

Cecil Roberts

The author Cecil Roberts lived at Pilgrim Cottage, Lower Assendon in the 1930's, 1940's and early 1950's.

Cecil Edric Mornington Roberts was born in Nottingham, England on 18th May 1892. He attended Mundela Grammar School, Nottingham before becoming a civil servant and then an office boy and journalist at The Evening Post.

In 1912 he won the Kirke White memorial prize with a poem entitled 'To The Trent'. His first book of verse, 'Phyllistrata' was published in 1913.

He was Literary Editor to the Liverpool Post from 1915 to 1918 and also worked as a special correspondent to the Royal Navy, Royal Flying Corps and the Army in the First World War.

After working in Fleet Street for a while, Cecil Roberts returned to Nottingham in 1920 to become editor of the Nottingham Journal. At 28 years of age he was the youngest editor of a morning newspaper in Britain.

His first novel, 'Scissors' was published in 1922. By this time he had also had seven other books of autobiography and poetry published. The income from these and subsequent books allowed him to retire from journalism in 1925 and concentrate on writing novels, poetry and travel books.

He moved to Pilgrim Cottage in the early 1930's. From there he wrote the novels 'Pilgrim Cottage' (1933), 'The Guests Arrive' (1934) and 'Volcano' (1935) that were published in an omnibus edition in 1938.

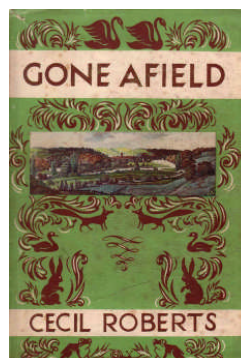
He also described his walks from the cottage in the South Oxfordshire area in three books: 'Gone Rustic' (1934), 'Gone Rambling' (1935) and 'Gone Afield' (1935).



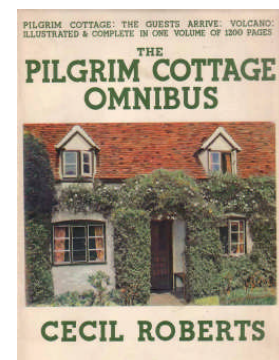
Cecil Roberts (National Portrait Gallery)



Pilgrim Cottage by Rene Noakes



Gone Afield (1935)



The Pilgrim Cottage Omnibus (1938)

By this time he was an established best-selling author.

He undertook frequent lecture tours to America and, during the Second World War, gave speeches on behalf of the British Government in liaison with the British Ambassador in Washington Lord Halifax.

Cecil Roberts was made a Freeman of the City of Nottingham on 3rd May 1965 as a distinguished son of the city.

In his later years Cecil Roberts lived in Alassio in Italy. He was made an Honorary Citizen in 1960 and received the Italian Gold Medal in 1966 from the city of Rome.

Cecil Roberts died in Rome on 20th December 1976, aged 84. His ashes were scattered in the garden of Pilgrim Cottage.



Cecil Roberts (National Portrait Gallery)

List of books written by Cecil Roberts

1913	Phyllistrata	1935	Volcano
1914	Through the Eyes of Youth	1936	Gone Afield
1915	The Youth of Beauty		Gone Sunwards
1916	Collected War Poems	1937	Victoria Four-Thirty
1917	The Chelsea Cherub	1939	They Wanted to Live
	Twenty-Six	1940	And so to Bath
1918	Charing Cross	1941	A Man Arose
1922	Scissors	1942	One Small Candle
	A Tale of Young Lovers	1944	So Immortal a Flower
1924	Sails of Sunset	1946	And so to America
1925	The Love Rack	1948	Eight for Eternity
1926	Little Miss Manington	1950	And so to Rome
1927	Sagusto	1951	A Terrace in the Sun
	The Diary of Russell Beresford	1952	One Year of Life
1928	David and Diana	1954	The Remarkable Young Man
1929	Indiana Jane	1955	Portal to Paradise
	Pamela's Spring Song	1957	Love is Like That
1930	Havana Bound	1962	Wide is the Horizon
1931	Bargain Basement	1963	The Grand Cruise
	Half-Way	1965	A Flight of Birds
1932	Spears Against Us	1967	The Growing Boy
	Life of Sir Alfred Fripp	1968	The Years of Promise
1933	Pilgrim Cottage	1970	The Bright Twenties
	Gone Rustic	1972	Sunshine and Shadow
1934	The Guests Arrive	1974	The Pleasant Years
	Gone Rambling		