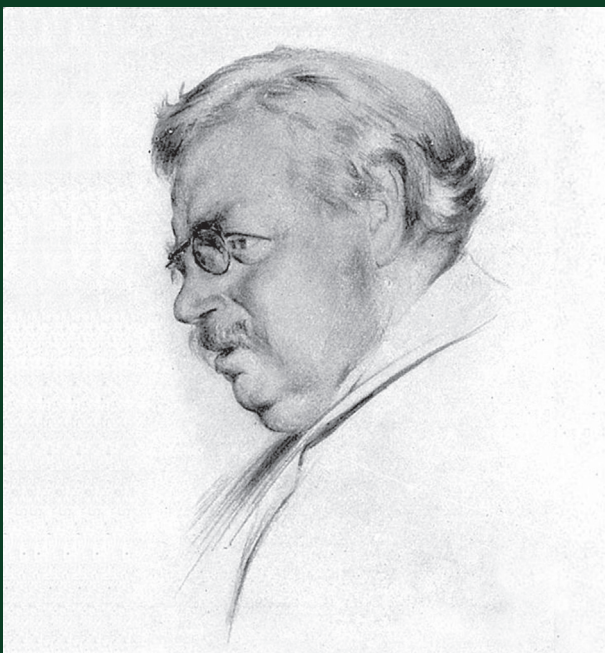


GILBERT KEITH CHESTERTON

Writer, journalist, polemicist, author of the Father Brown detective stories, poet, novelist and prolific essayist; G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936) revolutionised, with brilliant and controversial eloquence, the inter-war literary world, and translated his thorough, Christian-based thinking into a lasting body of literature.



F. Callicó

MAJOR WORKS

Robert Browning (1903)

The Napoleon of Notting Hill (1904)

Heretics (1905)

Charles Dickens (1906)

The Man Who Was Thursday:

A Nightmare (1908)

Orthodoxy (1908)

The Ball and the Cross (1909)

What's Wrong with the World (1910)

William Blake (1910)

The Ballad of the White Horse (1911)

St. Francis of Assisi (1923)

The Everlasting Man (1925)

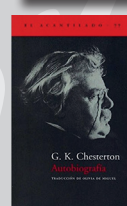
Robert Louis Stevenson (1927)

Chaucer (1932)

St. Thomas Aquinas:

The Dumb Ox (1933)

Autobiography (1936)



have been published in the United States (San Francisco, Ignatius Press). The Chesterton-Dorothy Collins papers are held in the British Library in London.

DISTRIBUTISM

Chesterton's work, be it fiction or non-fiction, forms a unitary body written following a Christian guideline, from Orthodoxy (1908), a spiritual autobiography, to his last essays in the daily press. Chesterton provided a new form of prose, ironic and brilliant, suggestive and thought-provoking, to convey his ideas through essays or works of fiction. After converting to Catholicism in 1922, he joined with enthusiasm the campaign for a fairer world, and thus gave a new shape to the social theories that emanated from Leo XIII's encyclicals. He defended, together with Hilaire Belloc, the doctrine of Distributism, which advocated, in the socio-political context of a European Second Industrial Revolution, an alternative economic system, envisaged as a middle way between socialism and global capitalism, that is, a more humane kind of capitalism that included ample distribution of property and respected individual liberties, to seek the common good and ensure human dignity. Close to a social democratic premonition, its fundamental aspect was the distribution of property among the maximum number of people: according to Chesterton, "too much capitalism does not mean too many capitalists, but too few capitalists". Distributism confronted overpowering imperialism, illustrated but despotic paternalism, the bureaucratic State and the utopias that grasped the world's attention at the time and would end up producing the devastating totalitarianisms of the 20th century.

CHESTERTON IN CATALONIA

Chesterton came twice to Catalonia, in May 1926 and May 1935. During his first visit on the invitation from the PEN Club's Catalan branch, he gave a lecture at Barcelona University, was awarded a lavish reception at the Ritz Hotel, visited the Ateneu Barcelonès and made a stay in Sitges, organized by *L'Amic de les Arts*, which he repeated in the second visit of 1935. Admired by a number of Catalan writers (Josep Carner, Joan Crexells, Marià Manent, Josep Pla, Pau Romeva or Maurici Serrahima, among others), he popularized a brand of journalism of a high literary quality, incisive and controversial, and inspired a Christian social way of thinking which took hold in the socio-political world of the first half of the 1930's. The extensive body of writings in the press regarding Chesterton, his work and his thinking constitutes a valuable heritage.

THE AUTHOR OF *FATHER BROWN*

Born in Kensington, London in 1874, Chesterton undertook a multi-faceted literary career as a journalist, polemicist, essayist, novelist, poet, lecturer, illustrator, and radio contributor. Though by the Edwardian age he was already an established writer thanks to *The Man Who Was Thursday* (1908), Chesterton never stopped contributing articles to newspapers and magazines. His popularity is mainly due to the success of the *Father Brown* detective stories, which make up five books –*The Innocence of Father Brown* (1911), *The Wisdom of Father Brown* (1914), *The Incredulity of Father Brown* (1926), *The Secret of Father Brown* (1927) and *The Scandal of Father Brown* (1935)– and have been brought to the stage and the screen later on. Chesterton confronted the materialistic optimism and the imperialism of the Victorian age as well as many prophecies of the modern age. His thinking endures through a thorough and wide-ranging legacy of essays, some published posthumously. He died on the 14th of June 1936 and is buried in Beaconsfield, together with his wife Frances and his secretary Dorothy Collins. His complete works



CENTRE D'ESTUDIS I DOCUMENTACIÓ

G. K. CHESTERTON STUDY AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

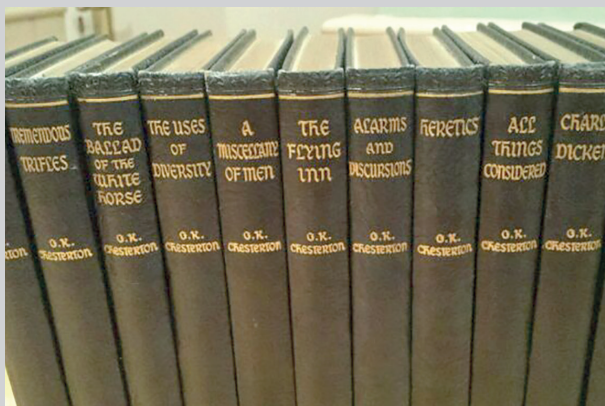
The G. K. Chesterton Study and Documentation / Centre (CEDGKC, from its Catalan initials) is a study and research facility focused on G. K. Chesterton's figure and its European context. Its origins can be traced to the donation of a specialized archive to the Facultat de Filosofia of Ramon Llull University. Through a documentation centre it manages two documental archives and a topic-based library. Among the aims of the CEDGKC are, in general, to share Chesterton's work and thinking and, in particular, to promote the investigation and study of his relationship with Catalonia, his influence on literature and journalism in Catalan, and the anglophile social and cultural context in which his work was received in Spain, be that directly or via France. The CEDGKC encourages ties and cooperation with other academic and Chestertonian institutions.

STUDY CENTRE

The Centre for Studies is an open and collaborative platform for researchers, scholars and followers of the life and work of G. K. Chesterton, his links to Catalan culture and Chestertonian ideology and its outreach in contemporary Europe. Advisory services for study and research are on offer, and resources have been developed (Atlas, Infographics, Timeline, Glossary) to disseminate Chesterton's work and thought and set them in their social and historical context. The Centre organises activities, participates in conventions and symposia and is scheduled to launch a documental collection.

DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The Centre for Documentation manages a documental archive specializing in the life, work and thinking of Chesterton and its dissemination around the world, and a second archive regarding the context of his reception and cultural and literary life during the Interwar period in Catalonia. The collection of books related to the author is deposited in the Biblioteca Pública Episcopal de Barcelona (BPEB). The Centre also houses a topic-based library that specializes in the field of social, cultural, literary and religious Anglophilia in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Centre of Documentation compiles the catalogues and a database is kept updated as a search tool for the general public.



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