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# William Somerset Maugham (1874-1965)

(English novelist and dramatist. studied as a physician, Heidelberg and London; bestselling novelist and playwright early 20th c.; homosexual, m. Syrie Wellcome, 1917; lived apart, travelling worldwide with his secretary and companion Gerald Haxton; l. Cap Ferrat, Riviera, 1926-65)

**Works**

Maugham, W. Somerset. *Liza of Lambeth.* Novel. 1897.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Mrs. Craddock.* Novel. 1902.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Lady Frederick.* Drama. 1907.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Of Human Bondage.* Autobiographical novel. 1915.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Servidumbre humana.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Our Betters.* Drama. 1917.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Caesar's Wife.* Drama. 1919.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Home and Beauty.* Drama. 1919.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Moon and Sixpence.* Novel. 1919.

\_\_\_\_\_. *La luna y seis peniques.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Circle.* Drama. 1921.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Rain." Story. In Maugham, *The Trembling of a Leaf.* 1921.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Trembling of a Leaf.* Stories. 1921.

\_\_\_\_\_. *East of Suez.* Drama. 1922.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Letter.* Drama. 1923.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Painted Veil.* Novel. 1925.

\_\_\_\_\_. *El velo pintado.* Trans. Eduardo Iriarte. Barcelona, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Madrid, Mexico, Montevideo, Quito, Santiago de Chile: Ediciones B-Bruguera, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Constant Wife.* Drama. 1926.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Cakes and Ale.* Novel. 1930.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Cakes and Ale.* (Everyman's Library, 932). London: Dent; New York: Dutton.

\_\_\_\_\_. *For Service Rendered.* Drama. 1932.

\_\_\_\_\_. *For Service Rendered.* In *Modern Plays.* Introd. John Hadfield. (Everyman's Library, 942). London: Dent; New York: Dutton. (R. C. Sherriff, *Journey's End*; W. Somerset Maugham, *For Service Rendered*; Noel Coward, *Hay Fever*; A. A. Milne, *The Dover Road*; Arnold Bennett and Edward Knoblock, *Milestones*).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Theatre.* c. 1937.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Summing Up.* Drama. 1938.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Christmas Holiday.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Razor's Edge.* Novel. 1944.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Razor's Edge.* Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1963.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *El filo de la navaja.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Catalina y Julia.* Ediciones B.

\_\_\_\_\_. *A Writer's Notebook.* 1949.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Complete Short Stories, vol. 1: East and West.* Garden City (NY): Doubleday, 1951.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Episode." In *The Oxford Book of English Love Stories.* Ed. John Sutherland. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1997. 181-200.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. "Giulia Lazzari." In *The Penguin Book of First World War Stories.* Ed. Barbara Korte with Marie Einhaus. (Penguin Classics). London: Penguin, 2007. 140-61.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. "Gustav." In *Women, Men, and the Great War: An Anthology of Stories.* Ed. Trudi Tate. Manchester: Manchester UP, 1995. 275-80.\*

**Criticism**

Archer, Stanley. *W. Somerset Maugham: A Study of the Short Fiction.* New York: Twayne, 1993. Rev. in *English Literature in Transition* 37.3 (1994).\*

Borges, Jorge Luis. "*The Summing Up,* de W. Somerset Maugham." *El Hogar* 29 April 1938. Rpt. in Borges, *Miscelánea.* Barcelona: Random House Mondadori-DeBols!llo, 2011. 947-48.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *"The Summing Up,* de W. Somerset Maugham." 1938. In Borges, *Textos cautivos: Ensayos y reseñas en El Hogar*. Ed. Enrique Sacerio Garí and Emir Rodríguez Monegal. Barcelona: Tusquets, 1986.

\_\_\_\_\_. "*Christmas Holiday,* de W. Somerset Maugham." *El Hogar* 21 April 1939. Rpt. in Borges, *Miscelánea.* Barcelona: Random House Mondadori-DeBols!llo, 2011. 1059-60.\*

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Kronenberger, Louis. *The Thread of Laughter: Chapters on English Stage Comedy from Jonson to Maugham.* New York: Knopf, 1952.

McGrath, Charles. "Another Encore for the Most Adaptable of Authors." *New York Times* 10 Dec. 2006. (Somerset Maugham).

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/10/movies/10chip.html?_r=1&oref=slogin>

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Films

*Being Julia.* Dir. István Szabó. Screenplay by Ronald Harwood, based on W. Somerset Maugham's novel *Theatre.* Cast: Annette Bening, Jeremy Irons, Bruce Greenwood, Juliet Stevenson, Lucy Punch, Miriam Margolyes, Maury Chaykin, Sheila McCarthy, Tom Sturridge, Michael Gambon. Costumes by John Bloomfield. Prod. des. Luciana Arrighi. Ed Susan Shipton. Music by Michael Danna. Exec. prod. Mark Milin, Marion Pilowsky. Coprod. Julia Rosenberg, Sandra Cunningham. Photog. Lajos Kolta. Prod. Robert Lantos. Myriad Pictures / Serendipity, c. 2004.\* DVD. Barcelona: Filmax / SpeakUp, 2005.\*

*The Painted Veil.* Dir. John Curran. Based on the novel by W. Somerset Maugham. Cast: Naomi Watts, Edward Norton. Spanish DVD: *El velo pintado.* Madrid: Aurum / El Mundo, 2012.\*

*The Razor's Edge.* Dir. Edmund Goulding. Screenplay by Lamar Trotti, based on Somerset Maugham's novel. Cast: Tyrone Power, Gene Tierney, John Payne, Anne Baxter, Clifton Webb, Herbert Marshall, Lucile Watson, Frank Latimore. USA, 1946. (Oscar for Baxter).

*The Razor's Edge.* Dir. John Byrum. Written by John Byrum and Bill Murray, based on Somerset Maugham's novel. Cast: Bill Murray, Theresa Russell, Catherine Hicks, Denholm Elliott, James Keach, Peter Vaughan, Bryan Doyle-Murray, Saced Jaffrey. USA, 1984.

Prizes

Somerset Maugham Award.