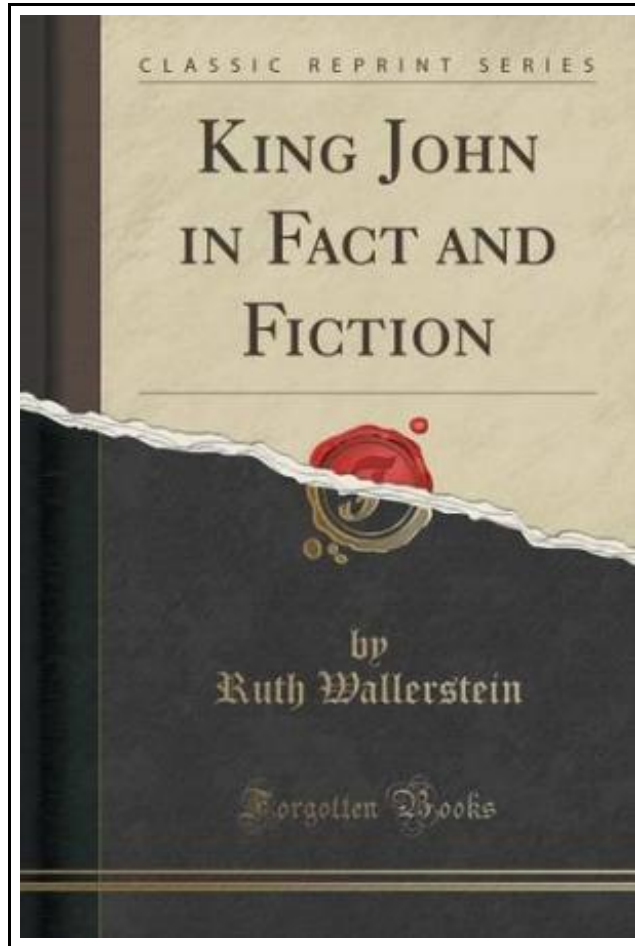


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Excerpt from King John in Fact and Fiction A Little less than one hundred years after the death of King John, a Scottish Prince John changed his name, upon his accession to the throne and at the request of his nobles, to avoid the ill omen which darkened the name of the English king and of John of France. A century and a half later, King John of England was presented in the first English historical play as the earliest English champion and martyr of that Protestant religion to which the spectators had newly come. The interpretation which thus depicted him influenced in Shakespeare s play, at once the greatest literary presentation of King John and the source of much of our common knowledge of English history. In spite of this, however, the idea of John now in the mind of the person who is no student of history is nearer to the conception upon which the old Scotch nobles acted. According to this idea, John is weak, licentious, and vicious, a traitor, usurper and murderer, an excommunicated man, who was compelled by his oppressed barons, with the Archbishop of Canterbury at their head, to sign Magna Charta. In story, he is a plotter against his glorious and magnanimous brother, and the pursuer of Matilda Fitzwalter, Maid Marian. History of the secondary schools has retained no deep impression of the French wars but has emphasized the horror of the excommunication and of John s absolute isolation during the time of it. Because of this, we read into Shakespeare what is in our own minds, making his King John weaker and worse than in fact he is; and...



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