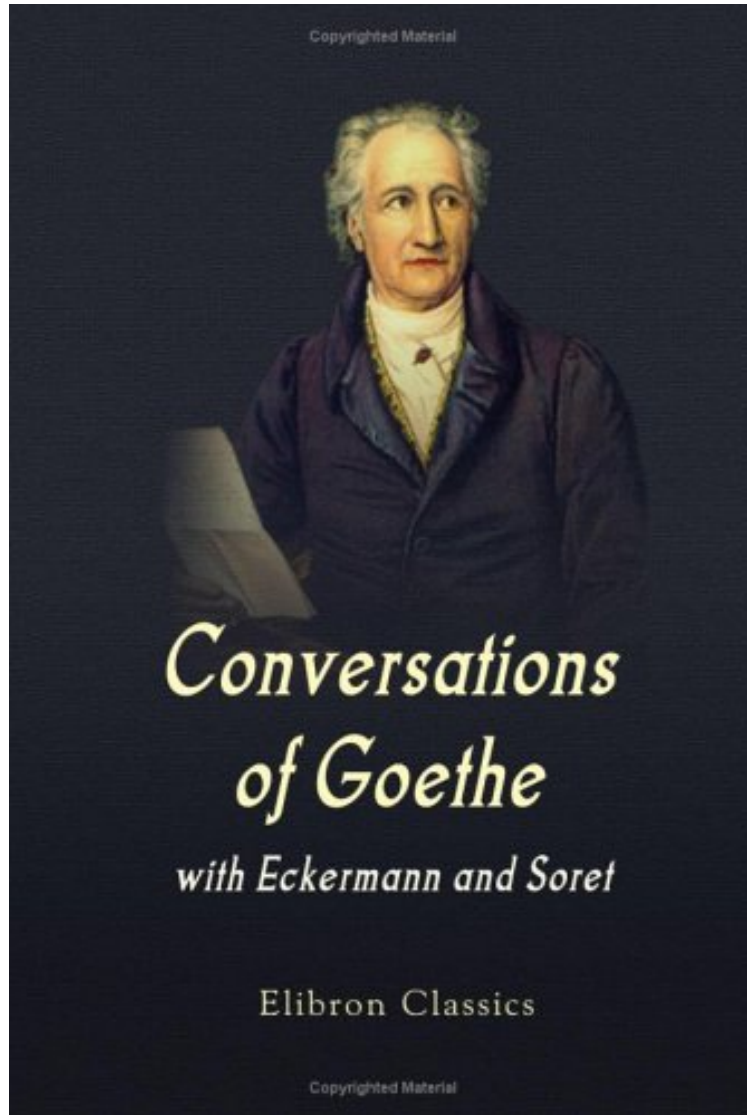


(Download pdf) Conversations of Goethe with Eckermann and Soret

Conversations of Goethe with Eckermann and Soret

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
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Johann Wolfgang von Goethe : Conversations of Goethe with Eckermann and Soret before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Conversations of Goethe with Eckermann and Soret:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Invaluable for Goethe scholars and admirers. By E.A. Bucchianeri During the last ten years of his life, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), the famous German author of "The Sorrows of Young Werther", "Egmont" and "Faust" became mentor to a young man named Johann Peter Eckermann who had decided to make writing his career. After a few years had passed, Eckermann began to compile

his most memorable conversations with the great poet, scientist and statesman of Weimar, and asked for his blessing to publish them. According to Eckermann, Goethe approved of the plan and directed which conversations should be printed. Trusting the dates provided by Eckermann, the first two volumes appeared about three years after Goethe's death in 1835, and a third volume with additional conversations was published in 1848, which also featured various discussions Goethe had with an acquaintance named M. Soret. This edition by Adamant is a complete facsimile of the 1883 English translation by John Oxford printed by William Clowes and Sons and revised by George Bell and Sons. Hence, you will find in this one book all three volumes, including the short autobiography of Eckermann. The entries compiled from the third volume, and Soret's conversations, are clearly marked. This is an important book as Goethe did not publish his autobiography in one complete form -- this edition chronicles Goethe's last decade and reveals his personal opinions on many interesting subjects. Of importance, there are discussions with Eckermann and Soret featuring Goethe's hindsight views of his earlier endeavours, and also discussions of his work-in-progress concerning his later writings, such as the "Novella" and "Faust Part Two". In addition, the style of this compilation is quite charming to read with its nineteenth-century expressions, which helps to bring the reader back to Goethe's era, even the font-style is reproduced exactly as seen in the 1883 edition. The original select index is also included. According to Eckermann, contemporaries agreed the conversations were true-to-life representations of Goethe's personality and manner of speech. This book is a real time-capsule, a gem for Goethe devotees. E.A. Bucchianeri, author of ...1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Loving portrait of a great human being By Bodhi Heeren When the young Eckermann arrived in Weimar it was mainly as a hopeful poet. Instead he turned out to be a valuable assistant for the great Goethe in the famous man's last years. And provided the world with an insightful portrait of the famous multi-talent in his older days. And Goethe was certainly highly creative to the last, working intensely on the second part of "Faust" right up til his death. And his discussions with Eckermann throws important light on this somewhat condensed and obscure work of art. We also get insights into Goethe's looks on art and nature. His relentless pursuit of beauty and depth and his firm belief that all forms of art was to serve the highest and most noble in humankind. Rather a far cry from today's aesthetics! And his equally firm belief in the spiritual basis for the nature that surrounds us. And maintaining that the scope of true science is to as far as possible uncover the Spirit which shows itself in nature, without ever reaching a full disclosure of the mystery. All in all Goethe comes across as a self-composed and friendly human being. Olympian yes, but not above and beyond a good dinner with a bottle of fine wine and some humorous conversation. Able to handle deaths of friends and family with dignity, and based in a natural and true spirituality. And occasionally getting very human, specially when somebody criticizes his theory of colours. In many ways this book can serve as a Western parallel to Mahendranath Gupta's "The Gospel Of Ramakrishna". An intelligent and keen observer's loving portrait of the man who changed and enriched their life.

This Elibron Classics book is a facsimile reprint of a 1883 edition by George Bell Sons, London.

About the Author Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), a towering figure in German literature, was the author of "The Sorrows of Young Werther, Faust, Italian Journey, The Theory of Colours" (MIT Press edition, 1970), and many other works.