



## Robert Tressell - A Life in Hell: The Biography of the Author and His Ragged Trousered Philanthropists

By Ian Hernon

Red Axe Books, United Kingdom, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Over the last century the novel *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* has been credited with having more influence on the growth of the labour and trade union movement than Marx and Engels. Yet for a long time little was known about the author, a house-painter called Robert Tressell. Ian Hernon has traced his life from Victorian Ireland and South Africa to Edwardian Hastings and, ultimately, Liverpool. It is the story of how arguably the greatest novel about the English working class sprang to life from Tressell's bitter experience and first-hand observations. It is also the personal story of a workmate and single parent who was much-loved in life and venerated after his premature death before his masterpiece was published. That masterpiece has particular resonance in today's political climate of austerity and division. With a preface by Len McCluskey, General Secretary of Unite the Union. Ian Hernon has been a journalist since 1969 and a lobby correspondent in the House of Commons since 1978. He is deputy editor of *Tribune*. His nine previously-published history books include...



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