

H. E. Bates.

Born in 1905, in the borders of Northamptonshire & Bedfordshire, the county that is now the scene of ~~most~~^{much} of his work; worked in ~~many~~ any districts at all as a junior reporter on a Northampton newspaper at the age of 17; left the paper, graduated to a warehouse dealing in nails, linen thread, cycles, stiffeners, calico linings, leather, hessian, buckram, rivets, springs, heels, tapes, ~~and~~^{besides} ~~thousands~~^{thousands} ~~of~~ ~~articles~~^{of} ~~articles~~^{articles} how many other things that are used in the making of a boot. Managed to find time to write (in a warehouse time, not his own) scores of poems, stories, some one-act plays & two novels. Rewrote one of these novels, The Two Sisters, submitted it with a success to nine publishers & saw it accepted in the time & subsequently published with a preface by Edward Garnett. He was then twenty. Under Garnett's influence he turned his attention to the short story & wrote prolifically, besting, maybe

50 per cent of all he wrote. ~~He was~~
~~He was~~ Owing nothing to Gamble, who read,
criticised, praised, lampooned & advised on all he
wrote at such times. Married in 1931, went to
live in Kent, & proceeded to assist materially in
the making of two daughters & a son. In the
country became more interested in the country, &
particularly in the county he had left, & began
to write books about the county. In these books
delivered attacks on the current fashion of
sentimentalizing the county, on fox-hunting, blood-sports
& local squabbles, all of which did not
prevent his becoming, in 1937, chairman of the
parish council. This fact did not
prevent his being captain of the local ~~foot~~
football, a regular member of the local cricket
team or hundred yards champion, in his sports,
of the local sports. Would almost rather, in fact,
have been an athlete than a writer. Has
now written, besides novels, something like
a hundred and fifty stories, which are collected
mainly in ^{seven} ~~two~~ volumes: Day's End, Seven Tales of
Alexander, The Black Box, The Woman who Had
Imagined, Thief-Tales, Cut & Come Again, &
Somerset. Short & Sweet. Has been criticized

in
~~the~~ summary: his first English & American
anthology, & holds the record for appearance in
The Best Short Stories with 10 stories, technically
~~stories~~ 11, since he ^{had} is appearing to my
understand to have ^{had} two stories chosen, by a mistake, in
one year. His newly finished play, Comes
& Chopetka, in 4 acts, & is now at work on
a novel. Writes journal by journal, & always
does (all the year round.) To his first rule to
publish. Story The Machine is an acceptance. ~~By~~
Beyon in 1935, is remained unfinished until
1937.

A. E. Baker