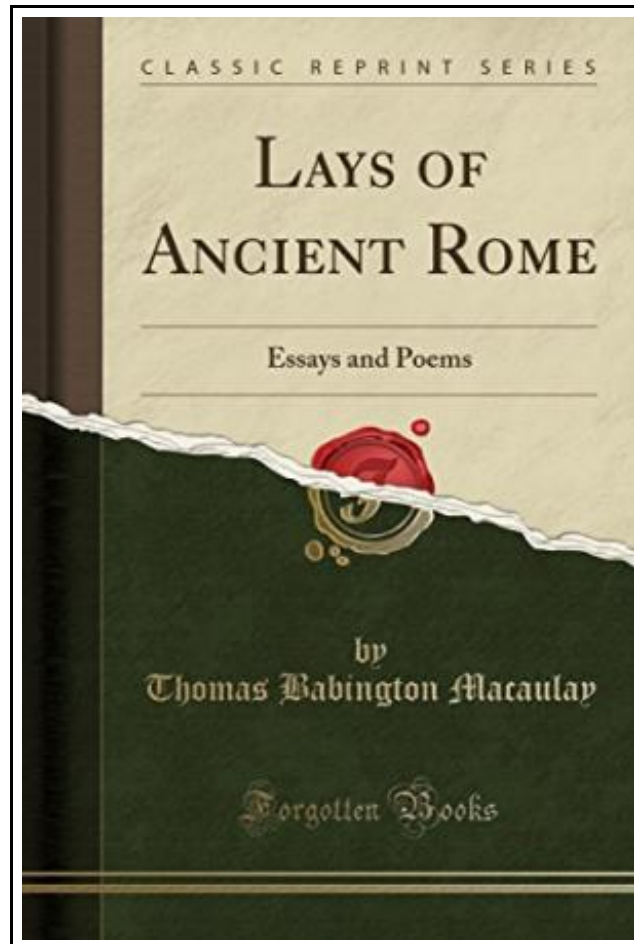


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Reviews

*Merely no terms to spell out. We have read through and i also am confident that i will gonna read yet again again in the future. You will not sense monotony at anytime of your own time (that's what catalogs are for about should you question me).
(Pasquale Larkin I)*

LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND MISCELLANEOUS ESSAYS AND POEMS (CLASSIC REPRINT)



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Forgotten Books. Paperback. Condition: New. 554 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 1.2in. Introduction to their Everyman reprint of the Lays of Ancient Rome and the Miscellaneous Essays and Poems here combined in one volume. Of the Miscellaneous Essays in verse and prose, published the year after his death, I shall speak later. But the Lays of Ancient Rome, with *Ivry* and *The Armada*, had been published by Macaulay himself nearly twenty years before (1842). Matthew Arnold and others attacked the Lays, judging them by the irrelevant standard of the highest flights of poetry. But judged for what they are, ballads, they are masterly, and deserved the immense popularity they enjoyed with two generations of Englishmen. In those days every schoolboy knew them, and many both young and old had them by heart. From them young people learnt to take pleasure in the sound and rhythm of verse, which helped them later to enjoy other greater poets. I do not think that the oblivion into which the Lays have since fallen has been an advantage to literature. It is absurd to look in Macaulay's Lays for the highest qualities and subtlest tones of lyrical poetry, and to cry out on him as a Philistine because they are not there. Such an outcry is not criticism. Why look for grapes on a fig-tree? But it is to be oneself strangely insensitive, not to respond to the trumpet call that rings in the thirty-sixth stanza of *Lake Regillus*, or to the stir of a nation rising in the *Armada* night. Nor is the vigour of narrative style the only merit of the Lays: Macaulay has succeeded in giving an emotional value to names, places, ancient customs, and forms of life and to all the lore of the antiquary and the historian. In this way he...



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