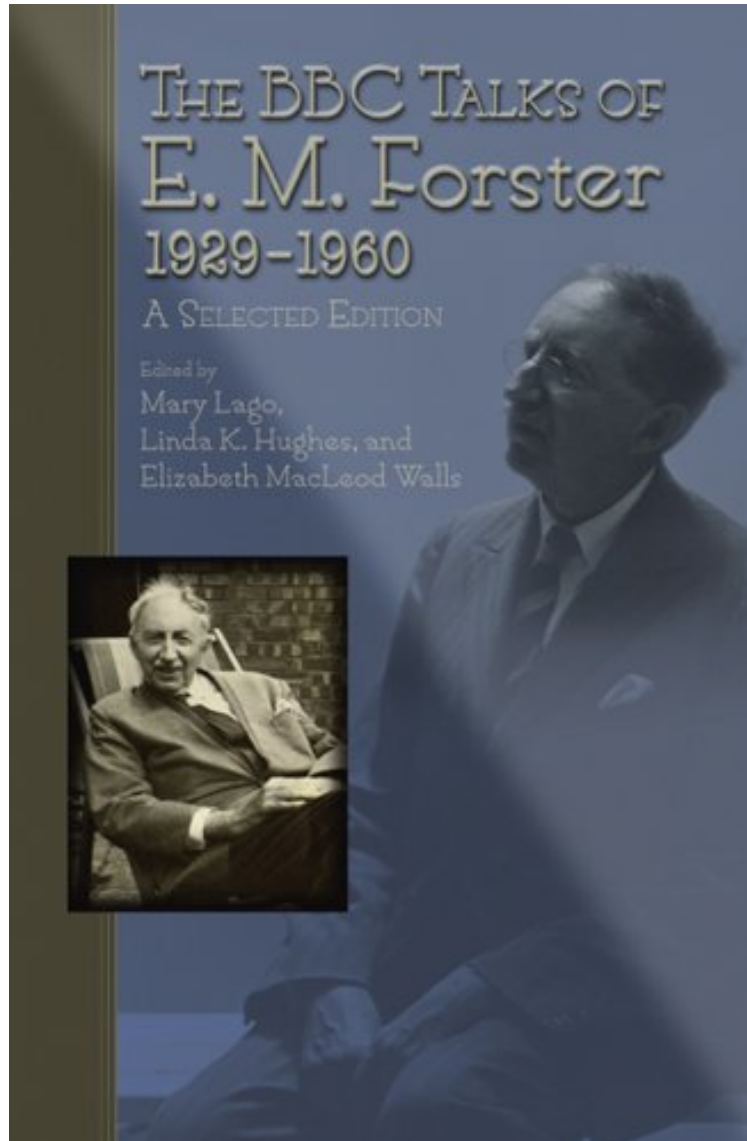


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The BBC Talks of E.M. Forster, 1929-1960: A Selected Edition

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From Brand: University of Missouri Press : The BBC Talks of E.M. Forster, 1929-1960: A Selected Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The BBC Talks of E.M. Forster, 1929-1960: A Selected Edition:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Jolly Good Book - or Lots of Jolly Good BooksBy BibliomissYou don't need to be a Forster fan to delight in his BBC Talks - although a weakness for all things British will help. Perfect for those who enjoy learning more about literature in a rather rambling, unorthodox, un-PC fashion, and positively

delightful to dip into on a cold winter's night. Be warned - you will be impelled to read and laugh out loud!

Spanning three decades and a host of subjects, E. M. Forster's radio broadcasts for the BBC were a major contribution to British cultural history, yet today they are rarely acknowledged by scholars of his life and work. But in their day they reached a larger audience than his fiction and established him as a household figure not only in Britain but also in the farthest reaches of its Empire. As a frequent contributor to the BBC, Forster generally adhered to literary topics but did not shy away from social commentary. This book offers a new appreciation of his vitality and public importance through seventy annotated broadcasts that present him not only as a literary critic but also as a political activist, an advocate for India, and a wary yet cooperative ally of a colonialist government during World War II. Gathering material either not in print or, if recast as essays, widely scattered, *The BBC Talks of E. M. Forster* reveals aspects of Forster's intellect that have been given short shrift in previous studies. Nearly half the scripts date from 1941 to 1945 and provide an eyewitness account of war from a distinguished perspective. Forster comments on how the arts gallantly survived the blitz even taking his listeners to the theater as bombing threats loomed and in other cases protests government interference in private life or the limits on free expression caused by the wartime paper shortage. In these scripts, Forster casts a cosmopolitan eye on contemporary literature from James Joyce to John Steinbeck and provides early exposure for young writers and composers. He also enlarges the scope of European art by pairing Jane Austen or C. S. Lewis with Indian writers and offers pointed comments on contemporary literature such as Aldous Huxley and T. S. Eliot. Annotations to each piece identify Forster's references and trace his revisions from script to broadcast, while the book's introduction places his emergence as a distinctive radio voice within the historical, creative, and institutional contexts of broadcasting in his day. This significant body of writing, too long overlooked, traces Forster's evolution from novelist to adroit cultural critic and shows how a man who was never comfortable with machines played an important role in shaping a new medium. *The BBC Talks of E. M. Forster* situates Forster as one of the most poignant voices of the twentieth century as it offers new insight into a nation transfigured by war.

A magnificent scholarly achievement. It shows E. M. Forster as a public intellectual in the act of bringing culture to the nation. Jean Pickering, author of *Understanding Doris Lessing* Here is a nice surprise for E. M. Forster-lovers, a very generous selection of his radio talks, texts which one might have supposed lost for ever. This edition was first planned by the late Mary Lago, who died in 2001, but her successors have completed it in admirable style. For this volume, they say, rather strikingly, we sought that stage in the life of these texts wherein the writer, speaker, editor, bureaucrat, typist, audience member, and larger cultural milieu merged. From the Foreword by P.N. Furbank