

PAL: Perspectives in American Literature - A Research and Reference Guide - An Ongoing Project

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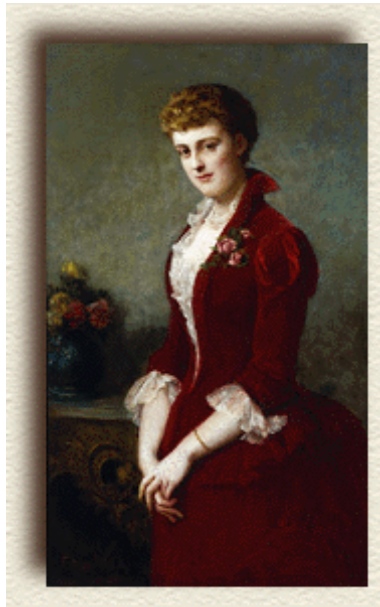
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Chapter 7: Edith Wharton (1862-1937)

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Wharton is today recognized as a major writer of the first two decades of the twentieth century. She has written extensively on New York families with old money in struggle with social climbers. Her fiction belongs to the novel of manners tradition. Her prose is elegant and her plots are tightly constructed. A prolific writer, she received a Pulitzer Prize in 1921 and, two years later, she became the first woman to receive a Doctor of Letters degree from Yale University.

Selected Primary Works

The Greater Inclination (a collection of stories), 1899; *The Valley of Decision* (novel), 1902; *The House of Mirth*, 1905; *Madame de Treymes*, 1907; *Ethan Frome*, 1911; *The Reef* (novel), 1912; *The Custom of the Country*, 1913; *Summer*, 1917; *The Age of Innocence*, 1920; *Old New York*, 1924; *The Mother's Recompense*, 1925; *A Backward Glance* (memoir), 1934; *The Buccaneers*, 1938 (completed by Marion Manwaring, 1993); many short stories, poems, and essays.

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