

MAIN LITERARY TRENDS IN ANGLO-AMERICAN LITERATURE : A NECESSITY IN TEACHING LITERATURE

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SUMMARY

Is it important and necessary to know and make know main trends in Anglo-American Literature? the answer must be yes because of what follows. These trends are important for the new generation of modernist writers and readers in the sense that for the moment being it is a necessity to know these trends in order to situate a given author according to the way s/he is writing, thinking, expressing ideas... by doing so, to understand, analyze and interpret a work will be an easy task.

Keywords: *Literary trends, anglo-american literature, investigation, necessity, coherent essay, umbrella term, literary genres, British isles, Norman conquest, and modern literature.*

RÉSUMÉ

Est-il important et nécessaire de connaître et faire connaître les principaux courants ainsi que tendances de la littérature Anglo-Américaine ? A cette question la réponse ne peut qu'être oui et cela pour des raisons suivantes. Ces courants ou tendances sont importants pour la nouvelle génération d'écrivains et lecteurs modernes dans ce sens que par le temps qui court c'est une nécessité de connaître ces différentes tendances dans le but de situer un auteur donne selon sa façon d'écrire, de comprendre le monde, de penser, d'exprimer ses idées ... et par cette façon de faire le lecteur sera capable de comprendre, analyser, interpréter une œuvre donnée sans beaucoup trop de difficultés.

Mots-clés : *Courants littéraires, littérature Anglo-Américaine, investigation, nécessité, essai cohérent, terme générique, genres littéraires, îles britanniques, conquête normande et littérature moderne.*

INTRODUCTION

This paper is a coherent essay on the main literary trends century in Anglo-American literature, indicating the main genres (s) and the representative(s) or writer(s) and their contribution to literature.

Let's start with the first part of the paper based on the Anglo-American Literature. The title itself is composed of two words: Anglo or English and American. So, it is obvious to say a word on them before making a study itself.

1. Meaning

- The first is Anglo or English Literature; Anglo is a prefix indicating a relation to the Angles, England, the English people, or English Language, such as in the term Anglo-Saxon language. It is often used alone, somewhat loosely to refer to people of British Isles descent in the Americas, New Zealand and Australia.

Anglo is a late Latin prefix used to denote English. The word is derived from Anglia, the Latin name for England, and still the modern name of its eastern region. Anglia and England both mean Land of the Angles, a Germanic people originating in the north German peninsula of Angles.

- The second is American Literature which is the literature written or produced in the area of the United States and its preceding colonies (Harvey: 1946). During its early history, America was a series of British colonies on the eastern coast of the present-day United States. Therefore, its literary tradition begins as linked to the broader tradition of English literature. However, unique American characteristics and the breadth of its production usually now cause it to be considered a separate path and tradition.
- Both of them are connected to an umbrella term "literature " which can be defined as any written work. Etymologically, the term derives from Latin *litaritura/litteratura* "writing formed with letters", although some definitions include spoken or sung texts. More restrictively, it is writing that possesses literary merit. (courses.lumenlearning.com)

2. The importance of Anglo-American Literature

Taking into account what precedes, we have to state if it is important to know this literature. The question is not about literature but rather about the American aspect. Studying American literature encompasses understanding society. From this study, society can only improve by analyzing the writing in any culture. American literature has produced some of the most significant prose and poetry the world has seen (<https://www.enotes.com/why-do-w...> accessed on June 6th 2020 at 3:9 'PM)

3. Literary Genres

As far as its literary genres is concerned, these works include genres such as Epic poetry, Hagiography, Sermons, Bible Translations, Legal works, Chronicles, Riddles, and others (<https://www.cs.mcgill.co> Accessed on June 6th, 2020 at 3.20'PM).

4. Themes in this literature

The following are the themes treated in this literature:

- ✓ The American Dream
- ✓ Loss of Innocence
- ✓ Coming of Age
- ✓ Relationship with Nature
- ✓ Relationship with Society
- ✓ Relationship with Science
- ✓ Alienation and Isolation
- ✓ Survival of the Fittest
- ✓ Disillusionment
- ✓ Rebellion and Protest

Literary Genres is subdivided in many periods, viz :

- Old English or Anglo- Saxon Literature (428-1066)
- The Middle Ages (1066- 1485) and
- The Modern Period including the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th Centuries

In the following lines we are going to distinguish and discuss all of these periods based on what is asked by the lecturer.

I. OLD ENGLISH OR ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD (428-1066)

This century is distinguished by many various events in terms of occupation or invasions: Before the Roman occupation, the British Isles were inhabited by Celtic race that had two main branches:

- The Gaels in the North and West and
- The Britons in the South

They spoke a language similar to Welsh or Gaelic and only a few of their words remain in the language now spoken by the English people. We have to notice that this people had no authority, no administration, no army;

Then came the occupation of England by Romans who began it in the 1st Century BC and ended it in in the 5th Century AD. It's Julius Caesar who started it in year 55 BC, resumed by the Emperor Claudius in the year 43 and 84 AD and ended in 410 with the fall of Rome who fail to conquer Wales and Scotland and left behind them memories of their camp roads and military colonies.

After this occupation, there were others, such as:

- Kent came and occupied the land and chased the natives (Celtics) and stayed there for a long time (they could kill or push them at the corner).
- Saxons came and occupied.

These early occupiers were formed by:

- Jutes (Kent),
- Saxons with (Sussex, Wessex, Essex) and
- Angles (Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia)

The main literary genre during the Anglo-Saxon period was poetry that was dominated by 3 important writers:

- Caedmon from Wessex
- Cynewulf from Northumbria and the
- Vulnerable Bede

The later one has got **Prose as the main literary genre**, and the most important prose writer was **King Alfred**, with his **Alfred's Translations**. This also must be considered **as his contribution to Modern Literature**. There were characteristics to be mentioned for this period at two levels:

- In prosody that poetry was:
 - Stressed,
 - No rhyme scheme,
 - Based on alliteration and a
 - Strong use of caesura.
- In content that poetry had got the following:
 - Tone of praise (to the hero)
 - Heroic poetry
 - Use of Kennings
 - Religious

Brief this period encompasses literature written in Old English in Anglo-Saxon England. The literary styles or genres were Epic Poetry, Hagiography, sermons, Bible Translation and Chronicles. The literary masterpiece was also Beowulf.. We have to keep in mind that writing books by hands was a job needing much time and patience, so it was done entirely by monks and because of the oral origin of this literature, much of it is anonymous.

II. THE MIDDLE AGES (1066-1485)

This period is also known as Middle English or Medieval period. The 1st and the big is the Norman Conquest of 1066 done by William of Normandy; As the consequence, all post of authority were held by French speaking foreigners who helped William in the conquest and got those posts as reward. So, French was spoken by aristocratic people and English, by the masses. Many domains (government, law, chivalry and war, refined living, art and fashion, cooking)

were affected by French language. **Poetry was the most used literary genre** during this period and the stress was put on Christianity.

The 1st religious writer was **Richard Roll** of Ham pole (died in 1350). But between 1100 and 1350, all the writings were not religious, but what were called the miscellaneous types of writing (lyrics, love poems, debate poems and fabliaux) which is an introduction of a French style of life. There was also the metrical romance from three sources:

- Britain (tales of King Arthur)
- France (stories of Charlemagne)
- Rome (conquest of Alexander) Then came the legend of King Arthur (whose birth was magic) written by Geoffrey Chaucer and then by Wace who developed the story by adding many details.

The importance of the Arthurian Legend and the influence on later generations

King Arthur's legend has served of important source of many writers in English and American literature and this from the early Medieval Period, continued in the Renaissance and even in the Romantic Period.

- The first importance is due to the fact that this legend is the foundation of most important literary prose work of the whole Medieval Period **by Sir Thomas Malory's Morte d'Arthur** published after his death by **William Caxton**.
- The second importance is that of inspiring many writers such as:
 - Shakespeare (Legends of Lear and Cymbeline also Legend of Tritan and Iseult)
 - Sir Walter Scot (The Bridal of Tiermain which is an Arthurian story of 1813)
 - Alfred Lord Tennyson (Morte d'Arthur, Sir Galahway and Idylls of the King in 1842)
 - Bulwer (King Arthur)
 - M. Arnold (Tristan and Iseult in 1848)
 - William Morris (The Defense of Gunevere in 1858)
 - Mark Twain (A Connecticut Yankee in the King Arthur's Court).
 - T.H. White (The Once and Future King)
 - T.S. Eliot (Waste Land, French goes to Winel, To the Homeland, My Irish Child where you think about in the 20th C

Apart from the above works, there were also three best known poems of the Middle Ages:

- "Sir Gawain and the Green Knights" by an unknown poet in C1360
- "Piers Plowman" by William Langland in C 1370
- "The Canterbury Tales" by Geoffrey Chaucer in 1386

We can establish the characteristics of the Medieval poetry at two different levels: in prosody and in content. At the first level that poetry was adapted from French after the Norman Conquest. It is like the one of Modern English (alternately stressed, rhyming verse or alliterative verse from Old English characterized by stress, rhyme scheme, alliteration and repetition

At the second level, it was mainly lyric poetry, dealt with love, two main themes (religious and secular extremely conventional in theme and in form. We have also to keep in mind that the oldest Medieval lyric is the "Cuckoo Song" Then came the Age of Chaucer.

The Age of Chaucer (1340- 1400)

During this period Chaucer is the only one writer who dominated the whole of it. He is the greatest poet, he is the greatest writer of the 15th century and after him no one came, we had to wait until Shakespeare to talk about great writers. Chaucer; while young was sent to serve as a page in 1357, in the aristocratic households of England. He spent the rest of his life in close association with the ruling nobility of the Kingdom. Under Edward III's reign (1327-1377), Chaucer translated "Le Roman de la Rose (1369-1377) and was sent to France, whereas under the one of Henry IV (1377-1399), he was sent to Italy (1379) and published The Canterbury Tales (1386).

As Chaucer is considered to be one of the most important writers of this period, it is also obvious to say a word on his poetry. He was a court poet and critics divided his life into three main periods:

- His early years are marked by his influence of the French culture (1370)
- His middle years are marked by the influence of Italian culture (by Dante, Boccaccio and Petrarch).
- His later years are marked by the influence of English culture.

As far as his writings are concerned, we have to note the following:

- 1) Le Roman de la Rose was a popular book by that time, and Chaucer translated it from French into English (1360).
- 2) The Book of the Duchess (1370) is the earliest of his work and one of his most original poems.
- 3) By 1375, Chaucer read and began to translate the Consolation of Boethius.
- 4) The House of Fame, here also, Chaucer was studying the Italian writers, cited in his middle years, and feeding his mind with the Humanism of the Italian early Renaissance.
- 5) The poem "Troilus and Cuseyde", shows his influence, especially that of Boccaccio.
- 6) The Parliament of Fowls, here Chaucer combines personal characterization and social satire as he classified English society into :
 - Birds of prey (Nobility)

- Worm-and the fowl (Bourgeoisie)
 - Seed-fowls (Clergy or agriculture)
 - Water (mercantile class)
- 7) In the legend of Good Women, Chaucer praises great women such as Cleopatra, Dido and Lucrece.
- 8) The Canterbury Tales (1386) is his **master piece**.

In 1372, he visited the continent, got into contact with Italian writers. What they did for the literature of their lands, Chaucer was soon to do it for English literature. Brief in this period religious literature continued to enjoy popularity and Hagiography were written, adapted and translated. The genres were Romance, bible translations and the literary masterpieces were The Canterbury Tales of Geoffrey Chaucer and The Green Knights of Sir Gawain.

I) The 14th Century

- 1327-1377: Reign of Edward III
- 1340-1400: Chaucer's birth and death
- 1377-1399: Reign of Richard II
- 1399: a) Henry IV deposited his cousin Richard II and became King of England
 - b) Beginning of the war of Roses which goes till 1485. (We have to note that it was about the succession on the throne and the main question was "Who will be the King?").

II) The 15th Century

- 1400: Chaucer's death
- 1420: Henry V was declared ruler of France
- 1431: Death of Joan of Arc, burnt at Rouen. France regained all her lost possession
- 1440: Invention of printing by the German Guttenberg.
- 1442: England and France were again in war.
- 1453: a) End of the 100 year's War between England and France
 - b) The fall of Constantinople
- 1485: a) End of Middle Ages
 - b) End of the War of Roses
 - c) Publication by William Caxton of Sir Thomas Malory's Morte d'Arthur
 - d) Ascension on the throne of Henry VII who inaugurated the age of the Tudor Sovereignty.
 - e) Beginning of the 16th Century/Renaissance and Humanism.

III) The 16th Century

This century is one of the most important centuries in the history of English literature, and perhaps the greatest for many reasons:

- The religious reformation with Martin Luther (1517)
- The Renaissance Movement
- Humanism
- The rise of English Drama with Shakespeare
- The time of that Shakespeare who has been unsurpassed until today, and whose reputation compared to that of the Greek tragedian Aeschylus in the 6th century BC
- More poets, dramatists, poetry and drama were produced than ever in the past
- The Introduction of the Sonnet form into English literature
- The invention of printing and its introduction into England in 1576 by William Caxton,
- Many translations of the bible are achieved such as by William Tyndale,
- The first theater was built in London.

Now let's say a word on important characteristics of some of this century's events:

o **The religious Reformation**

This reformation started in Germany and quickly spread in England. In 1517, Martin Luther stuck his famous theses to the church door in Wittenberg, and this was the beginning of the reformation In Catholic church: For those who supported it , it was a return to pure Christianity but for Catholics, it was damnable heresy.

o **The Renaissance Movement and Humanism**

Renaissance is the greatest literary movement throughout Europe in the 16th century. It started in Italy during the Middle Ages with Petrarch, it also started in the same period in England but the change began with Chaucer's day.

Note that when came the 16th century (Oxford, Cambridge 1230), people noticed that they have read Bible too much and extensively, but have neglected **Man**. They should now directed an eye to **Man** and this is the beginning of HUMANISM, putting Man at the center of all interest. With this movement, Petrarch, Boccaccio and Dante are considered to be great humanists. So, from the 16th century until now people are still under the influence of Humanism.

○ **The Invention of Printing**

When introduced to England by Williams Caxton in 1476, the invention of printing revolutionized literature as manuscripts literature had been an expensive and time-consuming form.

○ **The Rise or Development of the English Drama**

Drama began in the Middle and reached its highest point during Elizabethan reign with the greatest English playwright, William Shakespeare (1564-1616). The new interest in Man himself during Renaissance found its most natural expression in the Drama; We have to note that Renaissance is subdivided into two main parts:

- a) The early Renaissance with Chaucer and
- b) The late Renaissance with Queen Elizabeth.

This period had four representatives:

- a) Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503-1542)
- b) Henry Howard Earl of Surrey (1517- 1547)
- c) Roger Ascham
- d) Another whose name is unknown

Note that these four writers brought a new form of poetry from Italy and introduced it in English literature. This form is known as SONNET, initiated by Petrarch and that is the reason why this sonnet is called **Petrarchan Sonnet**. The sonnet falls in what we call lyric which deals with love. In terms of content, the first 8 lines (Octet) present the problem and the last 6 ones (Sestet) give the solution. During this period three (3) types of sonnet are to be distinguished as follows:

SPELLINGS	SCHEMAS	OBSERVATIONS
Petrarchan Sonnet	a-b-b-a, a-b-a-b. c-d-e-c-d-e or c-d-c-d-c-d	8 first lines (Octet) present the problem 6 last lines (Sestet) give the solution There is a break between the 2
Miltonic Sonnet	a-b-b-a, a-b-a-b c-d-e-c-d-e or c-d-c-d-c-d	8 first lines (Octet) present the problem 6 last lines (Sestet) give the solution There is no break between the 2
Shakespearean Sonnet	a-b-a-b; c-d-c-d; e-f-e-f; g-g	3 quatrain and 1 couplet

The Elizabethan poetry are Sir Philip Sidney, Edmund Spenser (1552-1599) and William Shakespeare (1564-1616). Sidney was the to deal with a sonnet sequence called "Astrophel and Stella" (Love matters in pastoral tradition); Spenser was the second with his called "Amoretti" (Inspired by his love for his wife). The third English poet to write sonnet sequences is William Shakespeare (many sonnet sequences are pastoral but his is not). What is surprising about him is that he did not go to university, yet he wrote poetry plays, better than the others, so that some people thought his people for instance were written by Francis Bacon. But this is not true because Shakespeare was a genius. He started his sonnets during the 1590 s.

Marlowe is another poet of this age, beside Sidney, Spenser and Shakespeare. His contribution in poetry is the introduction of poetry called **Blank Verse**. Then came the 17th century.

o **The 17th Century**

The 17th Century English Literature (1603-1660) is defined as that period going from the accession of the 1st Stuart (James I in 1603) to the Restoration of the 3RD Stuart (Charles II in 1660).

It is obvious to mention that the end of the Renaissance had been a time of self-questioning and skepticism. Bests of that time such as Sidney and John Donne spoke of "*Man's loss of sense of direction in the chaos of his new freedom in a world*" which means that "*All is in pieces, all coherence has gone*"

This feeling of disillusionment coincided with the end of Elizabeth's reign. Brief this period was:

- The one when "times are out of joint" as said by Hamlet.
- When signs of economic, political and religious unrest because more and more apparent.
- Time of "lonely and divided souls".
- A period of great change, especially with much activity, much confusion, violence

Poetry during this period was represented by the following poets:

1) John Donne

The Elizabethan poets had written beautiful lyrics chiefly inspired by love, and had deep feelings:

- Religious anxiety
- Thought of the transience of beauty
- Fear of death

Donne is also called a metaphysical poet as his poems are difficult to understand and highly intellectual. His style was adopted by some poets in the

court who were supporting the King's cause and therefore called Cavalier Poets. Among the puritan writers, the most illustrious was **John Milton** and the most popular was **John Bunyan** (Sign Post cited in Ngwaba 2020).

As far as the characteristics of his poetry are concerned, John Donne's poetry was different from that one of his contemporaries although based on love which for him was not (a) a one-way adoration (not with flattery); (b) poetry should be sincere and meaningful (based on thinking) rather than beautiful, (c) he usually uses contradictions in his poems, (d) the goal of his poetry is to shock the reader, to astonish. Brief his poetry is highly intellectual, difficult to understand, contains philosophical ideas, unconventional, and has no taste.

As for his contribution to literature is concerned Donne is a great writer of conceit verse, prose. And with this he inspired many writers such as S.B. Yeats, T.S. Eliot... *Death be not Proud* and *The Flea* are considered to be his masterpieces.

2) Ben Jonson

He was born in 1572 and died in 1637. He was witty, intelligent, well read, an as capable as he was a playwright; He is called a sugary poet, started as a cavalier poet and later joined the pastoral tradition. He was the second after Shakespeare as far as drama and playwright is concerned. (Kate O' Connor at <http://writersinspire.org/content/ben-jonson-renaissance-playwright-renaissance-man> . Accessed on Tuesday, July 14, 2022 15.20).

His poetry was a reaction against Donne's one. He is a Cavalier and Carpe Diem poem. Contrary to Donne, his goal is to please the reader; he had good taste. As for his style, Jonson disciplined the English language by creating a clear, concise and polished style which is also conventional, easy to understand and beautiful with a good taste. In this way he forms a bridge between the Elizabethan and classical period of English literature...

As far as his contribution to literature is concerned, Jonson influenced considerably his contemporaries and the following generations. His poetry lasted well in the 18th Century. He is the second great poet critic after Sidney (Sign Post, cited in Ngwaba 2020)

3) Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

He is the most prominent and the greater writer of the 17th century. The most important of his works are his **Essays** written in 1597-1625. His devotion of science overthrew him to death and is though considered to be the father of inductive method. His contribution is remarkable in the quarrel between the ancients and the moderns which is great and significant.

○ **Restoration and the 18th Century (1660-1798)**

A. Restoration Period

Restoration period had got the following writers as representatives:

1. John Milton(1608- 1674)

He is a poet, playwright and prose writer influenced by the spirit of his time (Restoration). He belongs to the 17th Century, but in mentality and ideas, he is classified among renaissance poets; on the other hand he is a romantic poet as he speaks in his own voice.

As far as his poetry is concerned John Milton wrote both poems and sonnets, lyrics, Odes and Elegy: **Lycidas is considered to be his literary masterpiece.** We have to note that his writings are stuck to different periods according to different events:

- His early poetry (1622-1640) comprising Lyric poems, Odes and Elegy "Lycidas" (1637).
- The period of Civil War and Commonwealth during which he devoted his energies to furthering the Parliamentary and the writing of numerous prose pamphlets.
- The period after the restoration: Paradise Lost written between 1658-1664 (which shows the sin committed by Adam and Eve), Paradise Regained written in 1674 (which shows the hope of salvation with Jesus Christ) and Samson Agonies in 1674 (which shows the circumstances of Samson's death).

He used his sonnet as an expression of personal feelings and thoughts. He is considered to be the last writer of the English Renaissance.

2. John Dryden (1663-1700)

Critic, prose writer and great dramatic poet, the most eminent writer of drama and criticism of the restoration. His poems were composed of lyrics, satiric poems, and several controversial poems on religious subjects. **An Essay on Dramatic Poetry** is considered to be his masterpiece. As for his contribution to literature:

- His formulation of heroic couplet, a new kind of poetry.
- His improvement of the poetic matters: correctness, refinement, propriety, elegancy, good numbers, good sense. (Hymes cited in Ngwaba 2020).
- He popularized the use of heroic couplet.
- He earned the modern reputation of Chaucer
- He refined and polished the English language.

As for the characteristics of his poetry are concerned, it was:

- An authentic inspiration

- Satirical
- Musical value
- Many repetitions

B. The 18th Century

This age is known as the age of reason or enlightenment, prose, classicism, neo-classicism, tolerance and of common sense. All these because:

- During this period the intellect was considered at the top, where everything must be proofed by reason and not by feelings.
- During this period there was an intense use of prosaic writings; brief prose surpassed poetry.
- Classical precepts taught in France by Boileau and in England by Dryden and Pope ruled. English literature for the greater part of the century. This century was characterized by: An outward perfection of form, Clearness, Concision, Elegance, Lyric poetry, order, Coolness Factual, Impersonality, Reason, Good sense, Scrupulous fidelity to facts.

After Dryden, it was Pope the greatest prose writer. His 1st publication is "Pastoral" in 1709. He considered poetry to be an imitation of nature. His sources of inspiration were class writers such as of ancient Greece and Rome, mainly Horace. Dryden also largely inspired him so that it is impossible to talk about Pope's achievements as a poet without speaking of Dryden. (Browner R. cited in Ngwaba 2020).

As masterpieces, Pope wrote the following important poems:

- a) An Essay on Criticism (1711)
- b) The Rape of the Lock (1712)
- c) Essay on Man (1734)
- d) Dunciad
- e) A translation of "Iliad"

His style was (1) look of exact words, (2) not lyric, Pope doesn't sing, (3) aphoristic, (4) strictly iambic pentameters decasyllabic, (5) heroic.

Other poets of this century are Johnathan Swift, M. Prior, Joy Gay, Ambrose Philips,

C. The 19th Century

1) Historical background

This period must be divided into two parts viz the early 19th Century or Romanticism or Romantic period and the later 19th Century or Victorian Age. The beginning of the 19th Century had been a time of political and social unrest in much Europe: (1) Industrial revolution had changed, (2) Living conditions

in the industrial towns were bad, (3) Social conditions of different sort had provoked the French Revolution in 1789.

2) *The reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901)*

This term Victoria summarizes the attitudes and beliefs of a whole society where peace was found in all; unfortunately this peace came to be troubled by two books (1) *The Origin of Species* by Darwin in 1859 and (2) *Das Kapital* by Karl Max in 1867.

3) *The Romantic Movement (1798-1837)*

This term means the revolt against most of the ideas held in Neo Classicism. Its representative was the *German Goethe with his Faust as a masterpiece*. Its characteristics were: (1) Emotional and imaginative (2) Acted through inspiration and intuition, (3) Spontaneous.

D. The 1st great romanticists are:

a) William Blake (1775-1827)

He was a great genius poet of the end of the 18th Century. For him children are the most innocent of God creatures. His poems' themes are religious, his style is original, he used song meter or lyric and rhetorical questions in his poems.

b) William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

His early experiences of nature left a deep mark upon his poetry which leads him to become a poet laureate in 1843. His conception of poetry is that, it should be written in the language of the common man and should talk about incidents and situations from common life... (Ngwaba 2020, p.71).

He explained that this happens as follows:

- First, things that the poet sees or experiences stir an emotion in him.
- Second, this emotion is collected in the tranquility of meditation till the actual emotion has become a poetic emotion.
- Third, the poetic emotion, now grown powerful, spontaneously overflows in expressions.

Brief, he found beauty in the realities of life.

c) Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)

In his poems he tries to make imagination and unreal things credible; he found beauty in the unreal. So he introduces the supernatural and the mysterious. "**The Rime of the Ancient Mariner**" is considered to be his literary masterpiece

E. The Younger Romanticists

a) Lord Byron (1788-1824)

He was an idealist writer who hopes for human perfection put his recognition of man's faults led him frequently to despair and disillusionment. Much of his work is a satire, bitterly contemptuous of human foibles. "**Don Juan**" is his literary masterpiece.

b) Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)

He was a great friend of Byron, great English lyric poet. His literary masterpiece is "Ozymandias" For him a poet. Is a prophet who sees things in the way that other people do not see them, someone who has got a superior understanding of the world and may be someone to whom the divinity speaks.

c) John Keats (1795-1821)

He is greater than either Byron or Shelley. He believed that true happiness was to be found in art and natural beauty. So for him beauty is joys forever i.e. before, when and after, things are the same. His literary masterpiece is "Ode to Grecian Urn".

The Romantic period conceptualized differently beauty- truth concept. In the 18th century, truth means an agreement *between what is said, and what is fact*. In the 19th century, truth is an *ontological meaning not logical meaning*; Plato distinguished 3 characteristics of reality: truth- Goodness- Beauty and two faculties the Intellectual and the Will.

Victorian Literature, Main genre: Prose

Literature of the Victorian Age was intimately related to life and thoughts of time.

1. Poetry

Victorian poetry reflected the conflicting theories of the age and was characterized by the spirit of quest, and by the search of certainty. Here are some of the poets or writers of this period are:

a) Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809- 1892)

He is the most representative poet of this period and the most popular poet of the age, popularity due to the fact that he closely sympathizes with patriotism, the institutions and the thought of his native land. His poetry is the work of a master craftsman and is notable for its rich musical effects, clear and uncomplicated, using simple language and landscape." **In Memoriam**" is his literary masterpiece.

b) Elizabeth Beret Browning (1806- 1861).

She wrote an exquisite love poem "*Sonnets Form the Portuguese*, ", written secretly while she was being courted by Robert Browning.

c) *Mathew Arnold (1822- 1888)*

He was one of the great poets and one of the most influential critics of his life. He was interested in making Englishmen aware of higher values of life. His poetry tinged with pessimism and doubt.

d) *Fitzgerald (1809- 1883)*

He wrote much more..

The Pre Raphaelite Brother School

It is a literary movement of painters. The best known of them is Dante Gabriel Rossetti and his sister Christina Rossetti. It has the influence of medieval discovery. It was a return to the medieval poetry and painting.

a) *William Morris (1834- 1846)*

He has much influence on G. B. Shaw

b) *Algernon Charles Swinburne (1837- 1909)*

Disciple of Christina Rossetti. After him came George Bernard Shaw.

English Catholic writers of the 19th century

a) John Henry Newman

b) Gerald Manley Hopkins (1844- 1889)

He had an intense sensuous awareness of the beauties of nature. His poetry has to be divided into 2 periods:

- Early period (1875) marked by the richness of visual imagery and variety of experiment.
- Late period (1885) to his death; period of despair and is most noted for what are called his "terrible sonnet".

One of his great merits is his *sense of precise detail*; the theory of In - Escape. "Sprung Rhythm" is his literary masterpiece. His poetry was characterized by the following:

- Very compressed
- Reliance upon stress of syllabus count
- Use of alliteration

We have to note that he is from the 19th century but to some extent is considered to be of 20th century.

He contributed to literature in the way that his poetry marks one of the most significant developments in the use of the sonnet form since the 17th century.

19th Century American Literature: Poetry

During this period two literary trends raised: the **American Renaissance** or **Transcendentalist Romanticism** and the **Realism**.

1) Philip Freneau (1820-1865)

One of the first great nationalist poets. He wrote "The British Prison Ship" which is considered as his literary master piece.

2) William Cullen Bryant

3) Edgar Allan Poe

The next after Bryant; but the first great American literature critic. His works were characterized by the fact that they were individual, wild, irregular, use of symbols.

4) Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803- 1889)

He is the head of Transcendentalism, he is its **representative**. Emerson's poetry was not a proper style to poetry; it was too declarative, too thin, too prosaic, and proper to a sage and not to a poet, proper to a visionary preacher but not to an artist. As contribution to literature:

- Liberator from all conventions
- Leader in experimentation and
- Self-Reliance (a man should trust himself to decide what was right and act accordingly)
- Faith in oneself
- Make impossible possible
- Development of self-reliance/self-confidence
- Stop admiring individuality and European culture

5) Walt Whitman

He wrote "Leaves of Grass" which is his literary masterpiece. His poetry was characterized by unconventional style based on man and nature. His use of free verse is of great importance in contributing to literature.

6) Langston Hughes

His poems were characterized by slave trade, slavery, slave living conditions, racial segregation and humanism renaissance.

The 20th century

This century has to be subdivided into these main and important periods:

- 1901- 1910: Reign of Edward VII
- 1910-1936: Reign of George V
- 1917: Year of Russian Revolution

- 1936: Accession of Edward VIII
- 1936- 1952: Accession and Reign of George VI
- From 1952 till nowadays: Reign of Elizabeth II

Characteristics of English literature from 1870- 1945

- Search of new myth
- Use of irony, paradox, and ambiguity
- Writers are considered as makers of mythology
- Disappearance of tragic and heroic characters
- Appearance of the anti-hero

William Butler Yeats is the most important and the greatest English poet of the 20th Century. He created his own mythology to explain all elements. "The Second Coming" is considered to be his masterpiece

The second representative is **T.S. Eliot** with his masterpiece "The Journey of the Magi". As characteristics of his poems::

- Juxtaposition of images as a reaction to sentimental Romanticism
- Less decorative but more conventional
- Restructuring of language
- Extensive use of symbolism
- Not merely intellectual
- Impersonality
- Allusive quality
- Importance of the individual image
- Poetry was not the expressions of personality but an escape from personality.

As for his contribution, Eliot warned people to use conversion in Christ for salvation and the examination of life.

W.H. Auden (1907-1973), he is the most important for the 1930s. The problems of the modern man were those based on more immediate social and economic needs. His *poetry* was impersonal, clinical and analytical precise, moralist, it has got a strong element of dictatism. He *contributed* to literature by the introduction of science outlook or technique to approach a problem.

Dylan Thomas (1914-1953) is a new poetic music voice, singing a new kind of poetry; he remained romantic. His poems were characterized by a conscious craft man, complicated rhythms and verse structure, lack of meaning and concerned obsessively limited range of subject: birth, copulation and death. He contributed to literature by his use of positive experience for the reader.

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