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EDWARDS, HENRY SUTHERLAND (1828-1906)

Henry Sutherland Edwards was born at Hendon on 5 September 1828, and educated at Brompton Grammar School and in France before beginning a career in writing and journalism whilst in his teens. He collaborated with Robert Barnabas Brough and Augustus Septimus Mayhew for the London stage, including ‘The Goose with the Golden Eggs’. With James Hannay, he founded a rival to Punch titled Pasquin in 1847 and contributed to the title between August and October of that year. With Hannay, Edwards set up another Punch rival titled Puppet Show in 1848, before joining the staff of Punch in 1848 on the recommendation of Gilbert a’Beckett. He began his special correspondence work for the Illustrated Times, covering the coronation of Alexander II in Russia (1856) before beginning a decade’s work as special correspondent for The Times in 1861. During this time, he covered Warsaw (June 1861-2), Moscow (December 1861–February 1862), Berlin (February–March 1862), and Poland from March 1863 to November 1864 when he was expelled because of his amicable dealings with the insurgents. Edwards returned to St Petersburg in December 1863 where he stayed until February 1864, at which time he travelled to Moscow and Galicia. Finally, he travelled to the Low Countries and Baden Baden in 1870, before accompanying the German army during the Franco-Prussian war in France during 1871. In addition to his contributions to The Times, Edwards contributed to the Pall Mall Gazette on Balkan affairs in 1876, and wrote a series ‘In Later Life’ published in St James Gazette. He edited several publications, being the first editor of The Graphic (1869) and was founder and editor of The Portrait (1877). In later life, Edwards wrote several books on the politics and history of Europe (including The Polish Captivity [1863], The Private History of a Polish Insurrection [1865] and The Russians at Home: Unpolitical Sketches [1861]), in addition to his memoir Personal Recollections which he published in 1900. He died in London on 21 January 1906. AD

References: