



Introduction

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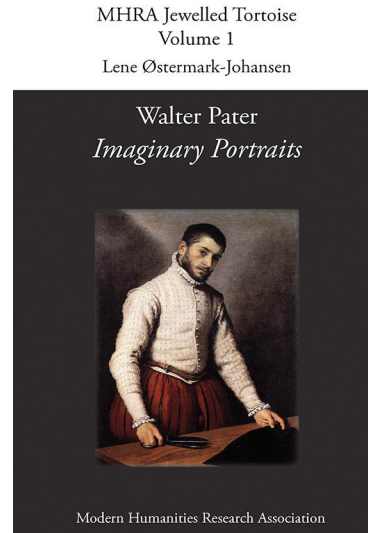
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Walter Pater is best known for his *Studies in the History of the Renaissance* (1873) and for his first novel *Marius the Epicurean* (1885). His short fiction deserves a much wider audience. This edition includes the four intricate and influential narratives he published as *Imaginary Portraits* in 1887 together with five of his other portraits, published only in periodical form. Fully annotated and supplemented by valuable contextual materials, this collection, the first critical edition of Pater's shorter fiction, makes accessible these extraordinary and impressive stories.



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