

From the publishers of *Slightly Foxed*

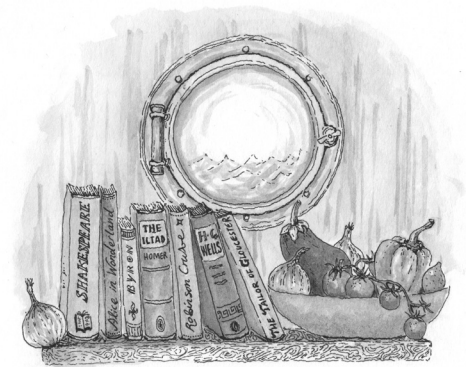
An Englishman's Commonplace Book

Roger Hudson

'Variety, the unexpected, a bit of vulgarity and the ridiculous mixed in with the elevated,' has been Roger Hudson's recipe in compiling this commonplace book from material he's gathered over the past 40 years. And that is what we are given in this wide-ranging collection by a well-read man with a sharp eye, an ironic – indeed very English – sense of humour and a devotion to history.

Surprise, recognition, amusement, *An Englishman's Commonplace Book* calls forth a variety of reactions. Ranging over the centuries, it contains a rich mix of often arresting facts, vivid descriptions, absurd observations and wise words. Sir Christopher Wren rubs shoulders with Eddie Izzard, Princess Margaret with Elizabeth I. And all organized under subject headings to help find that appropriate quote.

Above all it gives us a perspective on our own history via the voices of those who were living it, reminding us that the past was not a rehearsal for the present, that there is no substitute for the horse's mouth. Altogether a book for the times and a perfect present for a thoughtful and humorous friend. It may even inspire you to start a commonplace book of your own.



ROGER HUDSON is typically English in that one of his grandmothers was from Dublin and the other from New Zealand. His life has been spent with books, publishing them, introducing, editing and compiling them. His longest associations have been with John Murray, the Folio Society, *History Today* and Getty Images. He has also written regularly for *Slightly Foxed* since it began.

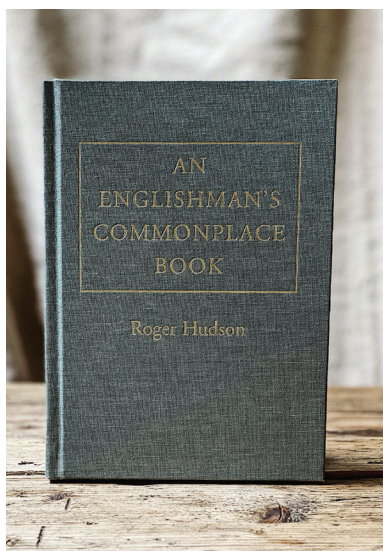
*Red wine goes with meat
but white wine goes with
carpets.*

KATHARINE WHITEHORN,
COOKING IN A BEDSITTER

*A great book is often ahead of its
time, and the trick is how to keep
it afloat until the times catch up
with it.*

THE AMERICAN PUBLISHER ROBERT GIROUX

*Disraeli observed that
the trouble with Mr
Gladstone was that he had
not a single redeeming
defect.*



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Slightly Foxed is the publisher of the well-loved quarterly literary magazine and an acclaimed list of limited-edition memoirs, all of them highly absorbing and irresistibly collectable. The series includes memoirs by Edward Ardizzone, Gerald Durrell, Graham Greene, Helene Hanff, Diana Holman-Hunt, Michael Holroyd, James Lees-Milne, Hilary Mantel, Gavin Maxwell, Jessica Mitford, Eric Newby, Dodie Smith and Rosemary Sutcliff, among others.