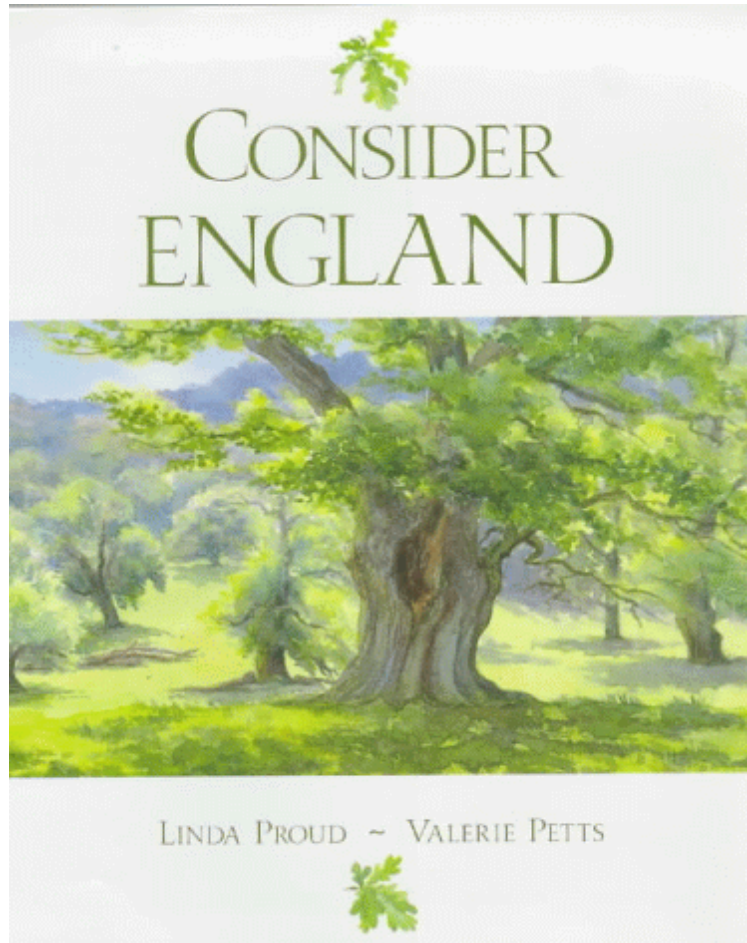


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## Consider England

*Linda Proud*

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**Linda Proud : Consider England** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Consider England:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful, well written, lovely DrawingsBy Dave RogersBeautiful book. If you love the English Countryside, you should consider this.

What is it that makes England English? What are the quintessentially English qualities? The author makes no claim to have discovered the definitive answer, but suggests that, "like a golden thread that is only visible when the sun shines on it, that which is most precious to the English is that which is commonly taken for granted". This book invites a reappraisal. The book suggests that qualities which have been very dear to the English over the ages, even though they have been covered over from time to time, are freedom, justice and truth. These qualities have found their expression in the development of the language, with its innate rhythms and simple structures, embodied in a literary tradition of extraordinary variety and richness. They are evident in the tenets of the Common Law and the unwritten constitution

of a free nation. They may be traced through a spiritual heritage distinct from dogma and sectarian bigotry. There is also a reminder of the part man has played in shaping the beauty of the countryside, a landscape that reflects the English character. At a time of bewildering change in the affairs of the world and the nation, this book gives readers an opportunity to reflect on those things which could be endangered by neglect and ignorance. The text is accompanied by 90 of Valerie Petts's paintings in that most English of art media, the watercolour. Together, word and picture celebrate the beauty and character of both rural and urban England, and invite readers to consider the English nation anew.

About the Author Linda Proud was born in the Home Counties. Having failed to be inspired by the form of education on offer in the 60s, she left school with big dreams and small prospects. The subsequent years of typing pools and shop floors came to an end when she began a career in picture research, which steeped her in art and history and allowed her devote more time to writing. Valerie Petts qualified as a medical technologist and worked for some years in clinical research. It was on her return to Oxford in 1979 that she began painting and, through watercolour, rediscovered her love of the English landscape. She has also painted in South Africa and a series of watercolours of Cape Town and its environs have been made into prints.