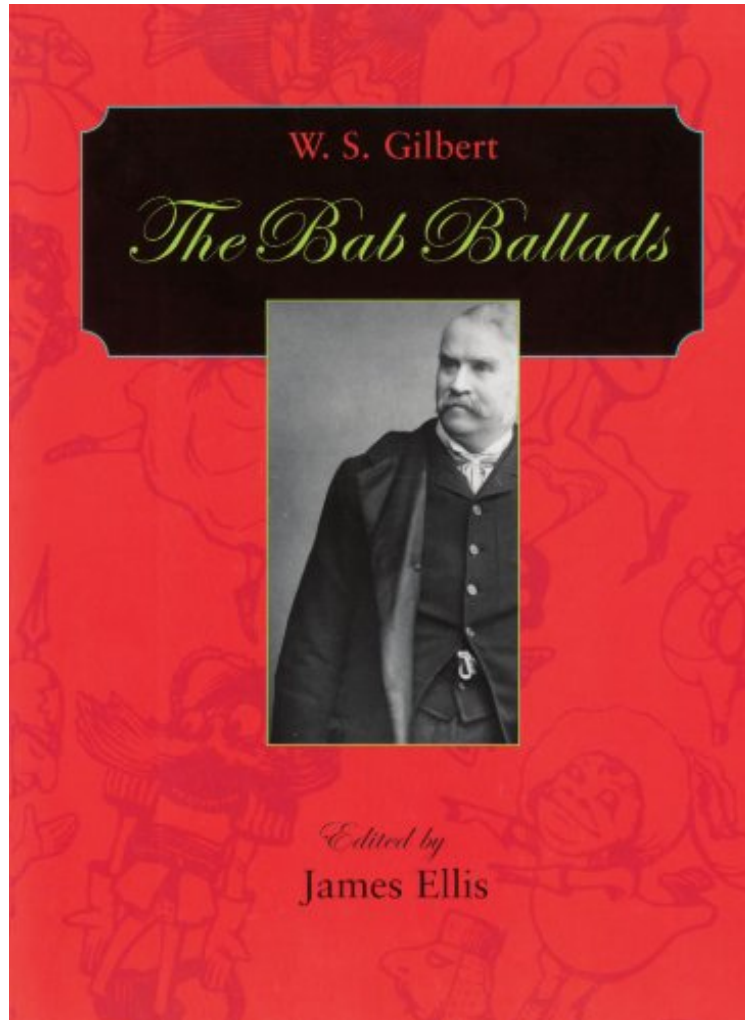


[Library ebook] The Bab Ballads (Harvard paperbacks)

The Bab Ballads (Harvard paperbacks)

W. S. Gilbert

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#4207782 in Books Belknap Press of Harvard u Press 2003-04-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.75 x .95 x 7.131, 1.39 #File Name: 0674058011384 pages | File size: 58.Mb

W. S. Gilbert : The Bab Ballads (Harvard paperbacks) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bab Ballads (Harvard paperbacks):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fifth star for James Ellis' edition!By PHILIPPE VANDENBOSSCHE asks me: "How would you describe the plot of this book?" Well... it's a collection of light verse! Let's be merry, and say it has "some twists" :) In a more serious way -which isn't the best way to talk about about light verse, I'm afraid- I could say that I've finally found the English counterpart of the late -recently late- Dutch light verse genius Drs. P, which is bad news for those who don't understand Dutch. But nobody's perfect, and Gilbert's Bab Ballads aren't either, by the way. But I prefer them over Lewis Carroll's, a bit too absurd for a non-Briton like yours truly. Most important: this -I'm talkin about James Ellis'- edition is by far the best possible on this planet: skip the others if you're *really* interested in the pre-Savoy Opera Gilbert. It's the quality of the edition that is responsible for

my fifth star, by the way. Buy, receive, sit back, enjoy! 8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. As they would have been read by Gilbert himself. By F. Behrens. Actually, they practically are read by Gilbert himself, since actor Jim Broadbent will for a long time be associated with that role. His readings are marvelous, especially because he manages to use a different voice for each new character--and there are many, many of them. It is fascinating to catch so many of the concepts Gilbert was to recycle in the later Savoy works. "The Bumboat Woman's Story" is rich in pre-hints of "HMS Pinafore" and was indeed the inspiration for the ballet "Pineapple Poll," which uses only Sullivan's music for the operettas (with a snatch of his Da Ballo Overture thrown in). Doubtless the funniest of the lot is "Etiquette" on the last side of the second tape in which two men thrown up on a desert island cannot converse because they had not been properly introduced aboard the ill-fated vessel. Not all the poems are comical-- some are darkly pessimistic--but there is many a laugh that will be educed by Broadbent's delivery. "Bab," by the way, was Gilbert's baby nickname; and his use of it tells us a lot about his personality. Dove Audio, however, has packaged these two cassettes with no table of contents at all; and so there is no way to tell ahead of time exactly what Bab Ballads are recorded, which is really an intolerable situation for an item like this. Also the use of "unabridged" at the top of this .com page is misleading. While each poem is in fact complete, there are represented here only a very small portion of Gilbert's BB output. What we do have is excellently done, but the 3 hours on these tapes do not hold an "unabridged" collection by any means. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The source. By Beregon. of many of the ideas used in the Savoy Operas, the Ballads are a delight in their own right. A must for any Gilbert lover.

W. S. Gilbert, renowned author of the Savoy Operas, was also the creator of the Bab Ballads--"possibly the best comic verse--and surely the best illustrated--in the English language," according to James Ellis. Gilbert published these poems, together with his own, grotesque drawings signed "Bab," a childhood nickname, in Fun and other magazines in the late nineteenth century. In 1898, the older and by then distinguished Gilbert substituted pallid and inoffensive drawings for the originals, which he had come to believe "erred gravely in the direction of unnecessary extravagance." Since then the ballads have been collected and published in various editions, most of which have featured the revised drawings and only a selection of the poems. This is the only book to offer the complete collection of ballads with all original illustrations, a tribute to the comic genius of a writer known as "the most original dramatist of his generation." This collection will delight readers with its irreverence and wit.

The Bab Ballads of W. S. Gilbert, admirably introduced and annotated by James Ellis, is a real treat. (New Yorker) Thanks to Mr. Ellis, all the known poems...dress-rehearsals as it were for the operas, are now printed together. And of course they are accompanied by the original Chesterton-delighting illustrations. (Christian Science Monitor) About the Author James Ellis has been directing and performing in Gilbert and Sullivan operas for almost fifty years. He was for many years Professor of English at Mount Holyoke College.