

## E. M. Forster

E.M. (Edward Morgan) Forster was born into an Anglo-Irish/Welsh family in London, England in 1879. One of the most important writers of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Forster inherited a substantial trust that allowed him to live comfortably while he authored his novels. In such works as *Where Angels Fear to Tread* (1905), *A Room with a View* (1908), and *Howard's End* (1910), Forster described both the angst and the sensual deficiencies of the British society.

Between 1897 and 1901 Forster attended King's College, Cambridge, where he participated in a discussion group known as the Apostles. Many of its members went on to form the well-known Bloomsbury Group, a prominent literary society in London of which Forster was a peripheral member. Upon graduating from Cambridge, Forster travelled with his mother on the European continent. Afterward they moved to Weybridge, Surrey where Forster wrote his novels. In 1914, Forster visited Egypt, Germany and India. During the First World War, he served in Alexandria as a locator of missing servicemen. He again went to India in the early 1920s to work as a private secretary, then returned to England and completed his masterpiece: *A Passage to India* (1924).

Forster was a broadcaster on BBC Radio in the 1930s and '40s. A prominent public figure in England, Forster advocated individual liberty and penal reform, and opposed public censorship. During the Second World War, Forster wrote a weekly book review. Between 1925 and 1945 Forster lived with his mother in the village of Abinger Hammer, Surrey. Afterward, he rented a home in Chiswick until April of 1961, then spent his final years at Cambridge.

E. M. Forster died of a stroke in 1970.

*Essay by Bill Lounsbury*

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