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# The Countryman's England

*Dorothy Hartley*

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**Dorothy Hartley : The Countryman's England** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Countryman's England:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Fine Reading For AnglophilesBy James EllsworthWritten in 1934 and reprinted in 2010, this book is both evocative and informative on the subject of country life in early 20th Century Great Britain (including forays into Wales and Scotland.) While fairly short (under 200 pages), the text is full of the experience Hartley gathered as she moved around various parts of the country, living and doing various researches. I am reviewing the Kindle facsimile of the work which included black and white photographic plates and black and white illustrations by the author.Hartley divides the book roughly according to type of topography--mountains, lake lands, valleys, dells, downs, fens, marshes, moors and the like. Readers of English literature will learn a lot about the settings for some of their favorite books for Hartley has a gift for colorful description in her writing. Most of the book treats the land and what grows on it but due attention is also given to what people made from that produce. Early in the book readers are treated to a fine explanation of sheep husbandry and the treatment of wool. Similarly, but with less detail, we learn about apple growing and cider making, the making of traditional English and Welsh cheeses, hop cultivation, turf cutting and thatching materials, tools and a technique or two and quite a bit about traditional forest and wood craft manufactures that I have not found elsewhere. Hartley's description of the various landscapes is almost lyrical. Certainly it whets the tourist's appetite to go today and to see what might be left of what she saw and it will prepare visitors to interpret what we do see of the land and its life today.Dorothy Hartley made her living as a teacher of art but she made her lasting reputation as a writer of highly regarded works of social history. Her masterwork is the

665-page 'Food of England', which is still available in paperback.'The Countryman's England' is an interesting addition to her body of work and I mostly enjoyed reading it throughout. Since people did similar or the same things, even on different topography, some parts of the work can seem a bit repetitive, hence my four-star rating.

This book records English country life at a time when farming and rural occupations were closely entwined, dependant on each other for their economic survival. Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing many of these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork.