



# STEPHEN LEACOCK

humourist in the English language. In addition to such celebrated works as *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*, he wrote many volumes of history and political economy. His unfinished autobiography, *The Boy I Left Behind Me*, was published after his death in Toronto in 1944. An uncompromising individualist, he was profoundly suspicious of accepted leaders and institutions and seldom optimistic. "The half truth is to me a kind of mellow moonlight in which I love to dwell."

### Fuddle Duddle

"Fuddle Duddle" is what Prime Minister Trudeau claims to have said when responding to a member of the opposition in the House of Commons one memorable day in 1971. Actually, he apparently said something else. An opposition member summed up by saying: "The Prime Minister wishes to be obscene but not heard."

### A Leacock Recollection

"I spoke, I remember, on *The Value of Imbecility in Education*. It was more or less the same kind of talk that I have given at Port Arthur under the title *Our National Heritage*."

Stephen Leacock

### Blood Will Tell

"Uncle George was (no matter what mother may have felt about Uncle Teddy or the world thinks about Uncle Stephen) the very wittiest man in creation. And if you wonder why, being so witty, he did not become famous like Uncle Stephen, I think the whole thing really depended upon the fact that he couldn't spell and Uncle Stephen could."

Elizabeth Imball,  
*The Man in the Panama Hat,*  
*Reminiscences of My Uncle, Stephen Leacock*

### Manners

"Canadians are more polite when they are being rude, than Americans are when they are being friendly."

Edgar Z. Fridenberg,  
*The Vanishing Adolescent*

### Pysanka

The world's largest pysanka (Easter egg), eight metres high, is at Vegreville, Alberta's largest Ukrainian settlement.



Stephen Leacock once advised a young friend: "Do not ever try to be funny; it is a terrible curse." He was forty when he published his first book of humour, *Literary Lapses*, at his own expense in 1910. It was a notable success, and for twenty years he was the best-selling

## SEPTEMBER

## 1980

## SEPTEMBRE

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