List of works[edit] Portrait of Thackeray in his study, c.

Chapter 3 : The Yellowplush Papers

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Chapter 6 : William Makepeace Thackeray: A Brief Biography

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