

A Short History of English Literature

I. Evans

May 19–25, 2019

A short comprehensive history of the above sort too easily degenerates into a mere catalog. Unimportant, but obviously noteworthy writers, get a few dutiful lines, more important ones get a few more, sometimes much more. In the first category you may look for writers you have not heard of, in the second category you are looking for outspoken opinions and maybe ideally some insight you have never thought of before. Anyway there will not be enough space to develop an argument, and it makes you appreciate the approach taken by Watt¹ where there is a fully extended narrative focusing on just a few protagonists, which can bring in a host of others in supporting roles. A mere historical cavalcade serves only two useful purposes. One hand it reminds the already knowledgeable whether he has forgotten anything obvious, on the other hand it can serve the student of literature as a crib, something to memorize in anticipation of a test. Not very important purposes.

The book is divided (didactically?) into four parts each chronologically presented. The first is on poetry, the second on the play and the stage, the third on the novel, and the fourth on prose, mopping up what has not already been covered, making a case for historians such as Gibbon and Macaulay, and philosophers such as Hobbes, Locke and Hume. Poetry starts almost from Anglo Saxon beginnings, plays a bit later and for novels there is not much to be said before Defoe (the 16th century example is not convincing enough). Poetry marches on steadily, each century having their fair share of talent. Different with the stage. The golden 17th century had its beginning already at the end of the 16th with Marlowe and his *Faustus* and the early plays by Shakespeare. In fact the entire century was of high class, and unfortunately so many of the playwrights, who stood on their own, have been overshadowed by Shakespeare. In fact, one surmises, had there been no Shakespeare, Ben Jonson would have been regarded as a genius. In the 18th century it was a steady decline and the entire 19th century produced nothing of any value, until the very end with Shaw and Wilde. There was a certain resurgence in the 20th and favorable mentions are made of Osborne and T.S. Eliot. The novel on the other hand did not get a footing until the 18th century, but reigned supreme during the 19th with an embarrassment of riches, and with no novelist really dominating, although when comes to popularity, sustainability and profuseness, Dickens stands out with his unique blend of pathos and comedy driven by sheer inventive power. A novelist should of course be inventive, but not necessarily in profusion. Jane Austen stands out as a peak of perfection, never surpassed in her own realm. And indeed, it is noteworthy how many women were successful novelists, especially when compared to music and painting. The putative prejudice they were supposed to be subjected to, should have worked as effectively in writing as in the other arts? But why not? The author does make the general remark but does not follow it up. We have Austen, the sisters Brontë (who owe a lot to the Gothic craze of the 19th century, but did

¹ In the previous review

transcend it through psychological sincerity in my opinion, it was not just done for effect), George Eliot (who chose a masculine pen-name, but that was an option also available to composers and painters), Gaskell, and a trend to continue into the 20th century. The novel survived into the 20th century but lost much of its vitality and became too eclectic and experimental. The novel was a popular entertainment in the previous century, just as opera, but became more elitist later on. Telling a story was no longer enough it had to be done in a contorted way, starting with Henry James, and then continued by Woolf and ultimately James Joyce, and after that the novel was never the same. Much of the popular appeal of the novel has in the 20th century been taken over by the TV-soaps. In fact the classical 19th century publication in installments in newspapers becoming more accessible and affordable, was for all intents and purposes soaps.

When it comes to prose, there really is not much to be said, or at least not much said by the author. The whole section has the taste of an add-on paying heed to the obvious fact that there is more to writing than to the writing of poetry, plays and novels. That prose has its own power and may come to its full fore only in extended arguments, is not really addressed. But after all this is not a book of ideas but of names.

May 27, 2019

The Short Oxford History of English Literature. The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life. The Yellow House: A Memoir (2019 National Book Award Winner). Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of Nike. Given all his other heavy responsibilities and achievements King Alfred's literary world is more remarkable but in the quantity of his writing and in the quality of his prose. himself. 1. English literature—History and criticism I. Title 820.9 PR83 Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data Blamires, Harry A short history of English literature Bibliography: p. Includes index. 1. English literature—History and criticism I. Title PR83.B5 1984 820'.9 84—8922 ISBN 0-203-13727-2 Master e-book ISBN ISBN 0-203-17749-5 (Adobe eReader Format) ISBN 0-415-05078-2 (Print Edition) Contents Preface vii Preface to the edition of 1984 viii 1 The fourteenth century 1 2 Fifteenth-century poetry and prose 19. 18th-century novel 201 15 The close of the eighteenth century 217 16 Wordsworth and the Romantics 231 17 Scott and contemporary novelists 255 18 Victorian poetry 270 19 The Victorian novel 301 20 Twentieth-century drama 331 v vi Contents 21 English literature includes literature composed in English by writers not necessarily from England, but all are considered important writers in the history of English literature (for example, Robert Burns was Scottish, James Joyce was Irish, Joseph Conrad was Polish, Dylan Thomas was Welsh, Thomas Pynchon is American, V.S. Naipaul was born in Trinidad). In other words, English literature is as diverse as the varieties and dialects of English spoken around the world. Until the early 19th century literature from Britain will mainly be discussed; then America starts to produce major writers and w... Fables. The emphasis of a fable is always on a moral. It's a short story, which has animals as main characters. Primitive myths. A History of English Literature is a comprehensive survey, in chronological fashion, of the major periods, authors and movements from Chaucer to the present. Written for undergraduate and postgraduate students in South Asian universities, this History locates authors, genres and developments within their social, political and historical contexts. Michael Ferber clarifies this in his book "Sentimentalism: A Short Introduction" by expressing that "Magnificence alone makes the entire world upbeat, and every last being overlooks its restrictions while under its spell" (20). At the point when the entire consideration is on the excellence of something, the individual overlooks his/her restrictions and this gives him/her delight. History of English Literature: Notes, Timeline, By Edward Albert, David Daiches & more; What are the 8 periods of English literature? Here is a detailed historical timeline of the History of English Literature from its beginning from the Classical Period to the Post-Modern Age: Major Periods. Highlights. A short history of english literature from St:Mary's College. Source: St:Mary's College. History of English Literature Summary. Let's explore some of these major periods of the English Literature in further detail: Old English Literature: 5th – 14th Century.

1. English literature—History and criticism I. Title 820.9 PR83 Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data Blamires, Harry A short history of English literature Bibliography: p. Includes index. 1. English literature—History and criticism I. Title PR83.B5 1984 820'.9 84—8922 ISBN 0-203-13727-2 Master e-book ISBN ISBN 0-203-17749-5 (Adobe eReader Format) ISBN 0-415-05078-2 (Print Edition) Contents Preface vii Preface to the edition of 1984 viii 1 The fourteenth century 1 2 Fifteenth-century poetry and prose 19. A eighteenth-century novel 201 15 The close of the eighteenth century 217 16 Wordsworth and the Romantics 231 17 Scott and contemporary novelists 255 18 Victorian poetry 270 19 The Victorian novel 301 20 Twentieth-century drama 331 v vi Contents 21 A History of English Literature is a comprehensive survey, in chronological fashion, of the major periods, authors and movements from Chaucer to the present. Written for undergraduate and postgraduate students in South Asian universities, this History locates authors, genres and developments within their social, political and historical contexts. Michael Ferber clarifies this in his book "Sentimentalism: A Short Introduction" by expressing that "Magnificence alone makes the entire world upbeat, and every last being overlooks its restrictions while under its spell" (20). At the point when the entire consideration is on the excellence of something, the individual overlooks his/her restrictions and this gives him/her delight. Since its first appearance in 1940, A Short History of English Literature has served countless readers as a perceptive, reliable, and readable guide. This fourth edition < revised and extended to include major poets, dramatists, and novelists of the present day < provides an invaluable map to the vast field of English literature. ...more. Get A Copy. Amazon. For Evans first published his "Short History of English Literature" in 1940 and by 1976 it had gone through many reprints as well as an end chapter by Bernard Bergonzi bringing it up to date with critiques of new writers such as Phillip Larkin, Anthony Burgess and John Osbourne. Cambridge Core - English Literature: General Interest - A Short History of English Literature. A History of English Literature is a comprehensive survey, in chronological fashion, of the major periods, authors and movements from Chaucer to the present. Written for undergraduate and postgraduate students in South Asian universities, this History locates authors, genres and developments within their social, political and historical contexts. Informed by contemporary literary and cultural theory, this account also prepares the student for further explorations in particular genres and periods in English literature. Aa. Aa. History of English Literature: English literature dates back exceeding five centuries. The literature not only represents authors or writers from almost every part of the world but also it had untapped almost every major genre of writings that one could possibly imagine. In this article on the history of English literature, you'll be getting a glimpse of almost every age of English literature. You will also know about the style of writing of the poets and authors that prevailed back then. In miracle plays, the actual story revolves around the main characters and on the other hand, the other characters were short reckoned or undervalued. Comic scenes were also a part of Miracle plays. Moreover, there were devil characters present in those plays.

English literature, the body of written works produced in the English language by inhabitants of the British Isles from the 7th century to the present, ranging from drama, poetry, and fiction to autobiography and historical writing. Key writers include Shakespeare and Jane Austen to Arundhati Roy and Kazuo Ishiguro. Fellow and Tutor in English Literature, Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford. Editor of *Matthew Arnold: Selected Poetry* and coeditor of *The Whole Music of Passion: New Essays on Swinburne*. See *Article History*.

English literature, the body of written works produced in the English language by inhabitants of the British Isles (including Ireland) from the 7th century to the present day. This article is focused on English-language literature rather than the literature of England, so that it includes writers from Scotland, Wales, the Crown dependencies, and the whole of Ireland, as well as literature in English from countries of the former British Empire, including the United States. However, until the early 19th century, it only deals with the literature of the United Kingdom, the Crown dependencies and Ireland. It does not include literature written in the other languages of Britain. The Old English language or Anglo-Saxon is the earliest form of English. The period is a long one and it is generally considered that Old English was spoken from about A.D. 600 to about 1100. Many of the poems of the period are pagan, in particular *Widsith* and *Beowulf*. The greatest English poem, *Beowulf* is the first English epic. The author of *Beowulf* is anonymous. It is a story of a brave young man *Beowulf* in 3182 lines. Alfred enriched Old English prose with his translations especially *Bede's Ecclesiastical History*. Aelfric is another important prose writer during Old English period. He is famous for his *Grammar*, *Homilies* and *Lives of the Saints*. Aelfric's prose is natural and easy and is very often alliterative.

CHAPTER 2. Middle English Literature.

Introduction Literary forms Old English, Middle English and Chaucer Tudor lyric poetry Renaissance drama Metaphysical poetry Epic poetry Restoration comedy Prose fiction and the novel. Romanticism Victorian poetry The Victorian novel Modern literature Writers outside mainstream movements Literature and culture Recent and future trends Evaluating literature Add to this page. Introduction.Â This guide reflects a view of literature which is sometimes described as canonical, and sometimes as a Dead White European Male view. That is, I have not especially sought to express my own value judgements but to reflect those which are commonly found in printed guides by judges whose views command more respect than mine. English literature, the body of written works produced in the English language by inhabitants of the British Isles from the 7th century to the present, ranging from drama, poetry, and fiction to autobiography and historical writing. Key writers include Shakespeare and Jane Austen to Arundhati Roy and Kazuo Ishiguro.Â Fellow in English, St. John's College, University of Cambridge. Editor of The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Theatre and York Mystery Plays. See Article History. English literature, the body of written works produced in the English language by inhabitants of the British Isles (including Ireland) from the 7th century to the present day. History of English Literature: English literature dates back exceeding five centuries. The literature not only represents authors or writers from almost every part of the world but also it had untapped almost every major genre of writings that one could possibly imagine. In this article on the history of English literature, youâ€™ll be getting a glimpse of almost every age of English literature. You will also know about the style of writing of the poets and authors that prevailed back then.Â In miracle plays, the actual story revolves around the main characters and on the other hand, the other characters were short reckoned or undervalued. Comic scenes were also a part of Miracle plays. Moreover, there were devil characters present in those plays.