

MONTAGUE SUMMERS

THE MARQUIS DE SADE

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& the Curious World of the British Society for
the Study of Sex Psychology



HE PRIEST, TEACHER, *Restoration scholar and enthusiastic demonologist* Montague Summers composed his lecture on the Marquis de Sade during the autumn of 1919, at a time when he was beginning to ply his needle at all four corners at once to the still blank tapestry of a literary career whose finished and variegated patterns intrigue the public enough for the pamphlet once more to see the light of day: the Restoration theatre; the Gothic novel; witchcraft; hagiography. It was the beginning of a happy time for Summers. Already his work on theatrical history was receiving recognition: in academic circles, owing to the publication of his editions of the Duke of Buckingham's *Rehearsal* and a six-volume Aphra Behn¹, and shortly too for playgoers on whom

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1. APHRA BEHN (1640-1689) WAS A PROLIFIC PLAY-WRIGHT, POET, NOVELIST AND OCCASIONAL SPY. SHE WAS THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL WOMAN WRITER IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

by
TIMOTHY D'ARCH SMITH