

Name Calling



Oscar Wilde on **Alexander Pope**

There are two ways of disliking poetry, one way is to dislike it, the other is to read Pope.



W. B. Yeats on **Wilfred Owen**

Unworthy of the poets' corner of a country newspaper.



Alfred Kazin on **William Faulkner**
Curiously dull, furiously commonplace, and often meaningless.



William Faulkner on **Henry James**
One of nicest old ladies I ever met.



David Niven on **Jayne Mansfield**
Miss United Dairies herself.



Joan Mitchell on **Helen Frankenthaler**
That tampon painter.



Samuel Taylor Coleridge on **Edward Gibbon**
Gibbon's style is detestable; but is not the worst thing about him.



Cecil Beaton on **Evelyn Waugh**
Died of snobbery.



Cyril Connolly on **George Orwell**
He could not blow his nose without moralizing on the state of the handkerchief industry.



Igor Stravinsky on **Benjamin Britten**
Not a composer. A kleptomaniac.



Zelda Fitzgerald on **Ernest Hemingway**
A pansy with hair on his chest.



Clifton Fadiman on **Gertrude Stein**
A past master in making nothing happen very slowly.



Dorothy Parker on **Katharine Hepburn**
She ran the whole gamut of emotion from A to B.



Harry Truman on **Adlai Stevenson**
No better than a regular sissy.



Mary McCarthy on **Lillian Hellman**
Every word she writes is a lie, including *and* and *the*.



Henry James on **Thomas Carlyle**
The same old sausage, fizzing and sputtering in its own grease.



Thomas Carlyle on **Ralph Waldo Emerson**
A hoary-headed and toothless baboon.



Ralph Waldo Emerson on **Algernon Charles Swinburne**
A leper and a mere sodomite.



Algernon Charles Swinburne on **Lord Byron**
The most affected of sensualists and the most pretentious of profligates.



Lord Byron on **William Cowper**
That maniacal Calvinist and coddled poet.



Edward Gibbon on **Samuel Johnson**
Greedy of every pretense to hate and persecute those who dissent from his creed.



Winston Churchill on **Charles de Gaulle**
Like a female llama surprised in her bath.



Samuel Johnson on **Oliver Goldsmith**
He goes on without knowing how he is to get off.



Thomas Babington Macaulay on **Socrates**
The more I read about him, the less I wonder that they poisoned him.



Margaret Kendal on **Sarah Bernhardt**
A great actress, from the waist down.



Ava Gardner on **Clark Gable**
The kind of guy who, if you say, "Hiya, Clark, how are yah?" is stuck for an answer.



Dwight Macdonald on **Doris Day**
As wholesome as a bowl of cornflakes and at least as sexy.



Gertrude Stein on **Ezra Pound**
A village explainer, excellent if you were a village, but if you were not, not.



Ezra Pound on **G. K. Chesterton**
Like a vile scum on a pond.