

A Brief Study on English Renaissance Literature

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Introduction:

English Renaissance literature: Following the introduction of a printing press into England by William Caxton in 1476, Vernacular Literature flourished. The English Reformation inspired the production of Vernacular Liturgy which led to the Book of Common Prayer, a lasting influence on literary English language. The poetry, drama, and prose produced under both Queen Elizabeth- I, and James-I constitute what is today labeled as Early modern (or Renaissance).

Elizabethan Era: Canons of Renaissance Poetry:

The Elizabethan Era saw a great flourishing of literature, especially in the field of Drama. The Italian Renaissance had rediscovered the ancient Greek and Roman theatre, and this was instrumental in the development of the new drama, which was then beginning to evolve apart from the old mystery and Miracle Plays of the Middle Ages. The Italians were particularly inspired by Seneca the Young (a major tragic playwright and philosopher, the tutor of Nero) and Plautus (its comic clichés, especially which of the boasting soldier had a powerful influence on the Renaissance and after). However, the Italian tragedies embraced a principle contrary to Seneca's ethics: showing blood and violence on the stage. In Seneca's plays such scenes were only acted by the characters. But the English playwrights were intrigued by Italian model: a conspicuous community of Italian actors had settled in London and Giovanni had brought much of the Italian Language and culture to England.....

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