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FAMOUS BRITISH AUTHORS DEFEND ENGLAND'S WAR

Fifty-three of the Best-Known Writers of the Empire Sign a Vigorous Document Saying That Great Britain Could Not Have Refused to Join the War Without Dishonor.

One of the most authoritative documents brought before the war, and among the most significant in the whole work of the leading British writers. The Prime Minister himself has declared it a "duty of the hour" and a " RECORD OF HONOR."

The authorized version of the document was presented to the press at a conference of the American Propaganda Bureau, with the following message:

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Arnold Bennett
Arthur Christopher Benson
Edward Frederic Benson
Very Rev. Monsignor Robert Hugh Benson
Lawrence Binyon
Andrew Cecil Bradley
Robert Bridges
Hall Caine
R. C. Carton
Charles Haddon Chambers
Gilbert K. Chesterton
Hubert Henry Davies
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of "Sherlock Holmes".
Herbert Albert Laurens Fisher
John Galsworthy
Anstey Guthrie (F. Anstey)
Sir Henry Rider Haggard
Thomas Hardy
Jane Ellen Harrison
Anthony Hope Hawkins (Anthony Hope)
Maurice Hewlett
Robert Hickens
Jerome K. Jerome
Henry Arthur Jones
Rudyard Kipling
William J. Locke
Edward Verral Lucas
John William Mackail
John Masefield
Alfred Edward Woodley
Gilbert Murray
Henry Newbolt
Barry Pain
Sir Gilbert Parker [Director of American Propaganda, British War Propaganda Bureau, Wellington House; editor and publisher of this propaganda piece]
Eden Phillpotts
Sir Arthur Wing Pinero
Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch
Sir Owen Seaman
George R. Sims
May Sinclair
Flora Annie Steel
Alfred Sutro
George Macaulay Trevelyan
Rt. Hon. George Otto Trevelyan
Humphry Ward
Mary A. Ward (Mrs. Humphry Ward)
H. G. Wells
Margaret L. Woods
Israel Zangwill

The new British War Propaganda Bureau had approached these authors earlier that month in a bid to secure the power of their pens—and the weight of their reputations—for the promotion of the empire’s cause throughout the world. The declaration provides a fascinating view of the period’s literary landscape; many of the authors listed are virtually unknown today, and some who remain popular are touted in the declaration for reasons that may now seem surprising. H.G. Wells, for example, is hailed not as the author of The Time Machine (1895) or The War of the Worlds (1898), but rather of Tono Bungay (1909) and Ann Veronica (1909).

Not to be outdone, German authorities responded to the declaration by bringing together an even larger assortment of artists, authors, and scientists to sign the Manifesto of the Ninety-Three, an astounding document which denied any German wrongdoing in Belgium and bewilderingly accused the Allies of “inciting Mongolians and negroes against the white race.”