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**EARLY RECEPTION OF
EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON
THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS**

By RICHARD CARY

The consensus of recent literary criticism favors Robinson's work in the first twenty years of his career as his finer accomplishment. Paradoxically, he was rebuffed by editors, disdained by critics, and virtually ignored by the public during this period. Any effort to resolve this anomaly must take into account the recorded opinions of contemporary critics and the impact they ostensibly conveyed.

To that end, Professor Cary has gathered in this volume every known review, interview, and essay pertaining to Robinson which was published between 1896 and 1916, excluding appraisals of his two plays. Charles Beecher Hogan's *Bibliography* and William White's supplement list some 70 items relevant to this interval. Personal search of more than 80 periodicals and newspapers by the present editor has uncovered approximately 90 additional entries. Full texts of all are presented as in the original publications.

To enhance the value of this source material, nine introductory chapters recreate the physical and psychological ambience of the times, each commentary is exhaustively annotated, data on all cited persons and writings are provided. All that is known of Robinson's intentions, about the genesis, content, publishing history, and reaction to each of the six editions he published between 1896-1916 is here adduced. Robinson's relations with some of the critics are traced, and his responses are juxtaposed to their uttered judgments.

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