

## REGINALD POUND



Pound was well known in his day as a journalist and biographer; he had also written lighter books. He was a Whatlington man, born there in 1894. His father James was a grocer living at Scrays just north of the village (in those days even small villages would have had grocers). He was from Dallington; Reginald's mother Ellen Freeland was from Whatlington. In 1911 Pound was recorded as an auctioneer's clerk (presumably at Battle), and when the war began he joined the 5th Battalion of the Royal Sussex as a Private, later being commissioned Lieutenant in the Shropshire Light Infantry. His younger brother Cecil did something of the same: Private in the South Wales Borderers, then commissioned into the Royal Sussex where perhaps appropriately he rose only to Second Lieutenant.

Pound was sent to France in mid-February 1915. Later, like so many other officers, he sent back to the UK a number of articles and commentaries which formed his first publications. Having freelanced on his discharge, he joined the Daily Express as literary editor in 1920 (in those days even popular papers believed that they had literary roles), moving on to the Daily Mail a few years later. After a three-year wartime spell with the Ministry of Information he became the penultimate editor of the Strand Magazine (1942-46): that was his last employment, and thereafter he lived on his articles – mainly in the Daily Mail – and his books, with the occasional broadcast.

He had published books before the Second World War but after 1950 he concentrated on biography, beginning with Arnold Bennett, whom he had known well. In 1959 he collaborated with Lord Northcliffe's nephew Geoffrey Harmsworth on a biography of the newspaper magnate (Harmsworth provided original material, Pound wrote) and then turned out a remarkable series of books on people, some of whom he had known. His last was on A P Herbert, published when Pound was 85.

His publications were:

*Illustrated history* (1928)

*The Fenwick story*

*Running commentary*

*Mirror of the century*

*Their moods and mine* (1937)

*Turn left for England* (1939)

*Pound notes* (1940)

*A maypole in the Strand* (1948)

*Arnold Bennett* (1952)

*Northcliffe* (with Geoffrey Harmsworth, 1959)

*Selfridge* (1960)

*The Englishman* (1962)

*Evans of the Broke* (1963)

*The lost generation of 1914* (1964)

*Gillies, surgeon extraordinary* (1964)

*Strand magazine, 1891-1950* (1966)

*Scott of the Antarctic* (1966)

*Harley Street* (1967)

*Sir Henry Wood* (1969)

*Queen Victoria* (1970)

*Albert* (1973)

*A. P. Herbert* (1976)

Pound married Cicely Dawes at Brighton in 1916 and they had seven children. He died in 1991 in the New Forest area; Cicely had died there in 1985. A grandson is the Labour MP Stephen Pound.

George Kiloh

© **BDHS 2017**

*Sources*

*The Times* 28 May 1991

ancestry.co.uk