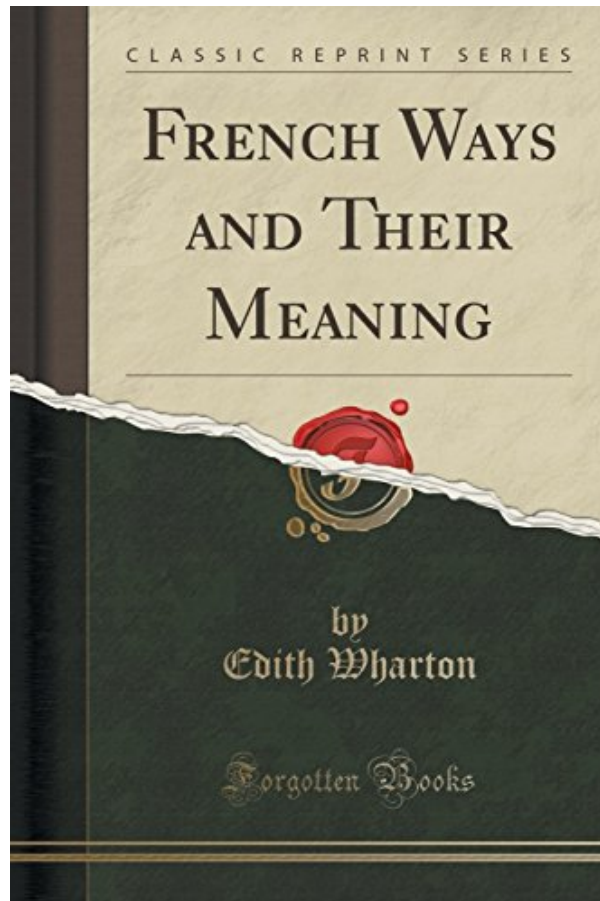
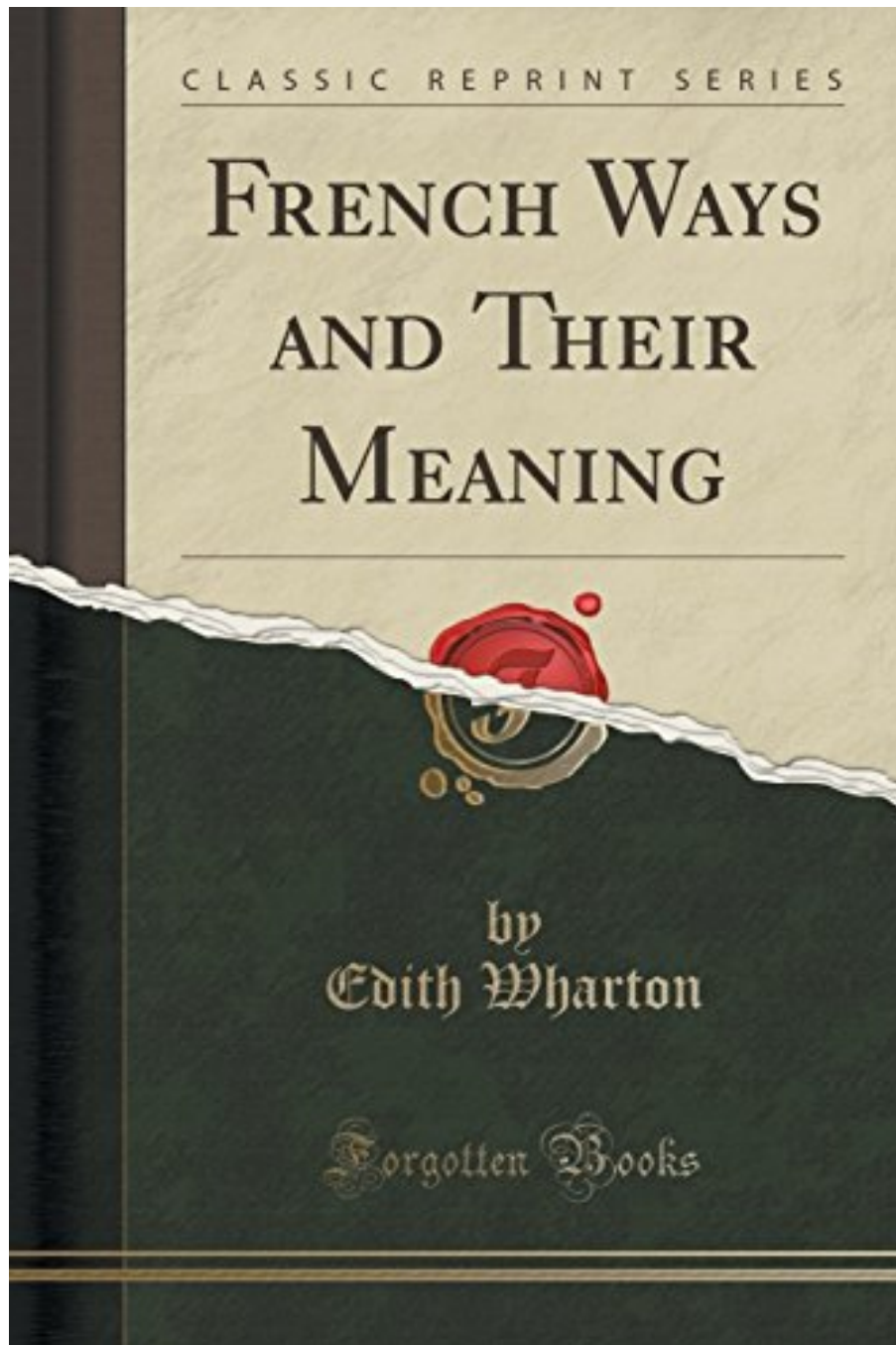


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This volume marks the first in a series of collaborations between the publisher and Edith Wharton Restoration, Inc., a group dedicated to promoting and preserving Wharton's works. A facsimile of the original 1919 edition, this offers her firsthand observations on French life?as charming as Paris in the spring?that she collected when living in the City of Lights.

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## **About the Author**

Edith Wharton was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist, known for such classics as *The House of Mirth*, *Ethan Frome*, and *The Age of Innocence*, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize in 1921. A member of the New York elite, Wharton drew on her experiences as part of society to critique its inner workings and the conflict between personal desires and societal norms. Wharton died in 1937, leaving behind a rich literary legacy.

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Excerpt from French Ways and Their Meaning

This book is essentially a desultory book, the result of intermittent observation, and often, no doubt, of rash assumption. Having been written in Paris, at odd moments, during the last two years of the war, it could hardly be more than a series of disjointed notes; and the excuse for its publication lies in the fact that the very conditions which made more consecutive work impossible also gave unprecedented opportunities for quick notation.

The world since 1914 has been like a house on fire. All the lodgers are on the stairs, in dishabille. Their doors are swinging wide, and one gets glimpses of their furniture, revelations of their habits, and whiffs of their cooking, that a life-time of ordinary intercourse would not offer.

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- Published on: 2016-06-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .35" w x 5.98" l, .51 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 166 pages

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Fine introduction.

By A Customer

This delightful little volume is a compilation of articles written for American troops bound for France in World War One. While their effect on the average doughboy may be questionable, they give a powerful and invaluable insight into one of the most perceptive minds of the age.

Wharton, in her most engaging and always readable style, discusses First Impressions, and examines issues of Reverence, Taste, Intellectual Honesty, and Continuity, and, in her essay on the New Frenchwoman, reveals perhaps more about herself than her subjects.

Highly recommended as a fine introduction to the author.

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26 of 28 people found the following review helpful.

Good book, poor print quality

By Amazon Customer

It's important to know that this edition (Publisher: Kessinger Publishing, LLC (April 10, 2007)) is a bound photocopy. That is, it has an ordinary softcover binding, but most of the pages are blurry photocopies of the original edition. (All of this is explained in a note at the start of the book, but is not mentioned in the ordering information.)

The background of the pages is dark, dotted gray and the print is not clear. Many of the pages also have underlining and notes (that is, the original pages that were photocopied have these marks). The dark gray background affects about three fourths of the pages; perhaps half the pages are marked with underlines or comments.

Needless to say, all of this affects the book's value. Most of the book is physically hard to read because of these problems, which are not (currently) mentioned in the book's description information.

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13 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

A good primer on French culture.

By S. Gue

Edith Wharton was a very observant writer and a great novelist. Her observations on the French in most cases are right on target. However, people traveling to France for work or pleasure need to understand that she is writing about a France in the early part of the 20th century before and during World War I. When a

person writes about a culture there observations only pertain to that particular time and that particular place. Another, thing to remember she is also writes about upper-class french life, which is a problem I find with almost all books on the French. Other than those two critics this is a very entertaining and insightful book on the French.

On parting comment, remember that when someone writes about a different culture they are using generalizations that may be true of the culture but not everyone in it.

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