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“This new edition of Henry James’s memoirs displays scholarship at its most painstaking and brilliant. The footnotes to the text actually represent an ingenious new biography of James and a marvelous and accurate portrait of his family and his circle. Peter Collister has done us all a great favor in the way he has approached James’s efforts to re-create himself.”

—Colm Tóibín, author of *The Master*

Notes of a Son and Brother *and* The Middle Years *A Critical Edition*

By Henry James, *Edited by* Peter Collister

The first fully annotated critical edition of **NOTES OF A SON AND BROTHER and THE MIDDLE YEARS (May 2011; UVA Press)** offers the reader extensive support in appreciating the demands of James’s late prose, while illuminating the context in which one of literature’s most influential figures developed a characteristic voice.

After a childhood divided between America and Europe, Henry James settled with his family in New England. The family letters that inspired this autobiographical enterprise recount the early career of William James at Harvard and in Germany; reveal Henry James Sr.’s views on the intellectual, philosophical, and social issues of the time; capture Henry Jr.’s aspiration to be “just *literary*” and his indebtedness to the widely cultured artist John La Farge; record the Civil War through the letters of James’s younger brother Wilky; and document the death of his beloved cousin, Mary Temple, who would become the inspiration for some of his greatest fictional heroines.

In *The Middle Years* James, newly resident in London, gives his impressions of some of the literary “lions” of the time, most notably George Eliot and Tennyson.

Peter Collister is the author of *Writing the Self: Henry James and America*.

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