

**THE LIFE OF**  
**Oscar**  
**Wilde**

'The most true, the most sensible and  
the fairest book which has yet been  
written about Oscar Wilde'

Sir Harold Nicolson in the **OBSERVER**

**HESKETH PEARSON**



Penguin  
Biography

5/-

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Born in Worcestershire, Hesketh Pearson was educated at Bedford Grammar School. After a short period in the City he went on the stage. In the 1914-18 war he joined the army as a private, served for three years in Mesopotamia and Persia, and finished up as a captain.

In 1931 he left the stage in order to write biographies; four others have appeared in Penguins: the life of his ancestor, Erasmus Darwin, and lives of Shakespeare, John Nicholson, and Sydney Smith. Among others he has written biographies of Bernard Shaw, Walter Scott, Dickens, and Johnson and Boswell, all of which have been successful in Great Britain and America. Several of his works have been translated into French, German, Swedish, and Spanish.

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