Cunninghame Graham's South American Sketches

Laurence Davies

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Abstract
The Scottish writer R. B. Cunninghame Graham (1852-1936) faced the problem of making his semi-fictional sketches of life in the countries of the Rio de la Plata credible to an English public ignorant of the area. Unpublished correspondence with his editor, Edward Garnett, shows Graham's interest in defining and defending his approach. In spite of his own strong political beliefs, and the partisan tone of much contemporary Argentinan and Uruguayan literature, he rejected didacticism, but appears nonetheless to have sought, with British readers in mind, a broad illumination of human rapacity. The sketches show that Graham experimented with techniques which might combine the authenticity of personal observation and narration with the suggestive and unsettling effects of short fiction. Güiraides, in his regret for a vanishing way of life and his concern with spontaneous violence, makes the closest parallel with Graham's attitude to gaucho life and culture. (LD)

Journal Information
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Buy South American Sketches by R. B. Cunninghame Graham, John Walker (ISBN: 9780806114682) from Amazon's Book Store. Everyday low prices and free delivery on eligible orders. This collection is but a sample of what the prolific Cunninghame Graham wrote in his sketches, so is a book to savour. Interesting also because it includes Uruguayan, Paraguayan, Colombian and Venezuelan sketches too. A must if you love the nineteenth century romantic period of South American literature. Read more. One person found this helpful. IT IS A JOY to see R. B. Cunninghame Graham, that man's man and witer's writer, having a renaissance. Until The South American Sketches (Oklahoma, 1978), it had been nearly 30 years since the last Graham selection. Then last year Cedric Watts and Laurence Davies' fine biography was issued by Cambridge. Now comes Reincarnation, a serlection of vintage Graham with a perceptive preface by Alanna Knight. It's hearty but skimpy fare, containing only 15 stories (all for the 57 in A. F. Tschiffely's anthology Rodeo in 1936), but these are "infinite riches in a small roo South American Sketches book. Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. There is a seat dedicated to Cunninghame Graham in the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh with the inscription: "R B 'Don Roberto' Cunninghame Graham of Gartmore and Ardoch, 1852–1936, A great storyteller". ...more. Books by R.B. Cunninghame Graham. More... News & Interviews. Both Cunninghame Graham and John Burns were put on trial for their involvement in the demonstration that became known as Bloody Sunday. One of the witnesses at the trial was Edward Carpenter: "I was asked to give evidence in favour of the defendants, and gladly consented - though I had not much to say, except to testify to the peaceable character of the crowd and the high-handed action of the police. Cedric Watts has argued: "Cunninghame
Graham's own literary output was full and diverse. During his lifetime he was often praised highly for writing which was sharply realistic, ironic, and quirkily personal. But most of his volumes are collections of tales and essays, many of which had previously appeared in magazines.