

# Thackeray - a critical portrait

Oxford university press - Thackeray, William Makepeace 1811



Description: -

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Intellect

Mental health

Thackeray, William Makepeace, 1811-1863 -- Criticism and interpretation. Thackeray - a critical portrait

-Thackeray - a critical portrait

Notes: Bibliographical foot-notes.

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Tags: #William #Makepeace #Thackeray: #A #Brief #Biography

## Vanity Fair (novel)

It contains some of Thackeray's most complex and firmly controlled characters.

## William Makepeace Thackeray

He left the university the next year, convinced that it was not worth his while to spend more time in pursuit of a second-rate degree under an unsuitable educational institution. Such liaisons were common among gentlemen of the East India Company, and it formed no bar to his later courting and marrying William's mother. Although what Thackeray principally objected to was glorification of a criminal's deeds, his intent may have been to entrap the Victorian reader with their own prejudices and make them think the worst of Becky Sharp even when they have no proof of her actions.

## William Makepeace Thackeray: A Brief Biography

Thackeray saw America through the eyes of friendly hosts, and he was more careful not to offend than Dickens had been, choosing, for instance, not to write a profitable account of his journey.

## John Sterling: A Representative Victorian, Modern Language Quarterly: A Journal of Literary History

He became more sympathetic and less harsh in his judgments, and came to value domestic affection as the greatest good thing in life. This device allows Thackeray not only to assume an objective stance from which his satire is more telling, but also to criticize the very social punctiliousness that Pendennis reveals, thereby achieving an advanced form of psychological analysis. Title page to the first issue of the *Vanity Fair* serial, whose canary-yellow colour became a hallmark.

## William Makepeace Thackeray

In lesser contexts, Becky also appears as to Miss Pinkerton's and as a variety of classical figures in the works' illustrations. The same engraved illustration appeared on the canary-yellow cover of each monthly part; this colour became Thackeray's signature, as a light blue-green was Dickens's, allowing passers-by to notice a new Thackeray number in a bookstall from a distance. The novel is a satire of society as a whole,

characterised by hypocrisy and , but it is not a reforming novel; there is no suggestion that social or political changes or greater piety and could improve the nature of society.

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