



The Common Writer: Life in Nineteenth-Century Grub Street

By Nigel Cross

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This book examines the conditions of authorship and the development of publishing and journalism during the nineteenth century. It provides a detailed account on the social, cultural, and economic factors that control literary activity, and determine literary success or failure. There are chapters on the place of women and working-class writers in a predominantly male, middle-class publishing industry; on literary clubs, societies, and feuds; on patronage, charity, and state support for writers; on literary journalists and the development of the bohemian character; on the facts that inspired the fictional world of Thackeray's *Pendennis* and Gissing's *New Grub Street*; and on the long-running debates on the status of writers and the state of literature. Drawing on a wide range of contemporary sources, *The Common Writer* adds substantially to our understanding of nineteenth-century literary history and culture.

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