



## The Art of Biography (Paperback)

By William Roscoe Thayer

Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. The Art of Biography is a subject on which Mr. W. R. Thayer may justly claim to be heard, since he has proven his mastery of the art by his biographies of Cavour, John Hay, and Theodore Roosevelt. In this delightful little volume, which comprises three lectures which he gave at the University of Virginia, Mr. Thayer does not attempt to formulate rules to guide aspiring biographers to success. But he does trace, in deft lines, the development of the art of biographical writing from that perfect ancient example-The Story of Joseph and His Brothers-down to Morley s three-volume Gladstone. Mr. Thayer thinks that the constant direction in the evolution of biography has been from the outward to the inward. At first the chief effort was to describe the external man, the rank or position he filled, and his visible acts. Kings, generals, and other conspicuous persons furnished the usual theme. Gradually, however, writers came to see that a king, in spite of his supreme station, might be very dull and uninteresting; consequently, they fixed their attention on persons...



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