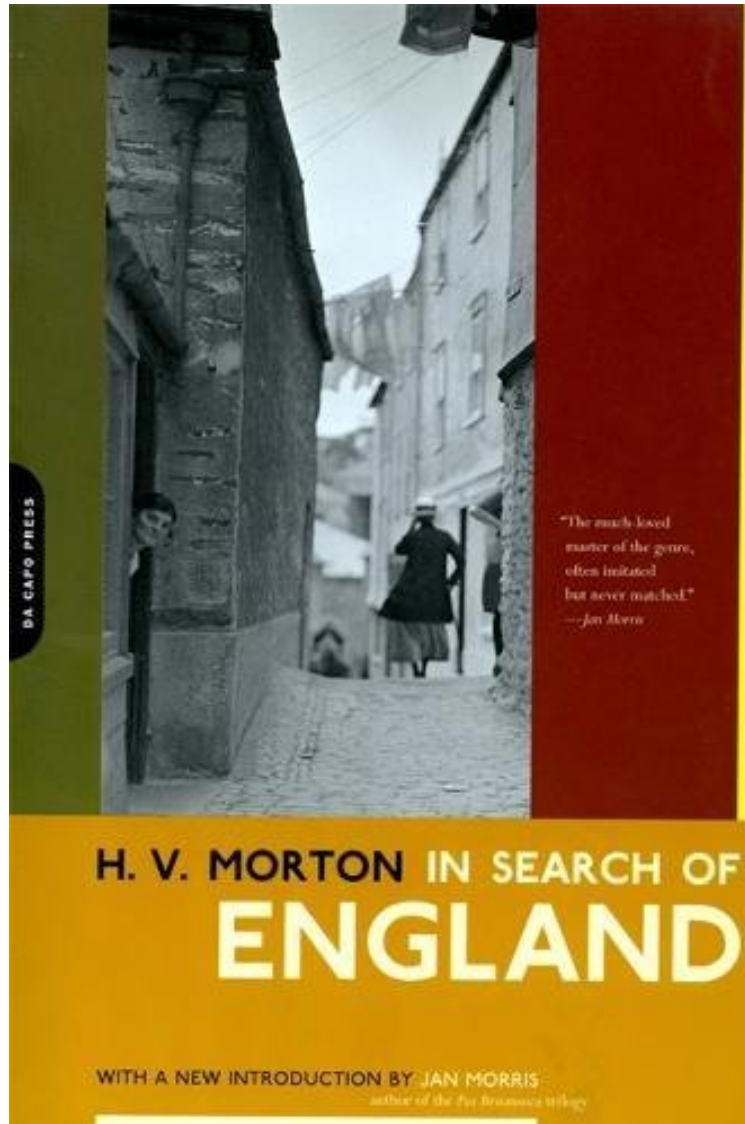


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In Search Of England

H. V. Morton, Jan Morris

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#989625 in Books H v Morton 2002-04 2002-04-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .76 x 5.50l, .94 #File Name: 0306811057304 pagesIn Search of England | File size: 23.Mb

H. V. Morton, Jan Morris : In Search Of England before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Search Of England:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. In Search Of England, by H.V. MortonBy Joan CampionIn the Lion's Mouth: Gisi Fleischmann the Jewish Fight for SurvivalIsn't This Glorious!: The 15th, 19th, And 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiments at Gettysburg's Copse of TreesHere is how travel writer H.V. Morton decibes an English market town, in the years between the two great world wars of the 20th century:"Romsey, in the

magic county of Hampshire, is the ideal small market town. Lord Palmerston, with hair turned green by years of rain, stands importantly on a plinth in the market place; a policeman in an easier attitude stands near him; there is a full cake shop opposite;...now and then a man and a cow cross the square..."This small but vivid description from the book "In Search Of England" gives us just a "smatch" of Morton's colorful and evocative prose. Copyrighted in the 1930s and a best seller in its time, "In Search Of England" gives us something more: a look at an England that can no longer be visited, except through Morton's magical prose. What intervened was, of course, the Second World War, greater and more tragic than its predecessor. And its predecessor was so great that this book and his "In Search Of Scotland" are full of images and tales of people still trying to recover and rebuild. So you can't read "In Search Of England" without wondering how much of what Morton wrote about here has been lost forever. He experienced that loss personally, and perhaps it explains why, late in life, he moved his family to South Africa. There, he seems to have built a close replica of the English home he had known. But in a sense, in writing about lost England, he has helped immortalized it. I urge you to read this book, not only for the castles and cathedrals, many of which are still standing; but also for the lost ways of life and the people who led them: the craftsmen, the nobility, and even the pensioners of St. Cross. These aged gentlemen were supported in their old age--food, drink, shelter, clothing--through the benevolence of a churchman who had lived many centuries before, the medieval Bishop Henry of Blois. I hope their descendants are still there, but I dread checking out the present state of affairs. If you love travel, history, the human heritage, you should read this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A love song
By whja different type of travel writing, reads like beautiful essays, love songs and meditations on the love of England, with introspection and humor in perfect balance of seriousness and whimsical spontaneity. Delightful.
10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A reverence for a green and pleasant land
By Mr. Joe"... there rose up in my mind the picture of a village street at dusk with a smell of wood smoke lying in the still air and, here and there, little red blinds shining in the dusk under the thatch. I remembered how the church bells ring at home, and how, at that time of year, the sun leaves a dull red bar low down in the west, and against it the elms grow blacker minute by minute. Then the bats start to flicker like little bits of burnt paper and you hear the slow jingle of a team coming home from the fields ... When you think like this, sitting alone in a foreign country, you know all there is to learn about heartache." - H.V. Morton, homesick for England

First published in 1927, IN SEARCH OF ENGLAND bears testimony to Henry Morton's love affair with his homeland. For those of us that are citizens of elsewhere who are otherwise lovers of England and everything English, the volume joins Bill Bryson's Notes from a Small Island and the trilogy by Susan Allen Toth (My Love Affair with England, England as You Like It, and England for All Seasons) as absolutely required reading. All five books are declarations of love. Having traveled all over England myself, as well as Wales and Scotland, during multiple visits, I could immediately relate to Morton's experiences at a number of unforgettable places: Salisbury, Winchester, St. Just-in-Roseland, Tintagel, Clovelly, Glastonbury, the Lake District, Hadrian's Wall, Durham, York, Lincoln, and Norwich. (I'm only perplexed that he apparently failed to visit so many others that I could name!) The fact that Morton made his clockwise circuit of the kingdom eighty-three years ago is only evident by his reference to charabancs, the addition of water to his car's radiator, and an evening's entertainment with some isolated locals in the far reaches of Cornwall - listening to a broadcast from London's Savoy on the wireless. Otherwise, his experiences might just as well be contemporary. At times, the author's prose approaches the sublime, as this entry from Shrewsbury: "When I drew back the (hotel) bedroom's curtains, the moonlight printed itself green on the floor. It ran over the bed and lay slantwise upon a grim wardrobe that stood in the shadow of the ancient oak-beamed room. A proper Puckish night, with the green wash over hill and field, a night for elfin horns and mushroom rings and strange scurrings in thicket and copse. Somewhere near, a dog, unable to sleep and not knowing why - poor little lost wolf - whimpered restlessly." California has been my home state for 58 years. Yet, even during my two lengthy residencies away - 12 months in Illinois and 15 months in Mississippi, I wouldn't have been able to write such an affectionate tribute to the Golden State as Morton delivers for his birthplace. The fact that I myself could perhaps pen one about Great Britain, and England in particular, is indicative of my devotion to the place. On my occasional returns to the island, my feeling on the aircraft's final approach to Heathrow or Gatwick is one of returning home. IN SEARCH OF ENGLAND is a reminder why my affection runs so deep. Sitting here at my computer in Glendale, CA, I miss that green and pleasant land so very, very much.

Currently in its 40th printing with its original publisher in the UK, this is the book that one British newspaper has called "travel writing at its best. Bill Bryson must weep when he reads it." Whether describing ruined gothic arches at Glastonbury or hilarious encounters with the inhabitants of Norfolk, Morton recalls a way of life far from gone even at the beginning of a new century.

"The master of his genre, often imitated but never matched. His books are genuine classics.' Jan Morris" About the Author
Henry Volla Morton was born in 1892 near Manchester, England. He became an international celebrity by scooping the world's press in the sensational discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb in the early 1920s. His newfound fame subsequently led to a series of extraordinarily popular vignettes on English city and country life, which went on to sell

millions of copies worldwide. He died in South Africa in 1979 at the age of eighty-six.