

[Gravure: Portraits of the Poor]

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Présentation de la fiche

Coteb013_f0087

SourceBoite_013 | Bibliographies diverses. Pauvreté. Hermaphrodites. Anormalité. Criminalité. Onan

LangueFrançais

TypeFicheLecture

RelationNumérisation d'un manuscrit original consultable à la BnF, département des Manuscrits, cote NAF 28730

Références éditoriales

Éditeuréquipe FFL (projet ANR *Fiches de lecture de Michel Foucault*) ; projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle).

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PORTRAITS OF THE POOR



PORTRAITS OF THE POOR

This section presents largely contemporary descriptions of the state of the poor from the early nineteenth century through the 1930's. Some of the portraits are etched with sober concern, others with missionary zeal—altogether they form a vivid panorama of how the other half has lived for more than four generations.

WILLIAM DODD. **THE LABOURING CLASSES OF ENGLAND.** Especially Those Engaged in Agriculture and Manufactures.

The campaign for the regulation of the labour of women and children in textile factories raged intermittently in the 1830's and 1840's. Lord Ashley (Shaftesbury) the champion of the factory workers during this period, assisted William Dodd, a factory cripple, to publish his accounts of life in a woollen mill and sent him on a tour of the North of England.

****Williams, II, p. 181 "vivid, concrete."**

1847/1971

iv, 168 pp.

\$8.50



*** HENRY MAYHEW. LONDON LABOUR AND THE LONDON POOR.** A Cyclopedia of the Conditions and Earnings of Those that Will Work, Those that Cannot Work, and Those that Will Not Work. 4 vols.

London Labour and the London Poor gives a picture of the darker side of Victorian life which is equalled in scope and vitality only by the novels of Charles Dickens. An objective, meticulous and sympathetic observer, Mayhew spent years in the streets and slums of Victorian London, talking with shopworkers, watercress girls, prostitutes and thieves, costermongers, acrobats and hundreds of others who lived on the very edge of survival.

"Mayhew was incomparably the greatest social investigator in the mid-century. Observant, ironic, detached yet compassionate, he had an eye for all the awkward peculiarities which escape statistical measurement. In a fact-finding age, he looked for the facts which the enumerators forgot: he wrote consciously against the grain of the orthodoxies of his day, discovering his own courageous 'laws' of political economy—'under-pay makes over-work,' and 'over-work makes under-pay.'" E. P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*, p. 250.

"Urban agony is about to become a bread and butter subject in universities and will soon enough, be productive of a set of 'model cities' far from the original conceptions of the Great Society social engineers. The models, of course, will be econometrical. Their object, hopefully, will be to help us understand why cities tend to become dreadful places for people to live. If any 'Urban Studies' scholar should be interested in the history and development of his subject, the reappearance of Henry Mayhew's volumes ought to be of great interest. For the historian and lover of Dickensian prose Mayhew's renewed presence is an unequalled opportunity to discover Victorian Britain." *Journal of Political Economy*

1866-1862/1967

4to, illus.

05073-2

\$72.50