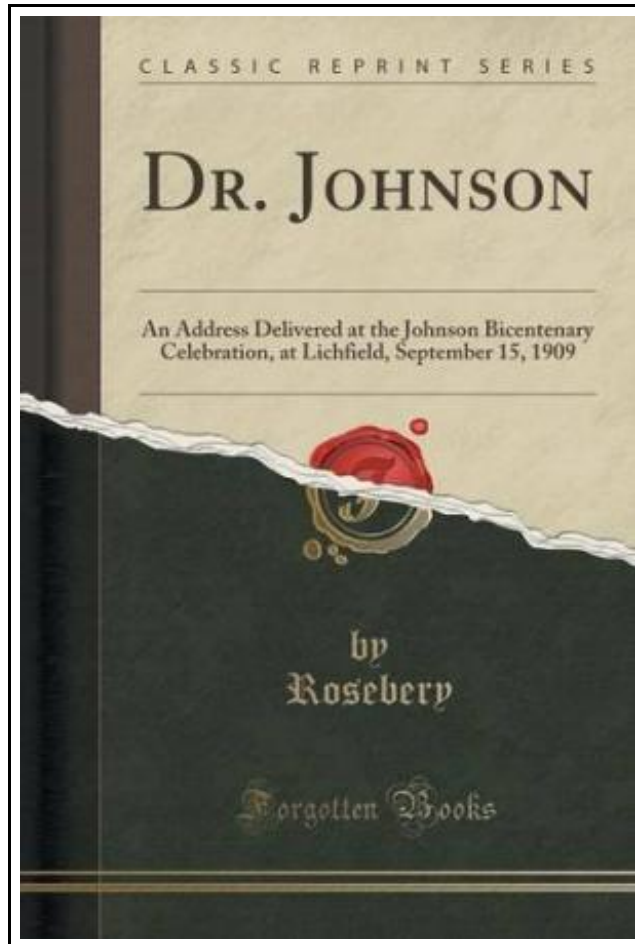


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Reviews

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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Dr. Johnson: An Address Delivered at the Johnson Bicentenary Celebration, at Lichfield, September 15, 1909 Ladies and Gentlemen, - You have laid upon me a great honour and a cruel task. It is a great honour to be asked to speak of Johnson in his birthplace, by the community which honoured him when living, and has commemorated him since his death. But it is also a cruel task. Last year I jibbed, if I may so express myself, at the statue of Boswell, because it included Johnson, and now I have to deal with Johnson, who certainly includes Boswell. What is there left to say about either? Almost every eminent hand has tried his luck at them; it may in fact be considered a usual form of literary recreation. And though I have carefully avoided re-reading what others have written for fear of offering only a pale reflection of what they have better said, there is this further obstacle, Johnson has become the property of the English-speaking race. Every man has his little freehold there which no Chancellor of the Exchequer can tax. Every one resents an intrusion upon it, quite naturally, and I well know that whatever I may say I shall constantly break my shins at some cherished and preconceived opinion, and receive the natural objurgations of its upholders. Three days hence will occur the two-hundredth anniversary of Johnson's birth in this ancient city of Lichfield. Born poor and scrofulous and half blind, and with an hereditary melancholy not far removed from madness, the advent of the small bookseller's son cannot have caused a ripple among your people. About the Publisher...

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