

This Strange Old World" and Other Book Reviews by Katherine Anne Porter



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THIS STRANGE OLD WORLD" AND OTHER BOOK REVIEWS BY KATHERINE ANNE PORTER

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University of Georgia Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW PRINT ON DEMAND., "This Strange Old World" and Other Book Reviews by Katherine Anne Porter, Darlene Harbour Unrue, Between 1920 and 1958 Katherine Anne Porter published more than sixty-five book review, many of which are now largely inaccessible. Although several such pieces have appeared in earlier collections of Porter's nonfiction writings, never have so many of Porter's reviews--nearly fifty--been made available in a single volume. Collectively the review reveal Porter's opinions on topics ranging from the nature of art and the place of the artist in politics and society to feminism and the role of female artists. Particularly evident in the reviews are the critical principles that guided her own work as well as her judgments of the works of other writers. In her introductory essay Darlene Harbour Unrue provides important biographical information on Porter, traces her career as a reviewer, and links critical assumptions in the reviews to the themes and techniques of Porter's fiction. Other scholars as well have regarded Porter's critical reviews as valuable tools both for analyzing the fiction and for constructing a portrait of Porter the artist, primarily because Porter produced so little fiction (three collections of short stories and novellas, *Flowering Judas*, *The Leaning Tower*, and *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*, and a novel, *Ship of Fools*). In the preface to the first collection of her nonfiction writings, *The Days Before*, Porter herself urged readers to look closely at her nonfiction, for there they would discover the shape, direction, and connective tissue of a continuous, central interest and preoccupation of a lifetime. Most of the reviews--which appeared in such publications as the *New York Herald Tribune*, the *New York Times*, the *Nation*, and *New Masses*--she apparently undertook for financial reasons, but occasionally she would agree to review...



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