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The Complex Relationship Between America and France is Examined in this Unique, Perceptive Account

THE FRENCH AT HOME *A Nation's Character, Culture and Genius as Seen Through the Eyes of an American Diplomat* by **Albert Rhodes**

"The French at Home" contains bright sketches of French domestic and social life, and notes its contrasts with American and English characters and customs — Princeton Review

The singularities of French character and manners have been often described; never more accurately and graphically pictured perhaps than in a work entitled "The French at Home", by Consul Albert Rhodes — Ladies' Repository

In lively and witty prose, Albert Rhodes describes in **THE FRENCH AT HOME** (Rollright Books) the allures and foibles of the Gallic race. Early in American history, before certain prejudices had set in, this diplomat living in France shows the varied facets of French life, in an age when traditional ideas still predominated. Using many charming examples, Rhodes addresses such subjects as chivalry, speech, epigrams, dress, food — all the things that make the French so distinctive. French character, French culture, French taste, French politeness, French cookery, French art, and French desire for military glory, are all keenly observed by a well-educated, erudite American who has lived in France, thus one who knows how to tell what he has seen in a most effective manner.

Rhodes had many opportunities to observe European life during a lengthy foreign residence in the consular and diplomatic service; and the results of his observations are presented here in a form that could be considered both brilliant and instructive. Rhodes not only conveys the ordinary activities he observed as a resident in France, but he also attempts to look deeply into the French character, into a nation's "personality", to perceive what makes them better or worse than Americans. **THE FRENCH AT HOME** is a long neglected book that brings to life the manners and customs of the French at a time when the codes of gallantry were still in force, and art and culture were held in high esteem.

Americans have always made rather interesting appraisals of the French. On the one hand, the citizens of the New World have criticized their European counterparts for their social instability, their love of monarchy, their preoccupation with finery, their lack of interest in industrialism; yet at the same time, they have admired their elegance, traditions, art, music and great international influence. Rhodes was well aware of his young nation's uncertain, and at times unreasonable, assessments of this old European country, and his theories about the origins of these views make for fascinating

reading. A uniquely rewarding work for both Americans and Frenchmen, **THE FRENCH AT HOME** presents important information for those who desire to understand the cultural factors that shape current international public opinions.

Albert Rhodes was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1840. He was educated mainly at the academy of Elder's Ridge in the village of that name in Indiana county, Pennsylvania. He spent most of his career abroad in prestigious positions of authority, including representing America in diplomatic matters. During the administration of President Johnson, he was United States consul at Jerusalem, and under President Grant, he was consul at Rotterdam and charge d'affaires at the Hague. He was also consul at Rouen, France, and at Elberfeld, Germany, from 1877 to 1885. Rhodes frequently contributed to American, French, and British periodicals, largely on the characteristics of life and people on the European continent. Among his other books are *Jerusalem as it Is* (London, 1867); and *Monsieur at Home* (London, 1886).

Paul Dennis Sporer (editor) is the author of *The Dimensions of Companionship; Liberating Love; The Concept of Family*; and *Equal but Different*. He has also served as editor on more than 30 culturally and historically significant books, including *Painting Explained*, by Thomas Gullick; *Is Secession Treason?*, by Albert Bledsoe; *The Heart of Aryavarta*, by Lawrence Dundas; *Beauty and Art*, by Aldam Heaton; *The French at Home*, by Albert Rhodes; *From Slave Cabin to Pulpit*, by Peter Randolph; *Newer Ideals of Peace*, by Jane Addams; *Views of Old Europe*, by Bayard Taylor; *Gentle Measures*, by Jacob Abbott; *Parental Influences*, William Bacon; *Finding a Way Out*, by Robert Moton; *The New Birth*, by Austin Phelps; *Tupelo*, by John Hill Aughey; *An Incident of Travel*, Arthur Jerome Eddy; *End of an Era*, by John Sergeant Wise; *The Missionary*, by Samuel Mazzuchelli; *Half a Century*, by Jane Swisshelm; *Born Three Times*, by Thomas L. Johnson; *Dark Hollow*, by Anna Katharine Green; and *1492: Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Mary Johnston.

For further information about **THE FRENCH AT HOME**, or to arrange an interview with the editor, Paul Dennis Sporer, please contact Cassandra Foxton, [inform_at_anzapublishing.com](mailto:inform@anzapublishing.com). The publisher's website address is AnzaPublishing.com.

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