

## P R E F A C E

In the following pages an attempt has been made to illustrate the development of Forster's art as a novelist rather than to make a mere assessment of his achievement, and to lay bare some of the most important aspects of life he touched upon, while tracing the development of his mind and approach from novel to novel. This dissertation, therefore, embodies an attempt to look at Forster's novels in a way that may be called new though I am not sure that none of the innumerable critics of Forster has anticipated me. So far as I know, no systematic treatment of the novels from this standpoint has been undertaken by anybody before; some approaches in the light of philosophical content were, however, made by some critics particularly with reference to the spiritual aspects that underlie A Passage to India. The present dissertation, as such, is not a mere tentative approach, but a full discussion. While intending to be a comprehensive study of aesthetic or spiritual realism of Forster's fiction, it also illustrates the inadequacy of a study of his art from the point of view of the traditional way of fictional criticism.

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