

# Porius John Cowper Powys

John Cowper Powys's works have been described as 'the only novels produced by an English writer that can fairly be compared to the fictions of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky ? with an immensity to which only Blake could provide a parallel in English literature' (George Steiner, *The New Yorker*). His talents were manifested by such books as his *Autobiography*, *Wolf Solent*, *Weymouth Sands*, and *A Glastonbury Romance*. In this, Powys's first comprehensive biography, eminent scholar Morine Krissdottir delves into the life of the writer, from his childhood in Derbyshire through his celebrated lecture tours through England and the

US; from his life's loves to his relationship with his own writing. Krissdottir demonstrates that Powys - known as much for his essays, letters, poetry, and philosophy as he was for his fiction - was a man whose writing had a scope matched only by the breadth of his life. Using primary sources, never-before-seen archival materials (including photos), and Powys's own writings, Krissdottir pieces together this life in a way that will be impossible to forget

2011 Updated Reprint. Updated Annually. Aruba Ecology & Nature Protection Handbook

Rethinking Powys  
An Historical Novel ...  
DESCENTS OF MEMORY  
In Defence of Sensuality  
A Reader's Companion

Anarchist Seeds Beneath the Snow  
Decay of an English country  
family.  
New Essays on John Cowper  
Powys, including a  
postmodern reading of Powys  
via G. Wilson Knight, Mikhail  
Bakhtin, Jean Baudrillard and  
Gianni Vattimo; Wolf Solent,  
parody and postmodern  
fiction; Jacques Derrida and  
deauthorization in Powys's  
Autobiography; and Owen  
Glendower and Walter Scott.  
John Cowper Powys  
A Romance of the Dark Ages  
Anarchist Seeds beneath the  
Snow  
Wolf Solent

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## John Cowper Powys's Wolf Solent

A Chart of the Prose Works of John Cowper Powys  
Wolf Solent is the story of a young man returning from London to work near to the school where his father had taught history. Complex, romantic and humorous, it is a classic work that combines the ordinary and the spiritual.

A collection of literary essays.

In the Spirit of Powys

John Cowper Powys's Porius

The Ecstasies of Crazy Jack :

John Cowper Powys

A Visit to John Cowper Powys

Owen Glendower

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## Elementalism in John Cowper Powys' *Porius*

From William Morris to Oscar Wilde to George Orwell left-libertarian thought has long been an important but neglected part of British cultural and political history. This work seeks to recover that indigenous anarchist tradition. It argues that a recovered anarchist tradition could be a touchstone for contemporary political radicals. "A Glastonbury Romance," first published in 1932, is Powys' masterwork, an epic novel of terrific cumulative force and lyrical intensity. In it he probes the mystical and spiritual ethos of the small English village of

Glastonbury, and the effect upon its inhabitants of a mythical tradition from the remotest past of human history - the legend of the Grail. Powys's rich iconography interweaves the ancient with the modern, the historical with the legendary, and the imaginative within man with the natural world outside him to create a book of astonishing scope and beauty.

The Saturnian Quest

Essays on John Cowper Powys

A Comparative Study

John Cowper Powys-letters,

1937-54

New Essays

Weymouth Sands

Wolf Solent, first published

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in 1929.

This work is a collection of essays on the work of John Cowper Powys, the English novelist and Nobel nominee. The critical intention of these essays is to provide a picture of Powys's achievement.

The Wessex Novels of John Cowper Powys

A Life of John Cowper Powys

A Romance

Wood and Stone

Enjoyment of Literature

John Cowper Powys : a Study of His Prose Works

'I have tried to write my life as if I were confessing to a priest, a philosopher, and a wise old woman. I have tried to write as if I were

going to be executed when it was finished. I have tried to write it as if I were both God and Devil.' One is tempted to say only John Cowper Powys could have written that, and, beyond doubt, only John Cowper Powys could have written the idiosyncratic and spellbinding work we have here. Yes, he was influenced by Yeats and Rousseau, especially the latter's Confessions, but there is no other work quite like this. It seems almost too pedestrian to say it covers the first sixty years of his life (he lived for another thirty years) and to say anything about them, as J.



B. Priestley memorably put it, 'would be like turning on a tap before introducing people to Niagara Falls.' J. B. Priestley also said 'It is a book which can be read, with pleasure and profit, over and over again. It is in fact one of the greatest autobiographies in the English language. Even if Powys had never written any novels, this one book alone would have proved him to be a writer of genius.'

When it was first published in 1929, John Cowper Powys' rapturous novel of eros and ideas was compared with works by Shakespeare, Thomas Hardy, and D. H. Lawrence. Since then it has won the

admiration of writers from Henry Miller to Iris Murdoch. Wolf Solent remains wholly unrivalled in its deft and risky balance of mysticism and social comedy, ecstatic contemplation of nature and unblinking observation of human folly and desire. Forsaking London for Ramsgard, a village in Dorsetshire, Wolf Solent discovers a world of pagan splendor and medieval insularity, riddled by ancient scandals and resentments. And there this poetic young man meets two women—the sensuous beauty Gerda and the ethereal gamine Christie—who will become the sharers of his

body and soul. Audacious, extravagant, and gloriously strange, Wolf Solent is a twentieth-century masterpiece. This present volume is the first volume in a set of two. "The only book in the English language to rival Tolstoy."—George Steiner "[Powys is] as domestic as Jane Austen, a genius like her at creating a cast of characters as part of a comedy and in a comic setting....[He is] as brilliant an explorer of our erotic being as D. H. Lawrence."—New York Review of Books "A momentous work...of transcendent interest and great beauty."—The New York Times

Book Review "Filled with authentic characters and closely caught conversations, [Powys's books] resemble Shakespeare in the interplay of cultured and ignorant, male and female."—San Francisco Chronicle "Wolf Solent is a brilliant book...beautifully managed, and with the finest of inevitability."—Conrad Aiken "In the beauty and freshness of its imagery and the sustained interest of its narrative, its power is without question. Its prose often rises to the cadence of poetry"—New York Herald Tribune "An epic of pagan beauty."—Chicago Tribune  
The Art of Happiness

Autobiography

The Powys Review

John Cowper Powys: Novelist

Powys

Porius

JOHN COWPER POWYS A new collection of essays on John Cowper Powys (1872-1963). H.W.

Fawkner's essay "Venus" explores issues of reading, movement, love and sex, the 'amorous self', and affectivity in *A Glastonbury Romance*. Ian Hughes looks at the genre of Powys's novels, and how the philosophical romances were influenced by Walter Pater's *Marius* the

Epicurean. Janina Nordius discusses the crucial Powys theme of (transcendental) solitude in the key novel of the Powys-self alone, *Wolf Solent*. Joe Boulter's essay concentrates on the affinities between modernism and postmodernism, pragmatism and deconstruction, in one of Powys's late novels, *The Inmates*, via thinkers such as William James, Michel Foucault, Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari. ? By the time he started writing his most admired works around 1929

- the four Wessex novels (Wolf Solent, A Glastonbury Romance, Weymouth Sands and Maiden Castle), the two Welsh epics (Owen Glendower and Porius), and the unsurpassed Autobiography - John Cowper Powys was in his late fifties. By then, he had already been a philosopher, a successful lecturer (with packed-out lectures in the U.S.A.), a storyteller, a would-be magician and a poet. Powys loved writing, whether it was letters, essays, novels or philosophical commentaries. He lived

mainly from his writing after 1930, after nearly 30 years of lecturing (mainly in the United States). He produced many books, which included novels, philosophical essays, poetry, correspondence and literary criticism. Some of the writers that Powys knew personally included Theodore Dreiser, Thomas Hardy, William Barnes, W.B. Yeats, Dorothy Richardson, Aleister Crowley and Bertrand Russell. In America, Powys was friends with Dreiser, Edna Vincent Millay, Edgar



Lee Masters, and Arthur Davison Ficke. He also met E.E. Cummings, Amy Lowell, Edmund Wilson, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Marianne Moore, Ford Maddox Ford and Will Durant, and performers such as Charlie Chaplin and Isadora Duncan.

In Defence of Sensuality was first published in 1930. The author's own foreword to the book is worth quoting in full:

'The author feels that perhaps some explanation is due to the reader for the rather unusual employment of the

'Sensuality' which serves as the title of this work. The advantage given to the author by the use of this particular expression is that it enables him to proceed from rock-bottom upwards as far as he likes. A more refined title would have cut him off, in his method of developing his idea, from the physical roots of existence; for while it is easy to indicate the overtones and undertones of Sensuality it would be hard to bring a gentle, vague word, like the word 'sensuousness' down to

the bare, stark, stoically-stripped Life-Sensation which is the subject of this book. How far has the individual the right to be what is called 'selfish'? How far has he the right to concentrate on his own solitary awareness of existence and make this alone his life-purpose? Is there such a thing at all as a Religion of Nature or a Cosmic Ethic? Such are the questions the author attempts to answer; and he finds that in his discussion of the root-sensations of life the

word Sensuality, taken in an unusually comprehensive sense, serves his purpose better than any other word.' "In Defence of Sensuality" is one of the self-help books John Cowper Powys wrote that owe their genesis to the free-lance lecturing he did in America. In addition to this one, Faber Finds are reissuing "The Meaning of Culture," "A Philosophy of Solitude" and "The Art of Happiness." " " A Glastonbury Romance John Cowper Powys and the Magical Quest

John Cowper Powys in  
Search of a Landscape  
Ducdame

JOHN COWPER POWYS,  
NOVELIST.

Left-Libertarian Thought  
and British Writers from  
William Morris to Colin  
Ward

Drawing on his vivid  
childhood memories of the  
seaside town of Weymouth,  
author John Cowper Powys  
creates a striking  
collection of human  
oddities, through which he  
shows his deep sympathy  
for the variety, the  
eccentricity, the  
essential loneliness of

human beings. "To encounter Powys is to arrive at the very fount of creation."—Henry Miller.

From William Morris to Oscar Wilde to George Orwell, left-libertarian thought has long been an important but neglected part of British cultural and political history. In *Anarchist Seeds beneath the Snow*, David Goodway seeks to recover and revitalize that indigenous anarchist tradition. This book succeeds as simultaneously a cultural history of left-

libertarian thought in Britain and a demonstration of the applicability of that history to current politics. Goodway argues that a recovered anarchist tradition could—and should—be a touchstone for contemporary political radicals. Moving seamlessly from Aldous Huxley and Colin Ward to the war in Iraq, this challenging volume will energize leftist movements throughout the world.

Wolf Solent: A Novel  
Critical Studies  
Critical Essays on John

Cowper Powys  
Sensualism and Mythology  
Solitude and Transcendence  
in John Cowper Powys  
Left-libertarian Thought  
and British Writers from  
William Morris to Colin  
Ward

It is the year 1400, and Wales is on the brink of a bloody revolt. At a market fair on the banks of the River Dee, a gathering of peasants, bards, prophets, heretics, and soldiers, a mad rebel priest and his beautiful companion are condemned to be burned at the stake. To their rescue rides the unlikely figure



of Rhisiart, a young Oxford scholar whose fate will be entangled with that of Owen Glendower, the last true Prince of Wales, a man called, at times against his will, to fulfill the prophesied role of national redeemer. In a Roman fort in Wales at the turn of the sixth century, Porius, the son of a reigning prince, is aided by Merlin the magician, Nineue, and Medrawd in a battle for cultural survival.

"I Am Myself Alone"  
John Cowper Powys and  
David Jones

## Postmodern Powys

A Glastonbury Romance is generally esteemed the greatest of John Cowper Powys's six major novels, the other five being Wolf Solent, Weymouth Sands, Maiden Castle, Owen Glendower and Porius. On its original publication in 1932, the late J. D. Beresford wrote, "I believe that A Glastonbury Romance is one of the greatest novels in the world, to be classed with Tolstoy's War and Peace." C. S. Forester regarded it as "one of the most significant and notable

books of the century," Hugh Walpole thought that, "with the single exception of Thomas Hardy, no English novelist of the last thirty years has evoked the very stuff of the English ground with the power and the poetry which Mr. Powys has at command," and Sir Gerald Barry summed it up as "really a tremendous boo. It makes the competent little novels that week by week are hailed as 'masterpieces' look silly. In searching for comparisons, one finds oneself using such names

as Hardy or Hamsun....In  
breadth, rhythm, and  
intensity A Glastonbury  
Romance has something of  
the mighty pantheism of  
Rubens."