Richard Hildreth Biography

Richard Hildreth

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.



Contents

Richard Hildreth Biography.....1

Contents.....2

Biography.....3

Biography

Richard Hildreth (28 June 1807-11 July 1865), historian, novelist, and political writer, was born at Deerfield, Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard College in 1826 and was admitted to the bar in 1830. His law practice was put aside, though, as Hildreth became interested in literature, and he co-edited the Boston *Daily Atlas* while regularly contributing miscellaneous articles to the major journals of the day. During a two-year stay in Florida for his health, Hildreth wrote *The Slave: or, Memoirs of Archy Moore*, 2 vols. (Boston: John H. Eastburn, 1836), one of the first American antislavery novels. After his return to Boston, Hildreth's ill health continued, and in 1840 he began a four-year stay in British Guiana, where he edited two antislavery papers. Hildreth's major work, *History of the United States* , 6 vols. (New York: Harpers, 1849-1852), is well-documented, though its stodgy style put off readers. His books on banking and politics reflect Hildreth's generally positive, utilitarian philosophy of life. In 1861 President Lincoln appointed Hildreth United States Consul to Trieste, Italy, but he resigned in 1864 because of poor health and died in Florence the following year.