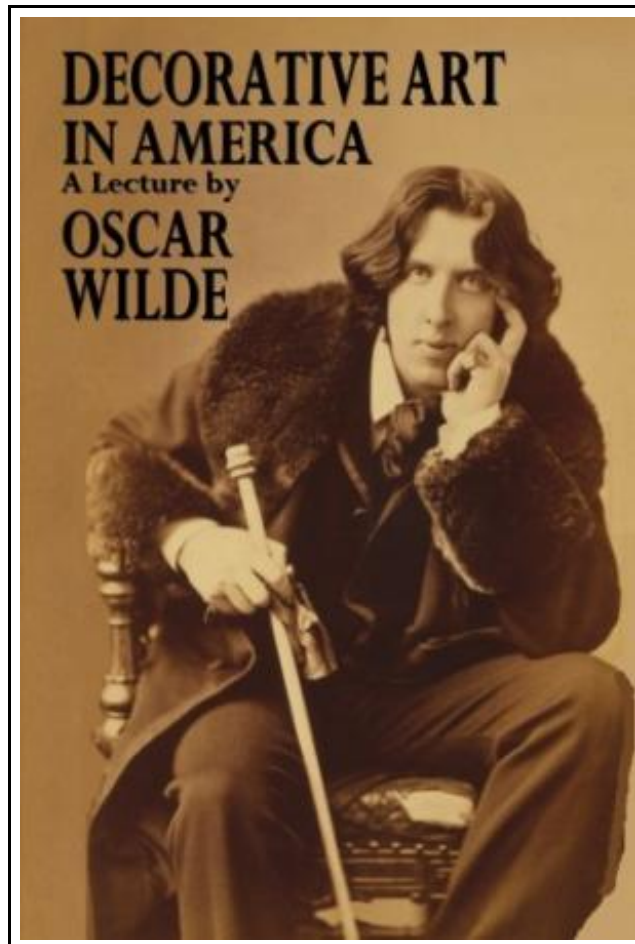


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Reviews


It is one of my favorite books. Sure, it is actually engaging, nonetheless an interesting and amazing literature. I am happy to let you know that this is basically the finest book I have studied inside my very own existence and might be the finest publication for ever.
(Randal Reinger)

DECORATIVE ART IN AMERICA, A LECTURE: TOGETHER WITH LETTERS, REVIEWS, AND INTERVIEW (PAPERBACK)



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Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.An excerpt from the beginning of the Introduction: If we are content to accept Oscar Wilde at his own final valuation and to judge him by the confession which he has left the world in *De Profundis*, we can apply to him no better epithet than The Epicurean. But confessions are at best misleading. They are tinctured by the exaggerations of humility. They are laden with self-abasement proportionate to the penitent's desire for absolution, rather than to the culpability of the malefactor. They confuse things material with things spiritual and the sins of the body with those of the intellect. Fearful of half-truths, they disclose monstrous untruths, until the spirit of self-immolation is glutted and the tortured soul satisfied that repentance has no further penance within reach. So, with Wilde, it is difficult to believe the whole of the pitiless indictment which he brings against himself. Flaneur and dandy he accuses himself of being. Flaneur and dandy he may have been. But, however profitless his life, must his word be wholly without purpose? Surely there was something more than mere diletantism in talents so diverse, so brilliantly manifested, so exquisitely elusive. For elusive, perplexing, defiant of definition was he in all that he did-this man of genius, Oscar Wilde par excellence The Protean. The Protean-for we embrace the singer of songs to find that we have seized upon the cynic; we seek to learn the secret of worldly disdain and discover that we are communing with the prose poet; we are roused from the lulling charm of fable and delicate imagery by the mordant wit of the dramatist; with the smile still on our lips we are...

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