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T.E. LAWRENCE

UNRAVELLING THE ENIGMA

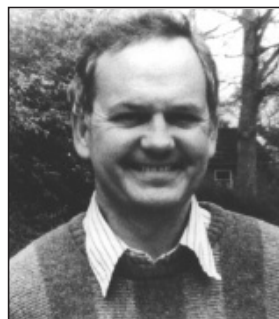
Andrew Norman

REPRINT

Everyone has heard of T.E. Lawrence, soldier; scholar; author of *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, and translator who led the Arab Legions in their Revolt against the Turks during the Great War; and everyone has seen the late David Lean's wonderful film *Lawrence of Arabia* starring Peter O'Toole.

However, it is the mind of Lawrence which holds the greatest fascination. What made this man, a success by any standards, suddenly decide at the height of his fame and power, to bury himself in the lower ranks, first of the Royal Air Force, and then of the Army, and shun all the honours bestowed upon him by a grateful nation?

Those who have sought and failed to understand the mind of Lawrence have often ended up by denigrating him unfairly. Can we now, after all these years – he died in a tragic motorcycle accident on 13 May 1935 at the age of forty-six – even begin to understand the enigma of his personality? The



answer the author believes, is a definite 'Yes'. It comes from a study of what Lawrence himself has said and written, and is to be found within the pages of this volume. Thoroughly researched, Andrew Norman's book is a searching yet sympathetic portrait of an extraordinary figure.

Andrew Norman was born in Newbury in 1943, and educated at Thornhill High School, Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford. Having qualified in medicine at the Radcliffe Infirmary, he entered general practice in Poole, Dorset, but in 1983 was forced to retire following a back injury, after which he became a writer.



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