

The New Criterion

Reconsiderations June 2023

A quarry of quandaries

by Anthony Daniels

*On the plays *The Eldest Son* & *Justice* by John Galsworthy.*

In the month of my father's birth, April 1909, John Galsworthy was in the midst of writing a play titled *The Eldest Son*, which was, however, not performed until 1912. Galsworthy was one of the proportionately many winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature on whom the conferral of the prize did not also confer literary immortality, or even much in the way of longevity.

Galsworthy is now generally regarded, I think, as irredeemably middlebrow. Virginia Woolf reprehended him because (according to her) he dealt only with the externals of life, presumably by contrast with life's internals. Galsworthy was, so to speak, dermatologist to Woolf's gastroenterologist.

The rest of this article is locked. Please make sure you are logged in to view the full article.

Shakespeare weaves the personal
and the political into a perfectly...

Anthony Daniels is a contributing editor of *City Journal*. He is the author of, among others, *Buried But Not Quite Dead: Forgotten Writers of Père Lachaise*, forthcoming from Criterion Books.

This article originally appeared in *The New Criterion*, Volume 41 Number 10, on page 36

Copyright © 2024 The New Criterion | www.newcriterion.com

<https://newcriterion.com/issues/2023/6/a-quarry-of-quandaries>