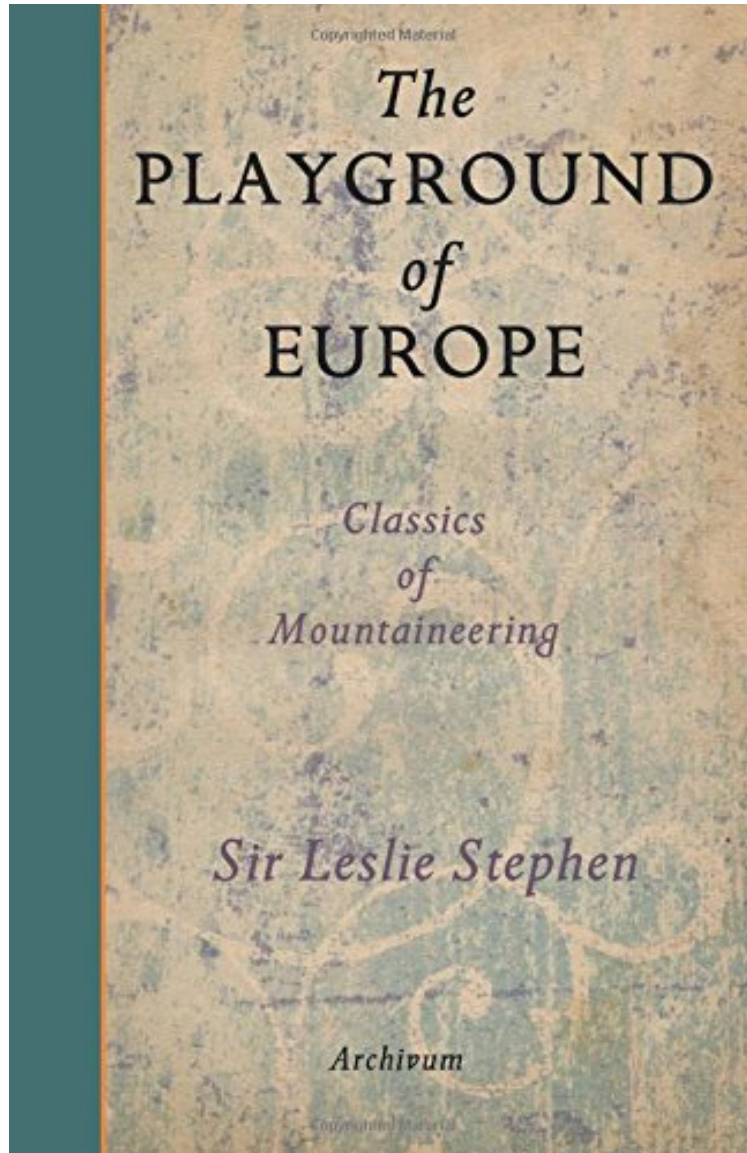


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The Playground of Europe

Leslie Stephen, G. Winthrop Young
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Leslie Stephen, G. Winthrop Young : The Playground of Europe before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Playground of Europe:

Sir Leslie Stephen (November 28, 1832-February 22, 1904) was an English author, critic, and mountaineer, and the father of Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell. Literary career: While at Cambridge, Stephen became an Anglican

clergyman. In 1865, having renounced his religious beliefs, and after a visit to the United States two years earlier, where he had formed lasting friendships with Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., James Russell Lowell, and Charles Eliot Norton, he settled in London and became a journalist, eventually editing the Cornhill Magazine in 1871, where R. L. Stevenson, Thomas Hardy, W. E. Norris, Henry James, and James Payne figured among his contributors. In his spare time, he participated in athletics and mountaineering. He was already known as a climber, as a contributor to *Peaks, Passes and Glaciers* (1862), and as one of the earliest presidents of the Alpine Club, when in 1871, in commemoration of his own first ascents in the Alps, he published *The Playground of Europe*, which immediately became a mountaineering classic, drawing - together with Whymper's *Scrambles Amongst the Alps* - successive generations of its readers to the Alps. Mountaineering: Stephen was one of the most prominent figures in the golden age of alpinism (the period between Wills's ascent of the Wetterhorn in 1854 and Whymper's ascent of the Matterhorn in 1865), during which many major alpine peaks saw their first ascents. Joining the Alpine Club in 1857, Stephen made the first ascent, with various other climbers and usually in the company of his favorite Swiss guide Melchior Anderegg, of the following peaks: Wildstrubel, Bietschhorn, Rimpfischhorn, Alphubel, Blemlisalphorn, Schreckhorn, Monte Disgrazia, Zinalrothorn, and Mont Mallet.

About the Author Sir Leslie Stephen is one of the most famous personalities in mountaineering, one of the most respected mountaineers and men of letters Britain has produced. His first ascent was in 1857 (Col du Geant). He was president of the Alpine Club from 1865 to 1868, and editor of the *Alpine Journal*.