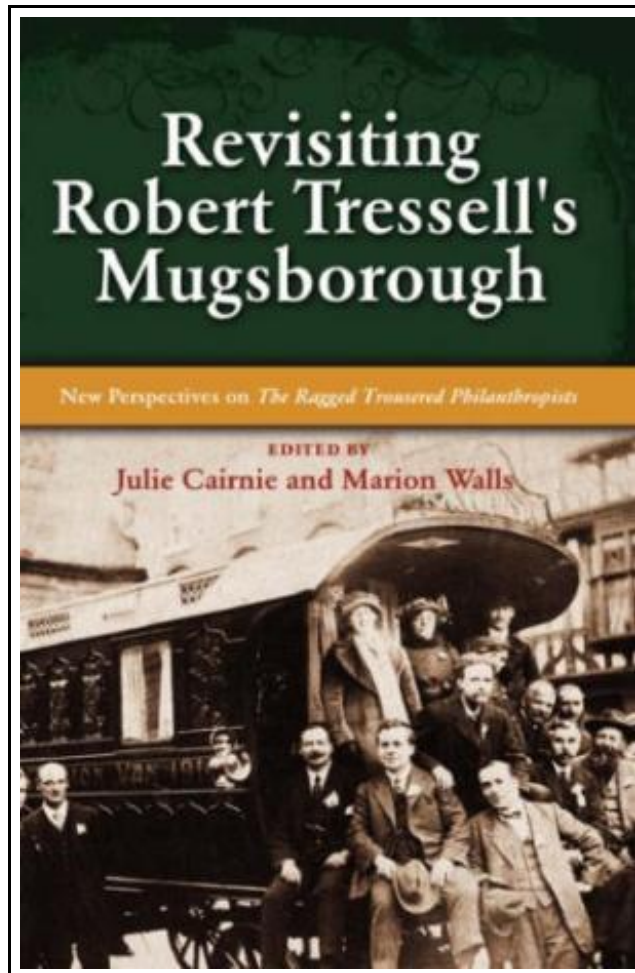


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Cambria Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 240 pages. Dimensions: 8.6in. x 5.5in. x 0.8in. Robert Noonan, whose pseudonym was Robert Tressell, was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1870, and died in Liverpool, England, in 1911. During his short life, he lived in three countries, Ireland, South Africa, and England, and was involved in and exposed to a range of progressive issues such as Irish nationalism, Boer nationalism, socialism, anti-imperialism, the co-operative movement, and the womens suffrage campaign. He endured the poverty of a painter and sign-writers wages, struggled to convert his fellow workers to socialism, experienced an acrimonious and ultimately secret divorce in South Africa, raised a daughter on his own, dreamed of a better life in Canada, and wrote a novel. The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists was first published posthumously in 1914. The narrative provided a focus for his view of society and its imperial and capitalist structures; it was a map that he hoped would guide a future working class to consciousness. It was desperately hard to write, particularly since he was labouring for fifty-six hours a week at times and suffering from a serious illness, likely tuberculosis. The text covers some sixteen hundred handwritten folio pages. Before he left for Liverpool in 1910, ostensibly to secure passages for him and his daughter to emigrate to Canada, he left the manuscript with his daughter, Kathleen. She eventually sold it the maverick publisher, Grant Richards, for twenty-five pounds. Once published, it proved to be a best seller, both in its heavily abridged editions (1914, 1918) and, since 1955, in its full edition. Much of this biography--particularly Tressells Irish, South African, and gendered experiences--has been omitted or treated as incidental. Readings of Tressells life and text have centered on their English, working-class, and socialist elements. The late Fred Ball researched the...



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