



## **Maurice Baring's *Tinker's Leave***

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## Maurice Baring's *Tinker's Leave*<sup>1</sup>

Contribution to Linda Sternberg Katz and Bill Katz, *Writer's Choice: A Library of Rediscoveries* (Reston, Virginia, 1983: Reston Publishing Company), 7



*Drawing upon his experience as a correspondent for an English newspaper during the Russo–Japanese War, Baring tells the story of a young Englishman covering this war. The plot, however, is incidental to what is essentially a splendid combination of autobiography and travel book. Few people have understood Russia and Manchuria as well as the author, and this is obvious in the stimulating and refreshing prose.*

*[The Compilers]*

ISAIAH BERLIN, who recommends this work, says:

It gave me great pleasure when I read it before the war. [...] I like it because it seemed to me to give a very vivid picture of what it was like to be there then [Manchuria, 1904], for it did what very few novelists do – reproduced the conversation of civilised

<sup>1</sup> London, 1972: Heinemann.

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people accurately and fully. Thus I seem to remember that the journalist disputed whether north or south German literature was the more distinguished. Very few characters in novels, whether nineteenth- or twentieth-century, ever do what people like us do a good deal of the time – discuss books, opinions about artistic events, and generally behave in an altogether lifelike fashion.

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