

PENGUIN
BOOKS

**BACK TO
METHUSELAH**

—
BERNARD
SHAW





Bernard Shaw

Bernard Shaw was born in Dublin, of Protestant stock, in 1856, and died at Ayot St Lawrence, Herts, in 1950.

After a false start in nineteenth-century fashion as a novelist, he made a reputation as a journalist-critic of books, pictures, music, and the drama. Meanwhile he had plunged into the Socialist revival of the eighteen-eighties and come out as one of the leaders who made the Fabian Society famous. Existing prominently not only as a pamphleteer and public orator, but as a serious economic and philosopher, publishing major essays on *Ibsen* and *Wagner*. He broke out in a new direction in 1892 as a playwright, although it was not until some twelve years later that the opposition he had always to face at first was overcome sufficiently to establish him as an irresistible force in the theatre.

The volumes of his work published as Penguins show him in all the phases of his varied career, and can be read for aesthetic entertainment, for up-to-date liberal education, for philosophic and biological doctrine, even for pure fun, or for any or all of them, written in plain English by a born master of that most enchanting of modern scriptures.