


The Penguin



English Library

HENRY FIELDING
JOSEPH ANDREWS



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HENRY FIELDING JOSEPH ANDREWS EDITED BY R.F. BRISSENDEN

With *Stamela*, published in 1741, Fielding set about exposing by brilliant parody the more vulnerable aspects of Samuel Richardson's phenomenally successful *Pamela*. In the following year he offered, quite deliberately, his own alternative conception of the art and purpose of the novel: *Joseph Andrews* achieved an immediate popularity.

The story of Joseph's dogged determination, against all odds, to cling to his virtue is almost incidental in one of the richest, sanest, funniest and most attractive novels in the language. Drawn, as Fielding says, in imitation of Cervantes, the Don Quixote is the unforgettable Parson Adams – the unique embodiment of a vigorous, innocent and rational enjoyment of life and the first great comic character in fiction.

The cover shows a detail from 'The Baker's Progress: The Heir' by William Hogarth, by permission of the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum, London (photo Godfrey New Photographic).

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