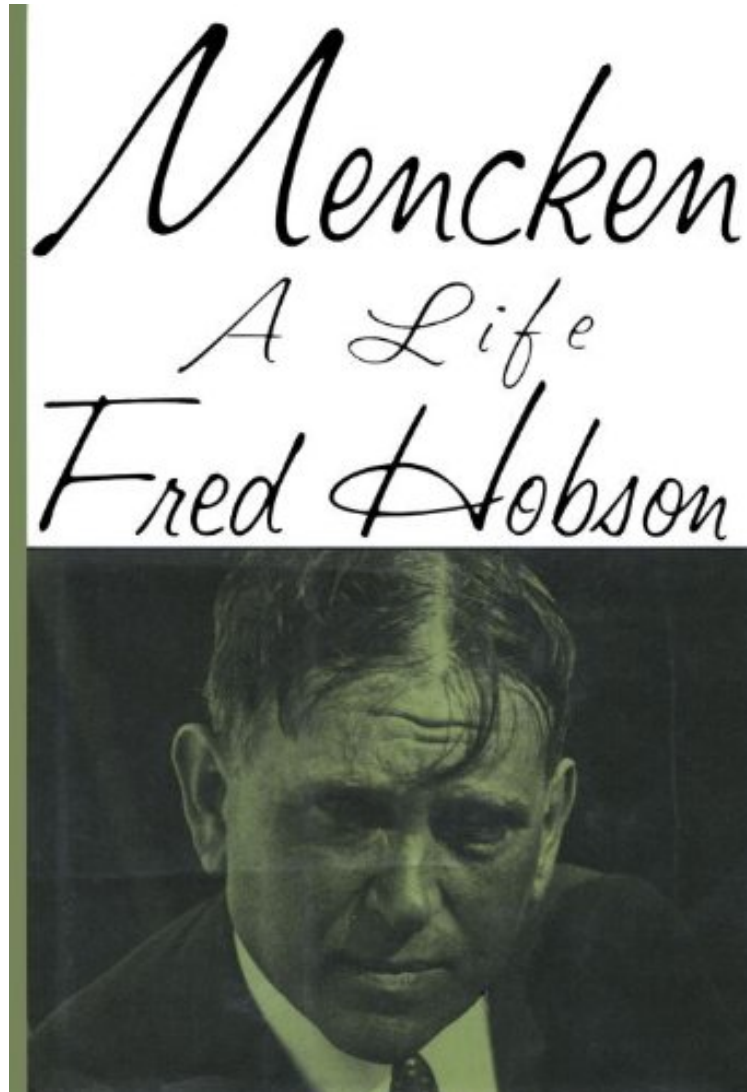


(Free read ebook) Mencken: A Life

Mencken: A Life

Von Fred Hobson

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



 Download

 Read Online

Produktinformation Verffentlicht am: 2012-10-10Erscheinungsdatum: 2012-10-10File Name:
B009C8TPDO | File size: 78.Mb

Von Fred Hobson : Mencken: A Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mencken: A Life:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Mencken ManiaVon Ein KundeDespite some boring passages, Fred Hobson provides a generally interesting and thorough portrait of the original cynic, H.L.Mencken. The book addresses many issues of racism and anti semitism on Mencken's part fairly and openly. The novel is excellently written. I would have preferred more information on the Scope's Trial in relation to Mencken because my interest in Mencken was sparked when reading Inherit the Wind by

Laurence and Lee in which Mencken is satirized as E.K. Hornbeck. Read this book- it is informative and excellent. My congratulations to Fred Hobson and Happy Reading

Kurzbeschreibung Ever in control, H. L. Mencken contrived that future generations would see his life as he desired them to. He even wrote *Happy Days*, *Newspaper Days*, and other books to fit the pictures he wanted: first, the carefree Baltimore boy; then, the delighted, exuberant critic of American life. But he only told part of the truth. Over the past twenty-five years, vital collections of the writer's papers have become available, including his literary correspondence, a 2,100-page diary, equally long manuscripts about his literary and journalistic careers, and numerous accumulations of his personal correspondence. The letters and diaries of Mencken's intimates have been uncovered as well. Now Fred Hobson has used this newly accessible material to fashion the first truly comprehensive portrait of this most original of American originals. NOTE: This edition does not include photographs. From Booklist Tackling Mencken in all his verbal profligacy, pomposity, and blood-boiling opinionatedness demands sangfroid from a biographer, which, happily, Hobson has. His life is fully fleshed, benefiting from Mencken's life kept secret until the past decade, including Mencken's *My Life as Author and Editor*. Yet, as Hobson explains, his task was not just to fold the new into old biographies (the last one dates from 1969) but to penetrate beneath the persona that Mencken himself created, notably in his autobiographical *Days* trilogy from the 1940s. Not all was happy in his youth, and Hobson sensitively reconstructs the teenage sage-to-be, evoking a period--when his father hoped to groom him for the family's cigarmaking business--that the mature Mencken preferred to forget. Then there are Mencken's loves, including one Marion Bloom from whom he cruelly but resolutely severed relations--a habit of his when estrangement set in. Novelists such as Dreiser, Lewis, and Fitzgerald felt Mencken's lash, along with those enduring objects of his derision and invective: Rotarians, moralists, and politicians. Prejudiced? Yes, against Jews, blacks, and poor whites, concludes Hobson about this attractively infuriating elitist. Having sifted all sources and melded them into this superb profile, Hobson has captured the character, contradictions, and lasting influence of the man in what will surely become the standard biography. Gilbert Taylor From Kirkus sBy timing the posthumous release of his personal papers, Mencken (1880-1956) directs his biographers from his grave. But in Hobson (*American Literature*/Univ. of North Carolina, *Serpent in Eden*, etc.--not reviewed) he has met his nemesis--a conscientious and uncompromising scholar who has integrated the most recent and revisionary materials into a lucid, coherent, clearly definitive and respectful biography. Journalist, social critic, self-educated philologist (*The American Language*), an American Voltaire, an urban Mark Twain, a "nay-saying Whitman," as Hobson calls him, Mencken was the official curmudgeon, the public voice for all the private prejudices and negativity of America through the 1920's. In essays, books, and articles, he expressed a fashionable contempt for religion, gentility, romantic love, women, Blacks, Jews, the South, indeed Americans themselves, a "nation of misfits," an "Eden of Clowns." The depth of these attitudes was revealed in the controversial *My Life as Author and Editor* (1993), in which he served as moralist and public avenger, identifying and dismissing some of the major writers of his age--his own close friends, Dreiser, Fitzgerald, and Wolfe, among others--for excessive drinking and womanizing. Mencken's own addiction was work, and writing was his "incurable disease." He ended a long and fitful courtship because the woman became a Christian Scientist (a special problem to an atheist and hypochondriac), and at age 50, only after the death of his mother and sister, married an English teacher, having at best flirted with opera singer Gretchen Hood, film star Aileen Pringle, and writer Anita Loos (*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*). Preferring the company of men, he believed that Freud had overrated sex, which was low among his priorities. His rage for order was expressed in a huge paper trail he left of his life--a strategy, Hobson says, for "concealment and diversion." Even as he pursues Mencken's tracks, however, Hobson honors his privacy, respects his truths, and preserves his dignity. -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.