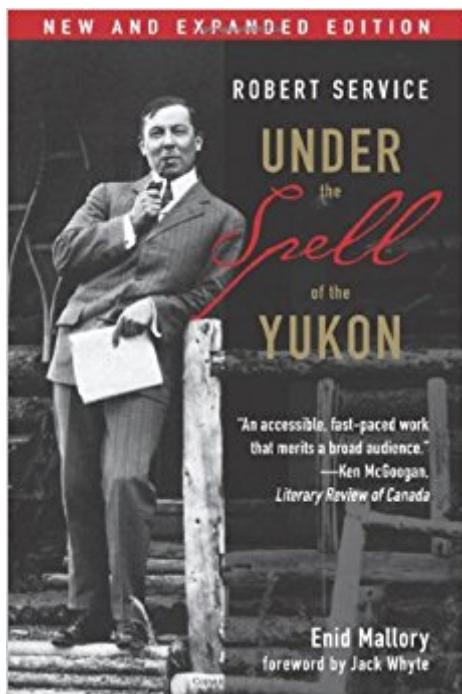


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# Robert Service: Under The Spell Of The Yukon, Second Edition



## **Synopsis**

In 1907, a shy bank clerk sent a collection of his poems south from the Yukon to be privately published and shared with a small group of friends. Fate intervened, however, and Robert Service became a household name across North America and throughout the British Commonwealth. Words were Service's lifelong passion, and he set them on many stages. But it was Dan McGrew, Sam McGee and other players of the Great White North who glittered with a golden glow and forever made him the ""Bard of the Yukon"" and the de facto Poet Laureate of Alaska. Enid Mallory's *Robert Service: Under the Spell of the Yukon* sheds new light on the life and career of this intriguing and intensely private man, and celebrates the poet's verse. This softcover edition includes a selection of some of Service's most loved poems, including ""The Cremation of Sam McGee,"" ""The Shooting of Dan McGrew,"" ""The Call of the Wild,"" ""The Spell of the Yukon"" and ""The Ballad of Blasphemous Bill.""

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Having finished this wonderfully readable biography by Enid Mallory, I find myself asserting that Service deserves to be celebrated as Canada's Robbie Burns, complete with statues and annual dinners --author Ken McGoogan, in *Literary Review of Canada*

Enid Swerdfeger Mallory was born near Ottawa, Ontario, and attended Queen's University before becoming a social worker. After she and her husband moved to Kawartha Lakes country to start a family, her interest in regional history led to a new career of writing and storytelling. Mallory has

written for Readers Digest, Canadian Geographic and The Beaver, and her previous books include The Remarkable Years: Canadians Remember the 20th Century, Close to the Earth: Have Your Garden and Eat it Too, Over the Counter: The Country Stores in Canada and Coppermine: The Far North of George M. Douglas. She resides in Peterborough, Ontario, with her husband, Gord.

Super biography of a writer who sought anonymity. Details are cited like a PhD thesis -- no rumors or gossip. Cross referenced, and many photographs. Collection of personal observations and a sampling of his best poems.. Mallory writes with skill and insight.

Robert Service, if anyone, could be called "the grandfather of cowboy poets." This has been a popular genre over the past few years and much of the work done by these wonderful men and women can be traced back to Service's poems and style. Being called the "Bard of the Yukon" is certainly true, but sells this particular writer short. His works include so much more than just the delightful poems of the Canadian Territory. Simply written, with a story, they are quite a delight for both old and young alike. In recent years, some of our elitist in our academic world have been less than kind to this poet. This is all well and good with me. They simply don't get it. Service's work will quite likely endure far longer than some of the ranting I read in the professional journals. I read these poems to young folks in my classes, and they seldom fail to delight and indeed, inspire. It is difficult to go wrong with this one. Highly recommend.

This is a very interesting biography of Canadian poet Robert Service, whose best known works include The Cremation of Sam McGee, Call of the Wild and The Shooting of Dan McGrew. Robert Service may not be well known among today's younger readers but he should be. He's a top rank poet whose work will be read centuries from now. Service and his poetry were certainly well known among people alive during Service's lifetime; one interesting anecdote in this book describes President Ronald Reagan reciting The Shooting of Dan McGrew from memory at a state dinner. For those not familiar with Robert Service's work, his best material is available from as free, yes free, downloads for Kindle. This book is worthwhile reading for anyone interested in literature.

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