



# A Guide to Victorian & Edwardian Portraits

*Peter Funnell*

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## **A Guide to Victorian & Edwardian Portraits** Peter Funnell

Published in association with the National Trust. The Victorians and Edwardians believed passionately in the historical importance of their age and wanted to record the great figures of their time. During Queen Victoria's reign (1837-1901) Britain became the world's first industrialised commercial power. This wealth, combined with the prestige of the British empire, created an extraordinary source of patronage for portraiture, and a legacy that includes the world's first dedicated gallery of portraits - the National Portrait Gallery, London. This informative and accessible guide reveals an astonishing range of styles, techniques and subjects from the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Illustrations and engaging commentaries on sitters, from Charles Darwin to Virginia Woolf, shed light on the various ways in which people chose to be presented - wherever possible using the actual words of the artists, photographers and their subjects themselves. Although Edward VII's reign lasted for less than a decade (1901-10), he oversaw not only the growth of a more democratic state, but also the development of art education and training for women artists. The Edwardian sitters featured in this book reveal the changing society that came to influence twentieth-century British portraiture.

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