

<<英国文学简史>>

图书基本信息

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前言

This book is a general survey of English literature. It is based on my decades of reading, teaching, and research experience in this literature and my acquaintance with the general tenor of the available literary criticism on it. The general layout of the book roughly follows the critical notion that the major authors get the lion's share of the space while the lesser lights settle for less or nothing. The 26 chapters here offer a sketch of the major writers with some mention of those, though minor in stature, who have made a scratch on the rock of time in their way. Thus the survey discusses the Old English and Medieval English periods in two chapters, focusing on Beowulf and Chaucer; the Elizabethan period in another two, highlighting Christopher Marlowe and Shakespeare (as the great age is basically one of poetry and verse drama and the figure of Shakespeare towers so far above all the rest); the whole of the 17th century in one chapter, with Donne and Milton as the primary interests; the Classic 18th century in three, two on poetry and one on fiction, with Pope, Gray, Blake, and Burns in verse and Swift, Defoe, and Fielding in fiction taking up most of the coverage, and the Romantic period in two, centering on Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Keats. The Victorian period is a preeminent phase of English literary history, in which many writers distinguish themselves in many divisions of literature. They vie vehemently for attention, and none seems able to overshadow the others. So this period takes up eight chapters, with Dickens, George Eliot, and Hardy in fiction, Tennyson, Browning, and Arnold in poetry, and Shaw in drama making a greater claim on time in the discussions.

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内容概要

为全英文读物，是英美文学研究专家常耀信先生为广大读者奉献的又一力作。可满足学生学习与考研、教师授课与科研，以及一般性大众阅读等多种需要；它不仅在章节中设置了详细讨论题目，而且在书后配有“注释与参考资料”，列出重点研究成果问世情况，方便查索，有助于构思研究课题。

可供本科生了解英国文学发展概貌与基本知识；供研究生精细研读，并助其设计学期论文作业或硕、博士毕业论文题目；供教师提炼教案、讲义；为中青年学者提供深层学术探索参考课题。

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作者简介

常耀信：教授，博士生导师，任教于中国南开大学及美国关岛大学。研究方向为英美文学。著有《希腊罗马神话》、《漫话英美文学》、《美国文学简史》（英文版）、《美国文学史（上）》（中文版）；主编有《美国文学选读》（上、下）、《美国文学研究评论选》（上、下）及《自选评论文集——文化与文学中的比较研究》等。此外，还在国内外刊物上发表过多篇论文，阐述中国文化对美国文学的影响。1988年被选人英国国际传记中心编纂的《远东及太平洋名人录》，后亦被选入《美国名师录》。

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章节摘录

Medieval Literature: A Brief Introduction⁴The date that even a child of three in England is supposed to know is 1066, the year of the conquest of England by the French-speaking Normans. It was the year in which the Normans came under William the Conqueror, and the last Anglo-Saxon King Harold died with an arrow shot through his eye at the battle of Hastings. It was also the year that marked the beginning of the Middle English or Anglo-Norman period (1066-1400). The Norman line of kings sat on the throne for some 90 years and gave place to the Angevin kings (or the Plantagenets) in 1154. King Henry II and his descendants stayed in power for 245 years until they were superseded by the House of Lancaster in 1399 when the last of the Plantagenets, Richard II, was dethroned. This happened just one year before Chaucer died. Regarding this period there are a few occurrences of historic magnitude that should be kept in mind:(1) The Establishment of the Feudal System: William the Conqueror did this effectively within a short space of time. He grabbed Anglo-Saxon land by force and gave it to his nobles and followers. These became lords of manors demanding allegiance from their Anglo-Saxon serfs and owed it to their immediate superiors. The hierarchy was a multi-tiered degradation with the king at the top keeping all the power in his hands. The relative peace that followed brought power and wealth and made the milieu congenial to the growth of art and literature.(2) The 1381 Peasant Uprising: Within the system the nobles and the aristocrats had all the power and privileges while the serfs remained as wretched as ever. The widespread disaffection led eventually to the peasants' revolt in 1381 which was led by Wat Tyler of Kent and Jack Straw of Essex. 100,000 people marched on London, destroyed manor-houses, burnt court papers—records of their bondage, and demanded the abolition of serf slavery and a general pardon. Though it was eventually put down, serfdom died out gradually.(3) The Completion of the Domesday Book (1086): Though undertaken as a tax-book or rent-roll to provide the king with an estimate of his resources, the Domesday Book serves also as a historical record of Anglo-Saxon institutions, customs, and way of life which would have otherwise been lost to time.

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编辑推荐

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