



# The Benson Diary

I: 1885-1906; II: 1907-1925

**A.C. Benson**

**Edited by Eamon Duffy**

**Edited by Ronald Hyam**

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- The first substantial publication of this frank, revealing and witty diary
- Two hardback volumes
- With substantial introduction, full explanatory footnotes, full chronology, index and photographs

"A joy." – Evening Standard

"Writing like [this] lasts forever: and this wonderful, extensive selection is highly recommended." – Philip Hensher, The Spectator

A. C. Benson (1862-1925), novelist, poet (he wrote *Land of Hope and Glory*), educationalist and Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, kept a voluminous diary for most of his life. Considered too controversial at the time, it was sealed up after his death. Only now, with the publication of this extensive selection, can his witty and acute judgements on people, institutions and issues – including Henry James, Thomas Hardy, Queen Victoria, Dean Inge, Balfour, Asquith, Eton and Cambridge – be fully appreciated. He paints an endlessly fascinating and often very funny picture of a public life at the heart of the Edwardian literary, educational, church and political establishments; but also of a private life riven by the pressures of unconsummated romantic attachments to young men, and by attacks of appalling depression, an illness then barely understood.

Historians Eamon Duffy and Ronald Hyam made this 300,000-word selection, adding a substantial introduction, footnotes, chronology, index and photographs. It is presented as two hardbacks.

**Eamon Duffy** is Emeritus Professor of the History of Christianity at Cambridge University. He is an Emeritus Fellow and former President of Magdalene College. **Ronald Hyam** is Emeritus Professor in British Imperial History at the University of Cambridge. He is an Emeritus Fellow and a former President of Magdalene College. He is also an Archivist Emeritus of the College.

