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Trifles Make Perfection

By JOSEPH WECHSBERG

David R Godine. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 320 pages. Dimensions: 8.7in. x 5.8in. x 0.9in. A Moravian by birth, a musician by avocation, a writer by choice, and a bon vivant almost by instinct, Wechsberg was among a generation of mid-century writers that included A. J. Liebling, M. F. K. Fisher, Waverly Root, and Ludwig Bemelmans. Many of them found a home for their work at the New Yorker and were virtually provided carte blanche by Harold Ross and later William Shawn to tackle any subject they found interesting. For Wechsberg, this included most of what he perceived as the cultural life of the civilized world, which meant music (especially chamber music), food (especially classic French food, as prepared by its great chefs like Henri Soul and Fernand Point), travel (not always first-class), and the history of banking and finance. Always central to these essays and portraits were men of acknowledged accomplishments, men whose lives he tried to understand both in the contexts of their own personality and of the cultures that shaped them. Wechsberg was basically a connoisseur in the old European sense of the word, a man who valued perfection for its own sake, and who saw its...



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