

because one goes to sleep while the other smashes windows.

Babbitt is not a blind man. He is a man who looks out of only one eye at a time.

Ezra Pound23.75%

I have read informative, controversial, journalistic book reviews by Pound. I have stopped several times for "more than eight minutes to consider the meaning" of Pound's account of Henry James's "last public act:"

"— after a year of ceaseless labor, of letter-writing, of argument, of striving in every way to bring in America on the side of civilization, he died of apoplexy."

The meaning of this at last appears to be that the reason why Pound should wear sleeve protectors is the reason why I have not read any criticism by Pound.

Amy Lowell21.2%

"That's Heine's flute—you musn't touch it.

"Why not, if I can make it sound?"

It is a current comment, "Miss Lowell is finer as a critic than as a poet." This is a dodge on the part of the same people who over-praised Rosinante to the Road Again because they dared not praise Three Soldiers. Miss Lowell's criticism is pure information, misleading only where she acted the part of Lucrecia Borgia in our "poetic Renaissance." Her poems, like those of Eliot's; which are, as it were, their negative pole; are implicit criticism.

Conrad Aiken35%

"... — in the sphere of aesthetics all is relative; or for each new generation, at any rate, relatively relative; and since this is particularly true just now," etc., etc.

"We are all grinding our own axes. We lose no opportunity to praise our own sort of work, or to condemn that sort which we consider dangerous."

Aiken is here psyching his own writings. His expressed attitude takes no account of the fact that criticism, quite like poetry, springs not from what impels one to publish but from what impels one to write. His analysis of "Our Renaissance," as he states the problem below, is only intermittent:

"It is not a question of radical as against reactionary, not a question of American as against European, it is simply and solely a question whether the given poem has beauty, subtlety, intensity and depth, or whether it has not, and in what degree."

Joel Elias Spingarn22.2%

"Benedetto Croce, the only modern man who may be mentioned in the same breath with Aristotle."

"The critic must make his theory of tragedy chime with the new poet's poem, not the poem with the theory."