



## Sorel

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# Sorel

*The Times Literary Supplement*, 14 January 1972, 40



*Georges Sorel*

TO THE EDITOR, *THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT*

Wolfson College, Oxford

Sir, –

Your correspondent C. J. Fox (January 7) suspects me (I cannot imagine why) of being unacquainted with *The Art of Being Ruled* by Wyndham Lewis. Had I wished to add to my already over-long text, I might have described my only meeting, nearly forty years ago, with Wyndham Lewis, in the course of which I asked him whether he still admired Sorel. He said something to the effect that it had been a passing fancy; Sorel's attack on democracy was, for him, more than offset by an unfortunate addiction to Bergson; both he and Hulme had tried to interest Eliot and Pound in Sorel, in vain; Eliot had quite rightly preferred Maurras, who was a far better antidote to formless Romanticism.

A WELCOME TO ROY JENKINS

I make no apology for not referring to Wyndham Lewis's early infatuation with Sorel, on which virtually every English-speaking commentator on him has remarked (and of which Mr Fox makes far too much), but I regret to have been able to say so little, partly through ignorance, on Sorel's considerable influence in Italy – not only on anarchists, Fascists and Futurists, but on the ideas, e.g., both of Croce and of Gramsci.

ISAIAH BERLIN

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