

---

# Obituary

---

## MR. MARMADUKE PICKTHALL

---

### EASTERN LIFE AND THOUGHT

Mr. Marmaduke William Pickthall, who died at St. Ives, Cornwall, yesterday, at the age of 61, will be remembered for a large number of novels which he wrote, and for his intimate knowledge of the East which he had gained through long periods of residence in Moslem countries. A good many years ago he embraced the faith of Islam.

The son of the Rev. Charles Pickthall, rector of Chillesford, Suffolk, he was born on April 7, 1875, and was educated at Harrow. Early in life he passed three years in the Near East "on equal terms with all sorts of Orientals," learning their ways of thought and laying the foundation of his knowledge of Arabic which later on bore literary fruit in his translation of the Koran and other works. He had lived among the Druses of Lebanon, and also in Egypt; and having made a close study of India he became editor of the *Bombay Chronicle* in 1920. Afterwards for 10 years he was in the service of the Hyderabad Government, where he was editor of the *Hyderabad Quarterly Review*; and he had recently returned to Europe in retirement. Lecturing in London last March, he emphasized the importance of a general pro-Islamic policy for England when dealing with the new Islamic nationalities; he wished that England might again become the mentor and protector of Islam.

His novel "Saïd the Fisherman," which he published in 1903, was full of wise humour and brought him into fame; and it is probable that his readers generally preferred his Eastern works of fiction to his Western, for he alternated between the two works. Of the various Eastern peoples whom he knew he wrote with a knowledge, a naturalness, and an earnestness which was bound to impress, especially as his style could command irony and laughter. The consequence was that his books were to be enjoyed by the fair-minded in camps far different from that of the author.

Mr. Pickthall was several years ago the Imam at the Woking Mosque, where prayers will be offered for him; the burial will be in the Moslem cemetery at Brookwood.

---