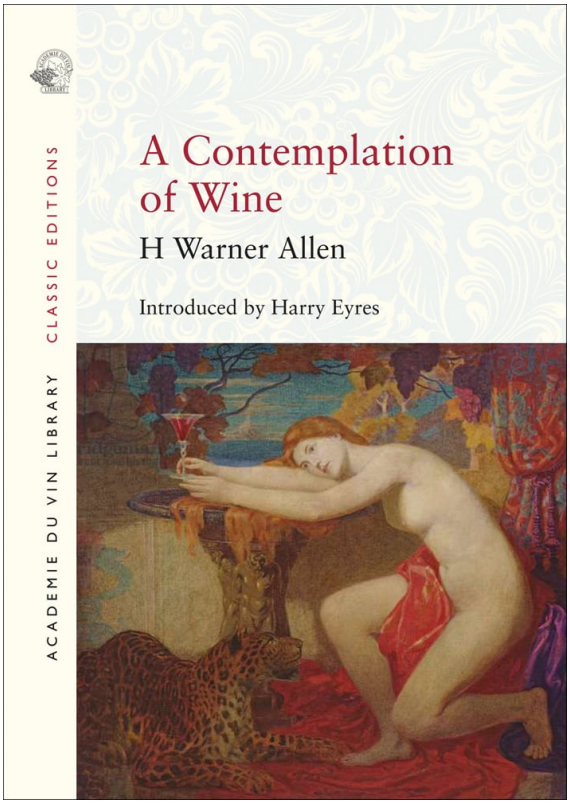
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A Contemplation of Wine

H Warner Allen

Introduction by Harry Eyres

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- Beautiful new highly collectable paperback series, with strong design, publishing the best of classic wine texts
- New foreword from Harry Eyres, wine expert, journalist and poet, for whom this is a favourite book
- A look at wine throughout the history of literature

In this unique study of wine through the ages, journalist and World War I frontline reporter, Hubert Warner Allen (1881–1968) casts an observant eye over the way wine appears in literature, from the words of the Roman connoisseurs to the excesses of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* heroes, taking in the debatable wisdom of the 18th-century epicurean Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin and the sagacity of the legendary Edwardian wine-writer, George Saintsbury – and many more. Warner Allen's observations are both fascinating and highly entertaining. As Harry Eyres, who introduces this book, says: *"Literary, historical, discursive, personal: this is very much the opposite of modern wine writing, and presents another era seen through a glass darkly."*

The *Classic Editions* breathe new life into some of the finest wine-related titles written in the English language over the last 150 years. Although these books are very much products of their time – a time when the world of fine wine was confined mostly to the frontiers of France and the Iberian Peninsula and a First Growth Bordeaux or Grand Cru Burgundy wouldn't be beyond the average purse – together they recapture a world of convivial, enthusiastic amateurs and larger-than-life characters whose love of fine vintages mirrored that of life itself.

Herbert Warner Allen (1881-1968) was a journalist and editor, with a talent for languages and a writer on multiple subjects including his wartime exploits, wine, detective novels (which are still in print, his sleuth being the wine expert, Mr William Clerihew), and on spirituality. In 1914 Warner was an official representative of the British press at the French front. In 1917 he was with the British in Italy and in 1918 he transferred to the American expeditionary force in France, and accompanied it as it occupied Germany. **Harry Eyres** is a well-known theatre and wine critic, and writes for *Country Life* today.

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