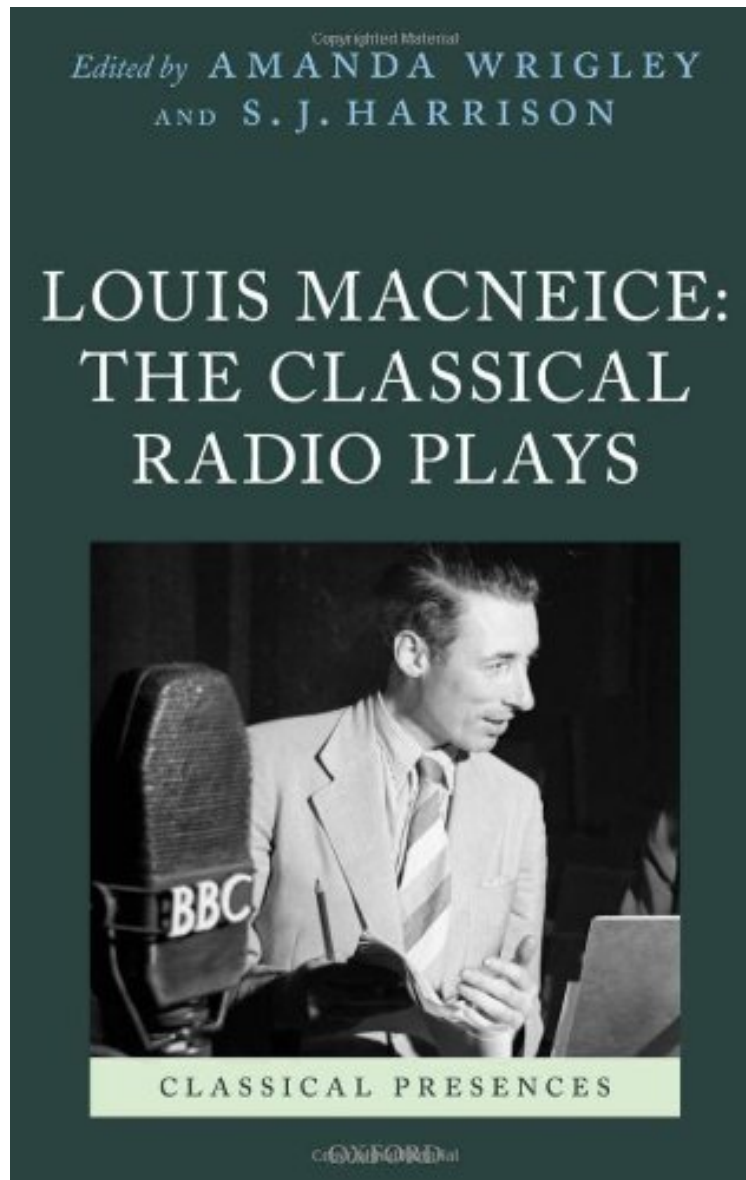


[Ebook pdf] Louis MacNeice: The Classical Radio Plays (Classical Presences)

Louis MacNeice: The Classical Radio Plays (Classical Presences)

Amanda Wrigley, S. J. Harrison
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Amanda Wrigley, S. J. Harrison : Louis MacNeice: The Classical Radio Plays (Classical Presences) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Louis MacNeice: The Classical Radio Plays (Classical Presences):

This volume presents eleven radio scripts written and produced by the poet and writer Louis MacNeice (1907-1963) over the span of his twenty-year career at the BBC, during which he wrote and produced well over a hundred radio scripts on an impressively wide variety of subjects. This volume's selection of scripts, all but one of which is published for the first time, illustrates the various ways that MacNeice re-worked one particular and recurrent source of material for radio broadcast -- ancient Greek and Roman history and literature. The volume thus seeks to explore MacNeice's literary relationship with classical antiquity, including engagements with authors such as Homer, Thucydides, Aristophanes, Xenophon, Petronius, Apuleius, and Horace, in a variety of types of programmes from wartime propaganda work, which used ancient Greek history to comment on the international situation, to lighter entertainment programmes drawing on the Roman novel. MacNeice's educational background in classics, combined with his skill as a writer and his ability in exploring radio's potential for creative work, resulted in programmes which brought the ancient world imaginatively alive for a massive, popular audience at home and abroad. Each script is prefaced by an individual introduction, written by the editors and guest contributor Gonda Van Steen, detailing the political and broadcasting contexts, the relationship of the script with classical antiquity, notes on cast and credits, and the reception of each script's radio performance amongst contemporary listeners. The volume opens with a general introduction which seeks to contextualise the scripts in MacNeice's wider life and work for radio, and it includes an appendix of extant MacNeicean scripts and recordings.

without exception lucid and informative. * Philip Burton, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* * Wrigley and Harrison have done a valuable service to reception studies. Film and television may still draw the lion's share of attention, but with the appearance of this impressive volume, it will now be impossible to deny the important place of radio in the history of twentieth-century reception of the classics. * Thomas R. Keith, *The Classical Journal* * Each script has a further introduction of its own ... These explain the classical literature and history drawn on, and highlight relevant contemporary context particularly essential to understanding the fast-moving historical backdrop to the war propaganda ... The annotations to the scripts strike a good balance between being full, accurate, and yet succinct. They illuminate the classical sources further and offer much interesting information besides * Tom Walker, *The Cambridge Quarterly* * lucid, useful and entertaining * Kate Clanchy, *The Times Literary Supplement* *About the AuthorDr Amanda Wrigley is a Research Associate on the three-year AHRC-funded project, *Screen Plays: Theatre Plays on British Television*, at the University of Westminster. She is also an Associate Lecturer for The Open University. Dr Wrigley is a cultural historian who works mostly on the interlinked histories of British theatre, radio, and television with a specific focus on the drama of ancient Greece on the one hand, and educational uses of theatre and mass media on the other. She is the author of *Performing Greek Drama in Oxford and on Tour with the Balliol Players* (2011), *Greece on Air: Engagements with Ancient Greek Culture on BBC Radio, 1920s-1960s* (OUP, 2013), and the forthcoming *Greece on Screen: Greek Plays on British Television*. S.J. Harrison is Fellow and Tutor in Classics at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and Professor of Latin Literature at the University of Oxford. He is author of books on Vergil, Horace, and Apuleius, and of a range of pieces on classical reception in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.