



Selections from The Tatler and The Spectator

Richard Steele , Joseph Addison , Angus Ross (Editor)

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Designed to be light in tone but heavy in influence, essays published in two 18th-century publications THE TATLER and THE SPECTATOR examined everything from conduct and morals to philosophy, politics, science, and literature. These selections from the two papers illuminate the lives and thoughts of the intelligentsia of 18th-century England and France.

Selections from The Tatler and The Spectator Details

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Barry says

I read some of these essays as part of an English Literature course in high school and remember them fondly. Sadly, one cannot go back 50 years and feel what one felt then. Reading them now, they seem quaintly irrelevant - silly almost. I suspect that the teacher, Brother Ignatius, with the big voice and a passion for the subject is what impressed me.

Sunil says

"I desired only fornication" should be sufficient incitement to read this collection. Those bawdy, Enlightenment-era gents...

Tom Schulte says

I love to stand in front of and admire the Vanity Fair "Spy" prints at The Grand Hotel when I visit. I love the droll humor and suppose the packed frames on a green wall is a Carlton Varney. Somehow, I thought this compendium of writing from a century before that would strike me the same way. Maybe with illustrations, it would! Addison and Steele could easily have been the Colbert and Jon Stewart of their time, but I mostly found the musings of Isaac Bickerstaff, William Honeycomb, etc. to ring fairly flat these days, IMO. Still, the chronological selections from The Tatler and The Spectator and an important part of journalistic history, and I respect that. The work includes footnotes to explain references and translate the Latin epigraphs which along with content on literature and stage (and a very interesting one doubting the reality of witchcraft) suggest writing for a more educated and sophisticated audience than popular mags of today aim for (People, etc.) making this seem like a cross between The Arts section from the NYT and Mad Magazine.
