

The Modern English Novel.

Introduction.

I realize that the subject I have chosen to talk to you about, is enormous, that it is almost impossible to deal with it adequately in a brief hour. I can only touch upon a few significant points & tell of my own personal reactions to certain trends in modern fiction in England. - After all that is all ^{any} she can do, for ^{literary} criticism is really only conversation. Anathema to. and shares. Racine.

I have wondered whether I should begin my talk with an apology. - as rather 2 apologies: first, that I, a mere woman should lecture ^{on an} academic subject in a men's college; second, that the novel, itself should be taken as a ^{serious} literary study. But I have come to the

conclusion that apologies are unnecessary. In the first place we have advanced far since the day in the 18th cent. when Mr Johnson could say:

"To read a woman's tale in public is like seeing a deaf man upon his hind legs; it is not well done, but you are surprised that it should be done at all."

In the second place the novel has won for itself a very honorable position in

The hierarchy of English letters - other
it is neither an old drama, or poetry
or ^{the} essay, it has become the vehicle
of most ^{of the best} modern expression.

Confined myself to English novel, merely
because I must find some limit to
large a subject. The study of ^{the} American
novel would fill a volume in itself
and be exceedingly interesting, having
many similar points with the English,
but having, as well, innumerable in-
dividual characteristics, quite unknown
among English writers -

limit to writers who were famous after 1900

Prejudice against the Novel.

- a waste of time
- healer of illusions
- false ideas of life & the world.

Walter Scott.

Discussion of Modern Novel Difficult

1. Because it is capable of many treatments
2. Difficulty of seeing present day in proper perspective

- a) because of fashion
- b) " " immediate

ingenuity of current ideas } feminism etc
state control
education

3. Because of one's own ancient heritage & associations

Novels & Novels

Define kinds: Do you want "a book to read." or "do you want to read a Book."

Define Readers.

- 1) To escape from life
- 2) To be amused & entertained
- 3) To see life (Art) and false.
- 4) Difference in Taste.
- 5) " " in Temperament

- ① Taste of moral
- ② " " of Beauty, of work.
- ③ Difference in Age of Reader.

Quote:

The source of discovery wh. is present in all fine literature, that magic alchemy wh. transforms the stuff of life, into the stuff of Art."

"Literature helps us to rise from the consideration of having to the definition of life."

How can one tell a good Book from a Bad one?

1. By reading (no one can tell you - you must find out for yourself. Books are made to be read - as someone said, that alas, it was a long time)

- 2. Sharp understanding
 - 3. Knowledge of study & comparison
 - 4. a delicate sentiment avoiding prejudice
- Developed by Exercise.

Quintessence Augustine Birrell:

"To be possessed alive to merit in poem or picture, in statue or in bust; to be able to distinguish between the grand, the grandiose & the merely sumptuous; to perceive the boundary between the simplicity, which is divine & that which is ridiculous, between gorgeous rhetoric & vulgar ornamentation, between pure & manly Englishment to be spoken or read & prepared phrases, which seem intended, like lollipops for suction; to feel yourself going out in joyful admiration for whatever is noble & permanent, & freezing inwardly against whatever is pretentious, wire-drawn & temporary — this indeed is to taste of the fruit of the tree, once forbidden, of the knowledge of good & evil."

Novels as literature.

Our greatest contribution - Poetry.
Shakespeare. Spenser. Chaucer. no rivals.
Greatest novelists today, prob. Russians.
Fascination of Novel.

- 1. intimate link bet. writer & reader
- 2. we can really understand people.

all motives shown.

- 3. Story - Plot appeal to curiosity
- 4. actors w/ our imagination & intellect.
- 5. Consolation.

Dominance of Novel

(most natural pattern because easiest to follow)

Present day Recurrence. In a century more popular than any other form.

Kept abreast of new social order.

Vehicle for much philosophy of pres. day.

Propagandist.

Inclusiveness of Novel.

Poetry philosophy. psychology
drama history analysis
personality of writer thru them.

Novel reflects the social consciousness of the modern world.

Premisiently concerned with love but much in pres. day fiction lays less emphasis on this.

Quote
Drew

... the novel is direct communication of human experience; the fascination of its study lies first of all in an unquenchable & detached curiosity to meet and appraise as many as possible of the multitudinous existing varieties of character, situation, action & opinion.

Tendencies of the Modern Novel.

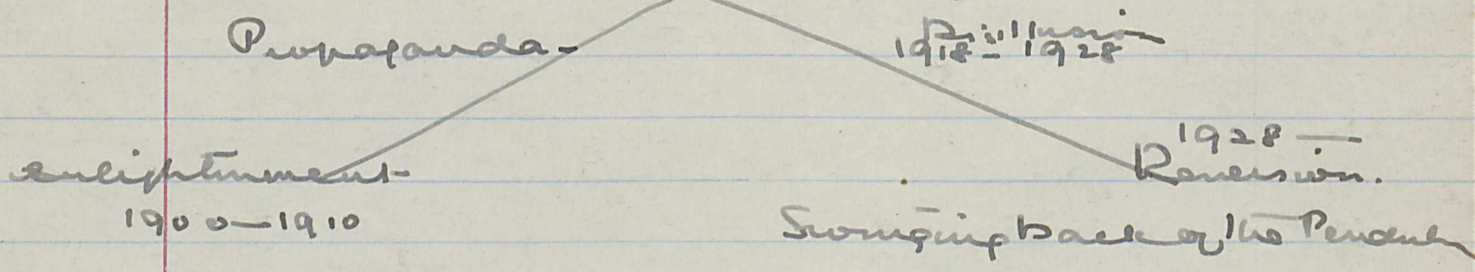
In general

As social life has changed, so has novel.

Everything now questioned.

Compare Victorian complacency with modern disillusion & questioning Novel of the 30s.

The vicissitudes of people & countries bet.
1900-1932 & our attitude towards world
policy reflected in Novels.
war - 1918 -



I. Novel as Propaganda.

- Feminism - Wells.
- Science
- General Emancipation Bennett
- Justice - Galsworthy.

II. Novel as Reflection of New Psychology.

- Ford.
- Autobiographical novel (direct outcome of new psychology)
- Of Human Bondage
- Clayton.
- Sons & Lovers
- Way of All Flesh.
- Pathology. Homo-sexuality.
- Clemence Dane Regiment of Women.
- Religious mania Elma Fauntleroy.

III. The Sex Novel. part of new psychology.

Every institution questioned: marriage
the family. Chaperonage etc.
To live down 100 yrs. of prudery.

unabashed speculation towards all
social & individual problems; audacious
challenge to accepted conclusions.

Excesses inevitable.

D. H. Lawrence. Beliefs finally
stultified his style.

IV The Novel by women about women.
1920s.

V The War Novel + immediate successors.
The world disillusioned.
Futility of life.
Tombstone as a story. Lack of Form

VI Present Day Developments. Trends.
The long history -
Tangle Saga.
Waipole.

A recession from extreme freedom.
The quiet novel.
Mary Webb.
R. H. Mottram
Dorothy Whipple.

Novels with strong characters
Magnolia Street.
G. B. Stern
J. B. Priestley.

Individual Novelists

Four outstanding names:
Conrad 1857-1924
Bennett 1867-1930
Wells 1866

Galsworthy 1867

the common man
universally esteemed
successors to Hardy. supremely English
Meredith. last of a Victorian
James. gr. stylist. giant.

Conrad. greatest (oldest) of the four.

His history - Rob. miracle. Sailor
wishes to reveal to his timorous fellow
being the ~~new~~ ^{truth}, as he sees it, of
our common human experience, in a
common world, in wh. we have our
common being.

The low run of life.

nothing is ordinary.

not in late variety of life. writer of
the sea - but much more - gr. human
artist.

The aloneness of man - exile of each in-
dividual soul.

Fidelity - loyalty - honor.

His technique - some believe find it

~~the~~ treason. indirect narration.

Robust men

Shady women - timidly &

simple.

Exp.
ford sim

Review

Alway's Folly.

* Youth

hedonism

Lord Jim

The Ripper of the Narcissus

Quote

His need of writing.

Arnold Bennett.

The novelist is he who having seen life, & being so excited by it that he absolutely must transmit his vision to others, chooses narrative fiction as the "live best vehicle for the relief of his feelings."

unflagging zest - energy -
(not great heights or depths)
wonderfully observant.
variety of scope.

Made the True Towns of Staffordshire famous
transfiguration of the commonplace.

No life is dull unless the lives of that life feels it to be purposeless.

Poetical philosophy - sound common sense

Inordinate curiosity about things & people. prolific.

Niceyman steps

The Old Wives Tale

True Towns Trilogy.

paths

Clayhanger

Hilda Lessways

These Twain

Influence of French.

His Journal.

A.B.

not only does environment influence character, but that character triumphs over environment.

supremely int. in its practical rather than its theory of life.

no comment. no propaganda.

tolerant-sympathy

brilliant craftsmanship.

St. John's
ed. writes
Fall

Quote
to show father

appeals to youth.
by own reaction.

H.G. Wells-

Amore

notes on the thesis of Bennett.

guts highspirited, challenging.

Does not present life; he wishes to develop schemes for altering life.

Faith in education (waning of late)

his own experience responsible.

W. said to Henry James: To you literature is an end, like painting; to me it is a means, like architecture.

Wells- always open to conviction
cannot resist ideas.

Effect of this on his character.

Only vivid character in his books is
Wells himself.

3 types (1) scientific romance

(2) Realistic novels

(3) Sociological novels.

1890-1905

Paulo Bourgeois

History of Mr. Polly

Compton Mackenzie - 1883 - (Anglo-Catholicism)

Frank Swinerton Northumbria 1917

Stops 14 hours 19

Three hours - etc.

Norman Douglas - Southern - etc.

sophisticated - cynical - scarcely
real novels.

Stephen Melancon 1888

Sonia - Sonia married.

~~W. G. Sebald in the history~~

Fritz Trico - interesting. + important.

James Joyce 1882 - Irish Catholic

Portrait of the artist as a young man
Ulysses -

(Desire to shock) Art, religion & sex.
occultation of the subconscious.

D. H. Lawrence.

Sons & daughters - 1913. very neat.

The lost pie. 1920.

Poetry.

Temperament. Difficult to judge.

Malpala says he will be remembered by his

Poems.

Died at 44. Travel books.

His friends. (Everyone quarrels about him)

Life by Catherine Carswell.

Son of woman by J. K. Murray.

Letters. just published - ed. by

Aldous Huxley 1894.

wonderful inheritance

Father - Leonard Huxley n. of Thomas Huxley
Mother - Julia Arnold. d. of Arnold of
Rugby - sister of Mrs. Humphrey Ward.

Brother is Julian Huxley, the biologist.
Novels are hardly novels. Belongs to
the Flare School.

Dominated by the searing brutality of
things; desperate effort to find harmony.
Intensely clear. ~~is~~ Prides the bubble.

Mind works with lightning speed -
Most famous novel. Invitation

Chronicle of How
Dulce Day.

Point-Counter Point.
The Brave New World.

Much else - prolific. Signs of mellowing
Short-stories - (better than long ones)

Modest works

Two or Three Grace.

Brief Candles.

Snags - On the margin etc.

Travel -

Along the Road.
Journey Places.

Edited letters of D.H.
Lawrence.

women writers.

Very many successful, brilliant
women writers.

Marriage 1912

The New Heathcote 1910. Uebels - { Socialism
Fabianism }

Anna Veronica 1909.

M. Bunting 1916.

Outline of History. Immensely politic.

Preoccupation now with sociological subjects.

The world should be changed, be made more beautiful more full of opportunity, with education free.

Leslie who loved change, learning, being.

Summary of characteristic sentences

John Galsworthy.

diff. antecedents. Devon. a gentleman humanitarians by temperament a lawyer by training.

Wills probably live thru his plays.

definite social purpose.

qualities ① real sympathy for lower middle class people. ② skill in analysis of character + emotion, particularly anxious

passion in people of intelligence + refinement. ③ creation of atmosphere.

Love of animals - lover of Beauty.

Appreciation in Europe because of clear ideas + definite crisis

pleasant - The Forsyte Saga.

The Dark House

hard in writing

Man of Property

2. In Chancery

3. Tolet

4. The White Monkey

5. Silver Spoon

6. Swan Song

Satirizes: sense of property

2. easiness of country house life

Sadness + melancholy.

Galsworthy "just never being dead"

Quote

Quote

John

Gals. leaves this impression. The Sadness
of things
Melancholy who

"Dwell with Beauty. Beauty that would die
And joy, whose hand is ever at his lips
Bidding adieu."

Lessee Moresque Younger Writers.

Hugh Keats 1884.

seldom awakens wonder - never rises to
revelation. Still very fine work. Can be
English. Moresque meant

Fortitude 1913.

The Cathedral.

Jeremy.
2+ penines
Ecclesiastic turbanment
Palpers. Cornwall.
Rusica / The Great City
The Dawn of
Lake Country. Rague Herrie
Judea Pain
The Forties.

The Book Society.

Sympathy.

with insight

refused (his falswork)

a nice season

Two melific (?)

~~E. M. Foster 1879 -~~

~~Ides and End 1911~~

~~Paras. to India 1924.~~

~~Articles of the Novel 1927 (using 1928)~~

women part-preoccupied with (11)
human environment, therefore they 15.
should excel in the writing of fiction.

women's world: the relationships of
people to each other. The search for
security.

women of very different types are writing:
1. stern verities - Sheila Kaye Smith
2. intellectual vigor - May Sinclair
3. aloof in personality - Virginia Woolf
4. unparalytic satire - Rose Macaulay.
5. pitiless analysis - Rebecca West.

others: Clemence Dane, Stella Benson,
E. M. Delacour, Thea Sidorowicz,
V. S. Pritchett.

women writers have not themselves
changed the tone of their novel. but
they reflect the new order.

Compare heroine in novel of 19th & 20th
centuries - repressed. scarce
self-sacrificing self-seeking
self-effacement perhaps plain
beauty.

middle aged woman no longer a comic figure.
Analysis of elderly women who have
pretended to be good, but who have
been tyrants worse.

Conclusions:

Trend towards longer novels - trilogy.

Away from Disillusion.

" " Systems preoccupation with

pathological cases of ~~psychosis~~ ^{psychosis}.

Away from various ~~stunts~~ ^{eccentricities}.

A few very new novels:

Without my choice by Kate O'Brien

The Fountain by Charles Morgan

Greenhouses by Dorothy Whipple.

Angel Pavement } S. B. Priestley.

Quad companions }

Faraway

How can we waste of there will
his own. of the ^{hundreds} scores of clever
write achieve greatness? We can only
watch & allow ourselves a glorious
inquisitiveness.

Wh. of these people will be classics
in another 50 years - How many of
these books will be forgotten?

Apply these tests to books & see if
they merit becoming classics

Quail, Bennett
St. Berns.

Two last quotations:

Arnold
Bennett

A classic is a work which gives pleasure to the minority, which is intensely and permanently interested in literature. It lives on because the minority, eager to renew the sensations of pleasure, is eternally curious & is therefore engaged in an eternal process of rediscovery. A classic does not survive for any ethical reason. It does not survive because it conforms to certain canons, or because neglect would not kill it. It survives because it is a source of pleasure, & because the passionate few can no more neglect it than a bee can neglect a flower. The passionate few do not read "the right things" because they are right. That is to put the cart before the horse. "The right things" are the right things solely, because the passionate few like reading them.

St. Bernard

A true classic, as I should like to hear it defined, is an author, who has enriched the human mind, increased its treasure, caused it to advance a step; who has discovered some moral & not equivocal truth, or revealed some eternal passion in that heart, where all seemed known & discovered; who has

expressed his thought, observation &
invention, & in no matter what form,
only provided it be broad & great,
refined & sensible, sane & beautiful
in itself; who has space to do in his
own peculiar style, a style which is
found to be also that of the whole world,
a style new without neologism, new
& old, easily contemporary with all time."

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Arşiv ve Dokümantasyon Merkezi

Kişisel Arşivlerle İstanbul'da Bilim, Kültür ve Eğitim Tanıtı

Scott Ailesi Koleksiyonu



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