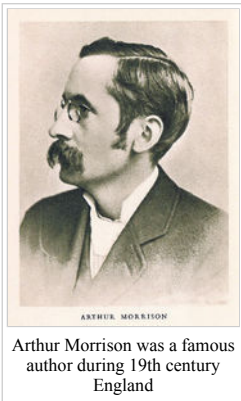


Arthur Morrison

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Arthur George Morrison

(November 1, 1863 London - December 4, 1945) was an English author and journalist, known for his realistic novels about London's East End and for his detective stories.



Morrison was born in the East End of London, on November 1, 1863. His childhood and education is unknown, though he was probably educated in

the East End. By 1886 he was working as a clerk at the People's Palace, in Mile End. In 1890 he left this job and joined the editorial staff of the Evening Globe newspaper. The following year he published a story entitled *A Street* which was subsequently published in book form in *Tales of Mean Streets*. The volume was a critical success, but a number of reviewers objected to the violence portrayed in one story - *Lizerunt*.

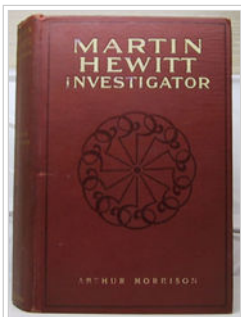
Around this time Morrison was also producing detective short stories which emulated those of Conan Doyle about Sherlock Holmes. Morrison's Martin Hewitt was a poor counterfeit, but some of these stories hold up today. Three volumes of Hewitt stories were published before the publication of the novel for which Morrison is most famous: *A Child of the Jago* (1896). The novel described in graphic detail living conditions in the East End including the permeation of violence into everyday life (it was a barely fictionalised account of life in the Old Nichol Street Rookery). Other less well-received novels and stories followed, until Morrison effectively

retired from writing fiction around 1913. Between then and his death, he seems to have concentrated on building his collection of Japanese prints and paintings.

He lived at Loughton (*Blue Plaque*), and High Beech, where he is buried in the churchyard.

Literary Works

- Tales of Mean Streets (1894)
- Martin Hewitt,



The cover of Martin Hewitt

Investigator

Investigator (1894)

- The Chronicles of Martin Hewitt (1895)
- The Adventures of Martin Hewitt (1896)
- A Child of the Jago (1896)
- The Dorrington Deed Box (1897)
- To London Town (1899)
- Cunning Murrell (1900)
- The Hole in the Wall (1902)
- The Red Triangle (1903)
- The Green Eye of Goona /aka The Green Diamond (US) (1904)

Following an excellent talk on 1st April 2007 by Stan Newens at the Loughton Festival, which included a reading around Morrison's grave, it has been proposed that we should start an Arthur Morrison Society. Anyone who would like to help with that project should contact info@loughtonfestival.org.uk Its primary aim is to restore Morrison's grave and to make his writing more accessible and affordable.

External links

- Arthur Morrison - Arthur Morrison Home Page
- Arthur Morrison Bio and Detective Hewitt Stories Illustrated by Sidney Paget
- Works by Arthur Morrison at Project Gutenberg

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Categories: English novelists | English short story writers | English mystery writers | 1863 births | 1945 deaths

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