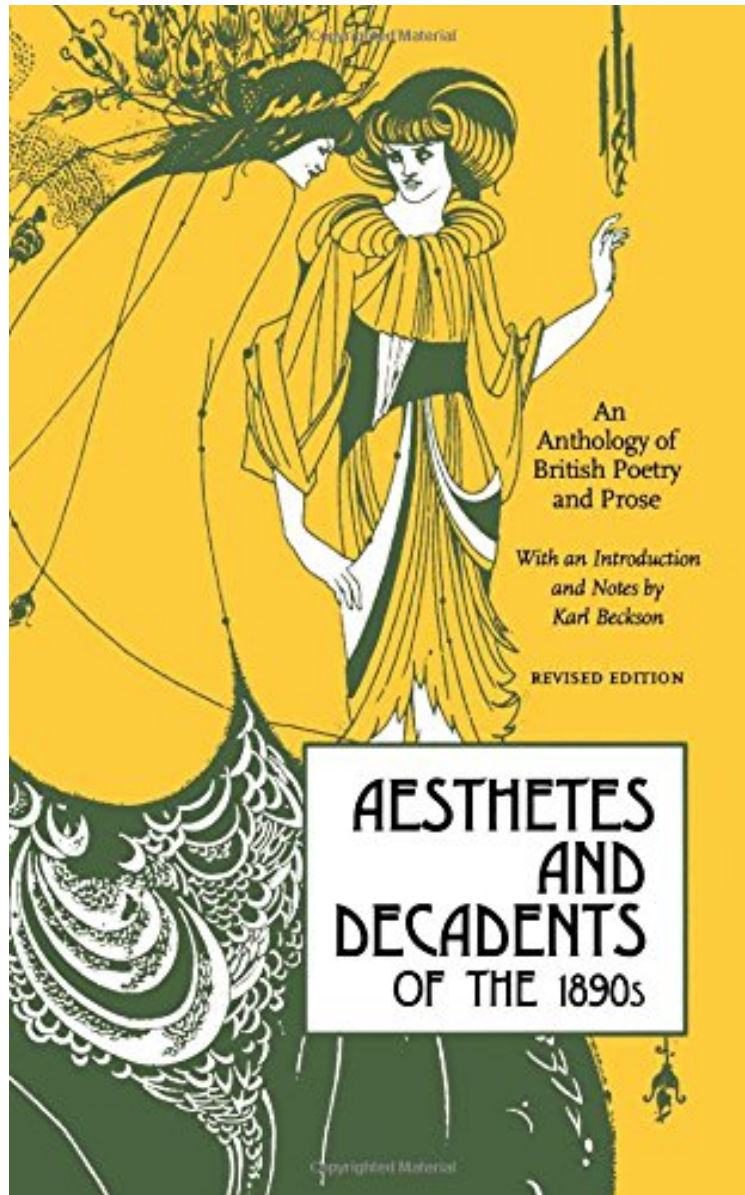


Aesthetes and Decadents of the 1890s: An Anthology of British Poetry and Prose

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From Brand: Academy Chicago Publishers : Aesthetes and Decadents of the 1890s: An Anthology of British Poetry and Prose before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Aesthetes and Decadents of the 1890s: An Anthology of British Poetry and Prose:

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By Heather Dutille
Bought it for class but it's a lot more interesting than I thought it would and I enjoy reading it
25 of 28 people found the following review helpful. A handy but uneven collection of some pretty uneven writers
By S. Gustafson
Almost all of the authors collected here drank deeply of French influence, and wrote under the colossal shadow of Baudelaire, Verlaine, and Mallarmé. Those expecting something equal to those masters will be disappointed. Some of them came close. E.g. Theodore Wratislaw: I love you for the grief that lurks within Your languid spirit, and because you wear Corruption with a vague and childish air And with your beauty know the depths of sin; . . . not bad verse, until some spoilsport points out that all Wratislaw has done here is to make a sonnet out of Pater's observations on the Mona Lisa. And then again, some of these authors fall flat on their face, like Richard LeGallienne, who makes 'Beauty Accurst' say: The sleepy kine move round me in desire And press their oozy lips upon my hair, Toads kiss my feet and creatures of the mire, The snails will leave their shells to watch me there lines that surely belong in the -Stuffed Owl Anthology-. But of course, none of this is the fault of the learned editor who collected all of this neglected Yellow Book material, and who has expanded the helpful introduction and bibliography from the first edition. There is much worth reading here: Aubrey Beardsley's hilarious dedication of his erotic novella -Under the Hill- to a fictitious cardinal of the Roman church; the poems of Ernest Dowson and Arthur Symons; and of course, the -Ballad of Reading Gaol- and -Salom-

The Aesthetic and Decadent Movement of the late 19th century spawned the idea of "Art for Art's Sake," challenged aesthetic standards and shocked the bourgeoisie. From Walter Pater's study, "The Renaissance to Salome, the truly decadent collaboration between Oscar Wilde and Aubrey Beardsley, Karl Beckson has chosen a full spectrum of works that chronicle the British artistic achievement of the 1890s. In this revised edition of a classic anthology, "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" has been included in its entirety; the bibliography has been completely updated; Professor Beckson's notes and commentary have been expanded from the first edition published in 1966. The so-called Decadent or Aesthetic period remains one of the most interesting in the history of the arts. The poetry and prose of such writers as Yeats, Wilde, Symons, Johnson, Dowson, Barlas, Pater and others are included in this collection, along with sixteen of Aubrey Beardsley's drawings.

"... this anthology has never been bettered....The selections are first-rate..." Washington Post