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Recollections of the Late William Beckford

By Henry Venn Lansdown

Echo Library, United States, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.William Thomas Beckford (1760-1844) was an English novelist, art critic, travel writer and politician. Having studied under Sir William Chambers and Alexander Cozens, he travelled to Italy in 1782 and promptly wrote a book on the subject: *Dreams, Waking Thoughts, and Incidents*; in a *Series of Letters from Various Parts of Europe* (1783). Shortly afterwards came his best-known work, the Gothic novel *The History of the Caliph Vathek* (1786), written originally in French and, as he was accustomed to boast, at a single sitting of three days and two nights. There is reason, however, to believe that this was a flight of imagination. It is an impressive work, full of fantastic and magnificent conceptions, rising occasionally to sublimity. His other principal writings are *Memoirs of Extraordinary Painters* (1780), a satirical work, and *Letters from Italy with Sketches of Spain and Portugal* (1835), full of brilliant descriptions of scenes and manners.



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