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by José Ángel García Landa

(University of Zaragoza, Spain)

# **George Bernard Shaw** (1856-1950)

(Major British dramatist, b. Dublin, Protestant stock; l. London 1876-; Failed novelist, then journalist, art critic, book and theatre reviewer, anti-Romantic, advocate of social realism; member of the Fabian society, activist pro radical social and political reforms, pro-feminist, Socialist, advocate of spelling reform; vegetarian, teetotaller. Supporter of IRA, of limiting private property and of government by "strong men". Friend of Michael Collins, M. E. McNaughty, Lord Alfred Douglas, T. E. Lawrence, and Edward Elgar. Photographer, novelist, polemicist, and massive letter-writer. Headstrong opposer of medicine, vaccination, and advocate of vegetarianism and eugenics. Wilful defender of Stalinist communism and totalitarian régimes, advocated social euthanasia of "useless" people. Married in a sexless marriage to feminist Charlotte Payne-Townshend 1898; platonic love affairs with several married women. World famous realist dramatist; Oscar for original story (*Pygmalion*) and Nobel Prize for Literature 1925 —donated money to subsidize translations of Strindberg; Declined Order of Merit and a knighthood. Director of theBBC Advisory Committee on Spoken English from 1934)

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