

"Were I called on to define, very briefly, the term Art, I should call it the reproduction of what the Senses perceive in Nature through the veil of the soul."

— Edgar Allan Poe

A history of the book

Eugen Hulub

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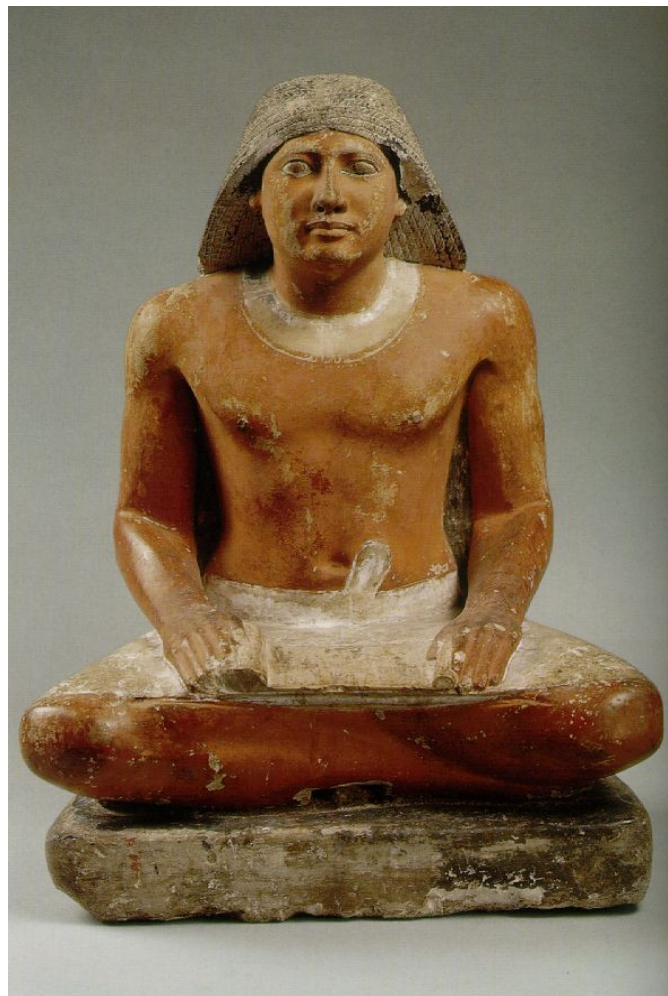
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1.First writings

IN EGYPT , MESOPOTAMIA , CHINA AND INDIA

When human being began to speak , the word became the echo of the soul and of the mind . Wonderful stories enriched the daily life . The written speech , then the book opened a new way to infinity . Today thousands of hearts and thousands of minds live near the shelves with books . 6000 years ago the tales orally plied . The first written texts appeared in Egypt and in Mesopotamia 4000 years ago . They were ample stories and vast poems which narrated about the creation of the world and of the people , the life of the gods and the brave feats of the heros .

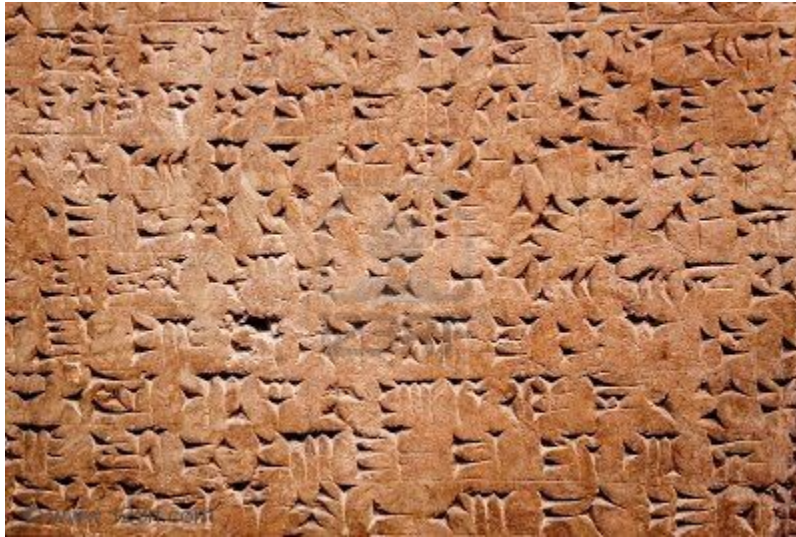
The history of ancient Mesopotamia begins with the emergence of urban societies during the Ubaid period (ca. 5300 BC). The history of the Ancient Near East is taken to end with either the arrival of the Achaemenid Empire in the 6th century BC, or with the Islamic conquest of Mesopotamia and the establishment of the Caliphate, from which point the region came to be known as Iraq.



Mesopotamia housed some of the world's most ancient highly developed and socially complex states. The region was famous as one of the four riverine civilizations where writing was first invented, along with the Nile valley in Egypt, the Indus Valley in the Indian subcontinent, and Yellow River valley in China (Although writing is also known to have arisen independently in Mesoamerica). Mesopotamia housed historically important cities such as Uruk, Nippur, Nineveh, and Babylon, as well as major territorial states such as the city of Ma-asesblu, the Akkadian kingdom, the Third Dynasty of Ur, and the Assyrian empire. Some of the important historical Mesopotamian leaders were Ur-Nammu (king of Ur), Sargon (who established the Akkadian Kingdom), Hammurabi (who established the Old Babylonian state), and Tiglath-Pileser I (who established the Assyrian Empire). Sumer was a civilization and historical region in southern Mesopotamia, modern Iraq. It is the earliest known civilization in the world and is known as the "Cradle of Civilization". The Sumerian civilization spanned over 3000 years and began with the first settlement of Eridu in the Ubaid period (mid 6th millennium BC) through the Uruk period (4th millennium BC) and the Dynastic periods (3rd millennium BC) until the rise of Babylonia in the early 2nd millennium BC. Sumer was the birthplace of writing, the wheel, agriculture, the arch, irrigation and many other things.

The cities of Sumer were the first civilization to practice intensive, year-round agriculture, (from ca. 5300 BC). By perhaps 5000 BC, the Sumerians had developed core agricultural techniques including large-scale intensive cultivation of land, mono-cropping, organized irrigation, and the use of a specialized labor force. The surplus of storable food created by this economy allowed the population to settle in one place instead of migrating after crops and grazing land. It also allowed for a much greater population density, and in turn required an extensive labor force and division of labor. This organization led to the development of writing (ca. 3500 BC).

The original Mesopotamian writing system was derived from this method of keeping accounts, and by the end of the 4th millennium BC, this had evolved into using a triangular-shaped stylus pressed into soft clay for recording numbers. This was gradually augmented with pictographic writing using a sharp stylus to indicate what was being counted. Round-stylus and sharp-stylus writing was gradually replaced by writing using a wedge-shaped stylus (hence the term cuneiform), at first only for logograms, but evolved to include phonetic elements by the 29th century BC. Around the 26th century BC, cuneiform began to represent syllables of spoken Sumerian. Also in that period, cuneiform writing became a general purpose writing system for logograms, syllables, and numbers, and this script was adapted to another Mesopotamian language, Akkadian, and from there to others such as Hurrian, and Hittite. Scripts similar in appearance to this writing system include those for Ugaritic and Old Persian.



In China historians have found out a lot about the early Chinese dynasties from the written documents left behind. From the Shang Dynasty most of this writing has survived on bones or bronze implements. Markings on turtle shells (used as oracle bones) have been carbon-dated to around 1500 BC. Historians have found that the type of media used had an effect on what the writing was documenting and how it was used. There have recently been discoveries of tortoise-shell carvings dating back to c. 6000 BC, but whether or not the carvings are of sufficient complexity to qualify as writing is under debate. If it is deemed to be a written language, writing in China will predate Mesopotamian cuneiform, long acknowledged as the first appearance of writing, by some 2000 years.

The earliest known hieroglyphic inscriptions are the "Narmer Palette", dating to c.3200 BC, and several recent discoveries that may be slightly older, though the glyphs were based on a much older artistic tradition. The hieroglyphic script was logographic with phonetic adjuncts that included an effective alphabet.

Writing was very important in maintaining the Egyptian empire, and literacy was concentrated among an educated elite of scribes. Only people from certain backgrounds were allowed to train to become scribes, in the service of temple, pharaonic, and military authorities. The hieroglyph system was always difficult to learn, but in later centuries was purposely made even more so, as this preserved the scribes' status. The world's oldest known alphabet was developed in central Egypt around 2000 BC from a hieroglyphic prototype, and over the next 500 years spread to Canaan and eventually to the rest of the world. Hieroglyphs emerged from the preliterate artistic traditions of Egypt. For example, symbols on Gerzean pottery from circa 4000 BC, resemble hieroglyphic writing.



For many years the earliest known hieroglyphic inscription was the "Narmer Palette" , found during excavations at Hierakonpolis (modern Kawm al-Ahmar) in the 1890s, which has been dated to circa 3200 BC. However, in 1998 a German archaeological team under Günter Dreyer excavating at Abydos (modern Umm el-Qa'ab) uncovered tomb U-j of a Predynastic ruler, and recovered three hundred clay labels inscribed with proto-hieroglyphs, dating to the Naqada IIIA period of the 33rd century BC. The first full sentence written in hieroglyphs so far discovered was found on a seal impression found in the tomb of Seth- Peribsen at Umm el-Qa'ab, which dates from the Second Dynasty. In the era of the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom and the New Kingdom, about 800 hieroglyphs existed. By the Greco-Roman period, they numbered more than 5,000. Scholars generally believe that Egyptian hieroglyphs

"came into existence a little after Sumerian script, and, probably [were], invented under the influence of the latter ..."

For example, it has been stated that it is "probable that the general idea of expressing words of a language in writing was brought to Egypt from Sumerian Mesopotamia."

On the other hand, it has been stated that "the evidence for such direct influence remains flimsy" and that "a very credible argument can also be made for the independent development of writing in Egypt..." Given the lack of direct evidence, "no definitive determination has been made as to the origin of hieroglyphics in ancient Egypt."

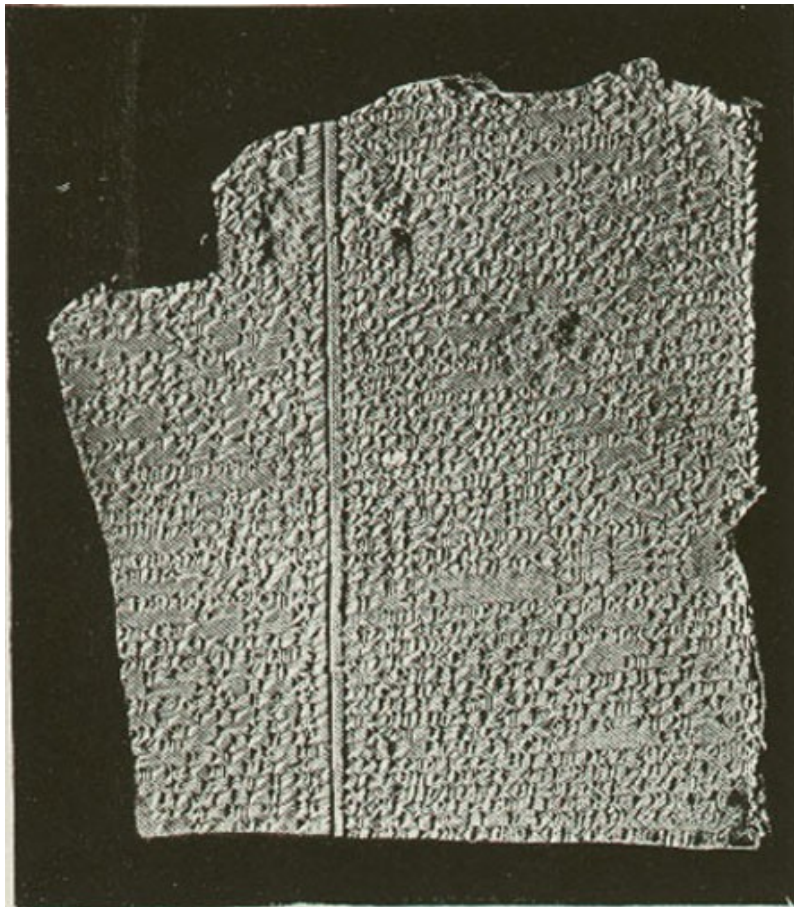
Hieroglyphs consist of three kinds of glyphs: phonetic glyphs, including single-consonant characters that function like an alphabet; logographs, representing morphemes; and determinatives, which narrow down the meaning of

logographic or phonetic words. As writing developed and became more widespread among the Egyptian people, simplified glyph forms developed, resulting in the hieratic (priestly) and demotic (popular) scripts. These variants were also more suited than hieroglyphs for use on papyrus. Hieroglyphic writing was not, however, eclipsed, but existed alongside the other forms, especially in monumental and other formal writing. The "Rosetta Stone" contains three parallel scripts - hieroglyphic, demotic and Greek.

The "Maxims of Ptahhotep" or "Instruction of Ptahhotep" is an ancient literary work attributed to Ptahhotep, a vizier under King Iseki of the Egyptian Fifth Dynasty (c. 2414-2375 BC). It is a collection of maxims and advice in the *sebayt* genre on human relations that are directed to his son. The work survives today in papyrus copies, including the Prisse Papyrus which dates from the Middle Kingdom and is on display at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. There are considerable differences between the Prisse Papyrus version and the two texts at the British Museum. In the introduction the author explains the reason for writing the instruction, namely his having reached old age and wanting to pass on the wisdom of his ancestors who had, in his words, listened to the gods. The Maxims are conformist precepts extolling such civil virtues as truthfulness, self-control and kindness towards one's fellow beings. Learning by listening to everybody and knowing that human knowledge is never perfect are a leitmotif. Avoiding open conflict wherever possible should not be considered weakness. Justice should be pursued and in the end it will be a god's command that prevails. Some of the maxims refer to one's behaviour when in the presence of the great, how to choose the right master and how to serve him. Others teach the correct way to lead through openness and kindness. Greed is the base of all evil and should be guarded against, while generosity towards family and friends is praiseworthy. Rise in the social order should be accepted as a gift from an Egyptian god and could be preserved by accepting the precedence of one's superior.

The "Tale of Sinuhe" is considered one of the finest works of Ancient Egyptian literature. It is a narrative set in the aftermath of the death of Pharaoh Amenemhat I, founder of the 12th dynasty of Egypt, in the early 20th century BC. It is likely that it was composed only shortly after this date, albeit the earliest extant manuscript is from the reign of Amenemhat III, c. 1800 BC. There is an ongoing debate among Egyptologists as to whether or not the tale is based on actual events involving an individual named Sinuhe, with the consensus being that it is most likely a work of fiction. Due to the universal nature of the themes explored in Sinuhe, including divine providence and mercy, its anonymous author has been described as the "Egyptian Shakespeare" whose ideas have parallels in biblical texts. Sinuhe is considered to be a work written in verse and it may also have been performed. The great popularity of the work is witnessed by the numerous surviving fragments. Gilgameš, also known as Bilgames in the

earliest text, was the fifth king of Uruk (Early Dynastic II, first dynasty of Uruk), ruling circa 2700 BC, according to the Sumerian king list. According to the "Tummal Inscription", Gilgamesh, and his son Urlugal, rebuilt the sanctuary of the goddess Ninlil, in Tummal, a sacred quarter in her city of Nippur. Gilgamesh is the central character in the "Epic of Gilgamesh", the greatest surviving work of early Mesopotamian literature. In the epic his father was Lugalbanda and his mother was Ninsun (whom some call Rimat Ninsun), a goddess. Gilgamesh is described as two parts god and one part man. In Mesopotamian mythology, Gilgamesh is credited with having been a demigod of superhuman strength who built a great city wall to defend his people from external threats and travelled to meet Utnapishtim, the sage who had survived the Great Deluge. The "Epic of Gilgamesh" is an ancient poem from Mesopotamia and is among the earliest known works of literature. Scholars believe that it originated as a series of Sumerian legends and poems about the mythological hero-king Gilgamesh, which were gathered into a longer Akkadian epic much later. The story revolves around a relationship between Gilgamesh and his close companion, Enkidu.



Enkidu is a wild man created by the gods as Gilgamesh's equal to distract him

from oppressing the citizens of Uruk. Together they undertake dangerous quests that incur the displeasure of the gods. Firstly, they journey to the Cedar Mountain to defeat Humbaba, its monstrous guardian. Later they kill the Bull of Heaven that the goddess Ishtar has sent to punish Gilgamesh for spurning her advances.

The latter part of the epic focuses on Gilgamesh's distressed reaction to Enkidu's death, which takes the form of a quest for immortality. Gilgamesh attempts to learn the secret of eternal life by undertaking a long and perilous journey to meet the immortal flood hero, Utnapishtim. Ultimately the poignant words addressed to Gilgamesh in the midst of his quest foreshadow the end result: "The life that you are seeking you will never find. When the gods created man they allotted to him death, but life they retained in their own keeping." Gilgamesh, however, was celebrated by posterity for his building achievements, and for bringing back long-lost cultic knowledge to Uruk as a result of his meeting with Utnapishti. The story is widely read in translation, and the protagonist, Gilgamesh, has become an icon of popular culture.

One of the two major Sanskrit epics of India, valued for its literary merit and its religious inspiration is "Mahabharata" . It tells of the struggle for supremacy between two groups of cousins, the Kauravas and the Pandavas. Many myths and legends are woven into the poem, along with didactic material on topics such as the proper conduct of a warrior and the way to attain emancipation from rebirth. Together with the second major epic, the "Ramayana", it is an important source of information about the evolution of Hinduism. Contained within the "Mahabharata" is the "Bhagavadgita", Hinduism's single most important religious text. The sage Vyasa (fl. c. 5th century BC) is traditionally named as the Mahabharata's author, but he probably compiled existing material. The poem reached its present form c. AD 400.

Confucius , was a Chinese thinker and social philosopher.

Not strictly religious, the teachings of Confucius were a utilitarian approach to social harmony and defined moral obligations between individuals and social systems. After his death his pupils collected notes on his sayings and doings and recorded them as the "Analects". This compilation was added to over the years, and many sayings attributed to him are probably only loosely based on his teachings. His approach was formalized into a political and religious system during the Han Dynasty in the early part of the third century. It was embraced by subsequent generations and was the "state religion" of China until the latter part of the 20th century. In recent years critics have condemned Confucianism, characterizing its reliance on tradition as an impediment to modernization."Confucius" is the Latin rendering of his Chinese name, Kong Fu-Zi, which is sometimes also spelled as Kung Fu-Zi, K'ung-fu-tze, or in other variations. The name is unrelated to the martial art known as kung fu.

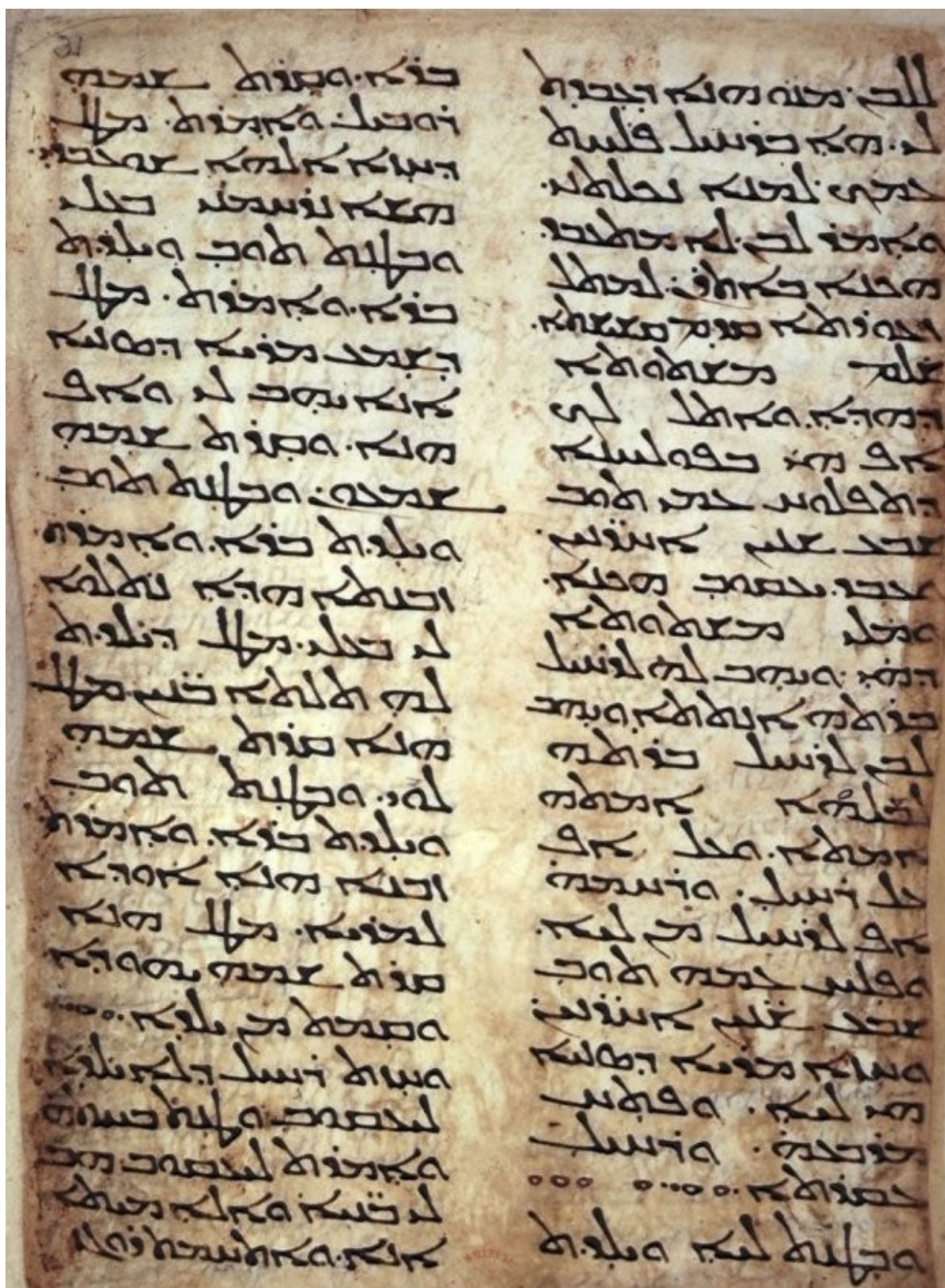


"The Book of Songs" (Yi jing), is the best source for the daily lives, hopes, complaints and beliefs of ordinary people in the early Zhou period. Over half of the poems are said to have originally been popular songs. They concern basic human problems such as love, marriage, work, and war. Others include court poems, and legendary accounts praising the founders of the Zhou dynasty. Included are also hymns used in sacrificial rites, and songs used by the aristocracy in their sacrificial ceremonies or at banquets. The poems of "Book of Songs" have strict patterns in both rhyme and rhythm, make much use of imagery, and tend to be short; they set the pattern for later Chinese poetry. "The Book of Songs" is regarded as a revered Confucius classic, and has been studied and memorized by centuries of scholars in China. The popular songs were seen as good keys to understanding the troubles of the common people, and were often read as allegories; complaints against lovers were seen as complaints against faithless rulers, for example. Confucius was supposed to have selected and edited the poems from a much larger body of material.

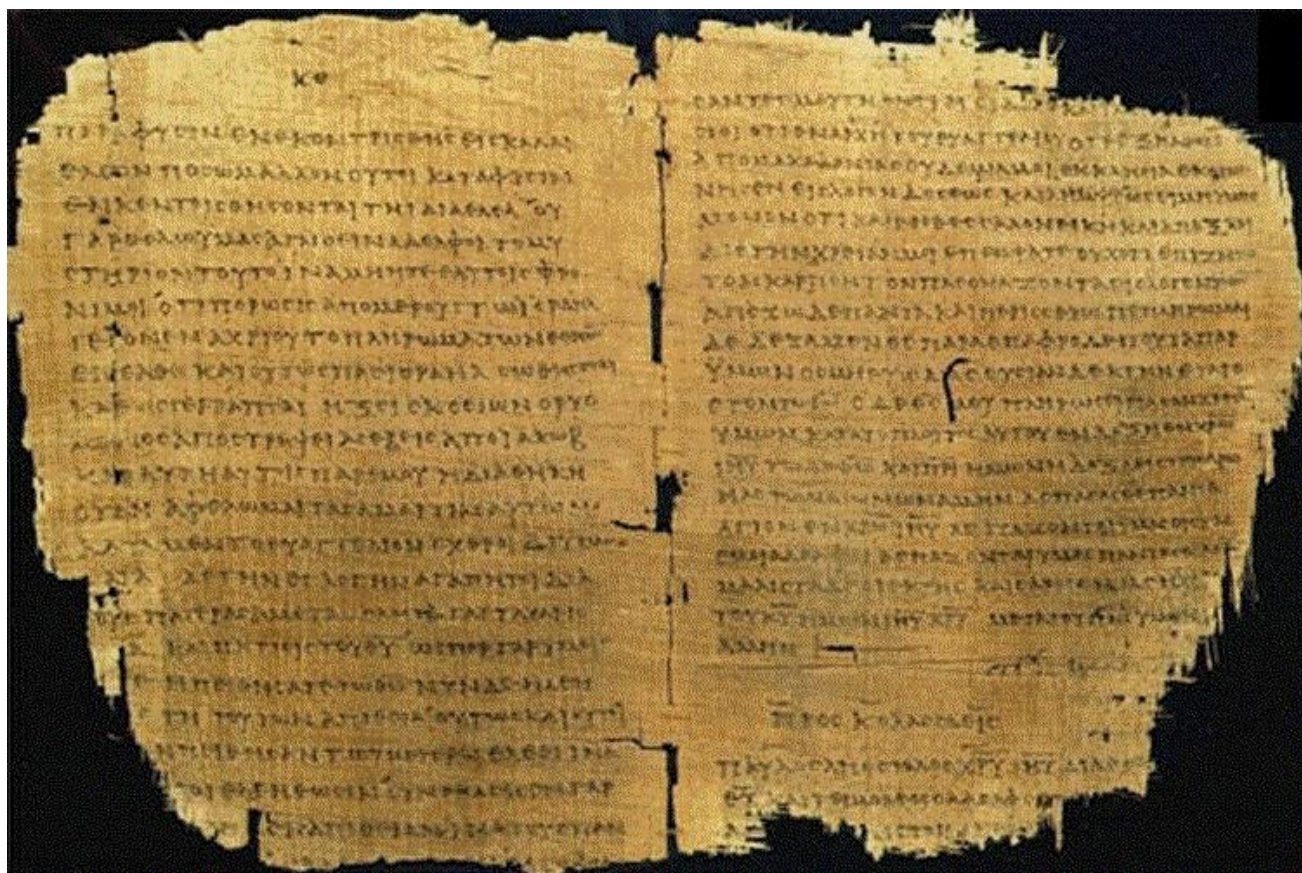
THE BIBLE

The "Bible" is a compilation of various texts or "books" of different ages. The dates of many of the texts of the "Hebrew Bible" (or "Old Testament") are difficult to establish. Textual criticism places all of them within the 1st millennium BC, although there is considerable uncertainty as to the century in some cases. The oldest surviving "Hebrew Bible" manuscripts date to about the 2nd century BC (fragmentary), the oldest record of the complete text survives in Greek

translation, dating to the 4th century ("Codex Sinaiticus") and the oldest extant manuscripts of the vocalized "Masoretic" text upon which modern editions are based date to the 9th century AD.



The individual books of the "New Testament" may be dated with some confidence to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. The earliest fragment of the "New Testament" is the Rylands Library Papyrus P52, a piece of the "Gospel of John" dated to the first half of the 2nd century. For this reason, dating the composition of the texts relies on textual criticism, philological and linguistic evidence, as well as direct references to historical events in the texts instead of dating the physical manuscripts.



Biblical chronology is the elaborate system of generations, reign-periods, and other means by which the narrative passages of the "Hebrew Bible" measure the passage of time and thus give a chronological framework to biblical history. The narrative history begins with the creation and continues through the age of the patriarchy, the events of Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy through the history of ancient Israel and Judah, the Babylonian captivity down to the establishment of the Second Temple in 516 BCE.

It is unclear from what point this chronology can be taken to correspond to historical events. Some scholars have traditionally attempted to identify a date of the Exodus, suggesting historicity at least from the time of Moses, while mainstream biblical scholarship is more reserved about the historicity of any events predating the scope of the "Books of Kings", beginning in the 10th

century BCE. This leaves a space of several centuries, between the Exodus and the establishment of the United Monarchy, largely corresponding to the period of the Bronze Age collapse in the region, and depending on the author including parts of the Late Bronze Age, of dubious historical, or proto- historical, status. The "Old Testament" consists of a collection of writings believed to have been composed at various times from the twelfth to the second century B.C. The books were written in classical Hebrew, except for brief portions (Ezra 4:8–6:18 and 7:12–26, Jeremiah 10:11, Daniel 2:4–7:28) which are in the Aramaic language, a sister language which became the lingua franca of the Semitic world. Much of the material, including many genealogies, poems and narratives, is thought to have been handed down by word of mouth for many generations. Very few manuscripts are said to have survived the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.



The "Old Testament" is accepted by Christians as scripture. Broadly speaking, it contains the same material as the "Hebrew Bible". However, the order of the

books is not entirely the same as that found in Hebrew manuscripts and in the ancient versions and varies from Judaism in interpretation and emphasis (see for example Isaiah 7:14). Christian denominations disagree about the incorporation of a small number of books into their canons of the "Old Testament". A few groups consider particular translations to be divinely inspired, notably the "Greek Septuagint", the "Aramaic Peshitta", and the "English King James Version". The "New Testament" is the name given to the second major division of the "Christian Bible", the first such division being the much longer "Old Testament". Unlike the "Old Testament", the contents of the "New Testament" deal explicitly with Christianity, although both the Old and New Testament are regarded, together, as "Sacred Scripture". The "New Testament" has therefore (in whole or in part) frequently accompanied the spread of Christianity around the world, and both reflects and serves as a source for Christian theology. Phrases as well as extended readings directly from the "New Testament" are also incorporated into the various Christian liturgies. The New Testament has influenced not only religious, philosophical, and political movements in the Christian world, but also left an indelible mark on its literature, art, and music.

The "New Testament" is an anthology, a collection of works written at different times by various authors. In almost all Christian traditions today, the "New Testament" consists of 27 books. The original texts were written beginning around A.D. 50 in Koine Greek, the lingua franca of the eastern part of the Roman Empire where they were composed. All of the works which would eventually be incorporated into the "New Testament" would seem to have been written no later than the mid-second century.

"Genesis" tells the story of Adam and Eve in chapters 2 and 3, with some additional elements in chapters 4 and 5: "Genesis" 2 opens with God fashioning a man from the dust and blowing life into his nostrils. God plants a garden (the Garden of Eden) and sets the man there, "to work it and watch over it," permitting him to eat of all the trees in the garden except the "Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil", "for on the day you eat of it you shall surely die." God had already created the animals. When Adam tries to find a help-mate, none of the animals are satisfactory, and so God causes the man to sleep, and creates a woman from his rib. The man names her "Woman" (Heb. ishshah), "for this one was taken from a man" (Heb. ish). "On account of this a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his woman." "Genesis" 2 ends with the note that the man and woman were naked, and were not ashamed.

"Genesis" 3 introduces the Serpent, "slier than every beast of the field." The serpent tempts the woman to eat from the tree of knowledge, telling her that it will make her more like God and it will not lead to death. She succumbs, and gives the fruit to the man, who eats also, "and the eyes of the two of them were opened." Aware now of their nakedness, they make coverings of fig leaves, and

hide from the sight of God. God asks them about what they have done.



Adam blames Eve, and Eve blames the serpent. God curses the snake (which must have been able to walk before this since vs 14 says "upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.") . God then curses Adam and Eve with hard labor and with pain in childbirth, and banishes them from his garden, setting a cherub at the gate to bar their way to the Tree of Life, "lest he put out his hand ... and eat, and live forever."

The account of the battle between David and Goliath is given in 1 "Samuel", chapter 17. Saul and the Israelites are facing the Philistines at the Valley of Elah. Twice a day for forty days, Goliath, the champion of the Philistines, comes out between the lines and challenges the Israelites to send out a champion of their own to decide the outcome in single combat. However, Saul and all the other Israelites are afraid of him. By chance, David is present, having brought food for his elder brothers. Told that Saul has promised to reward any man who defeats Goliath, David accepts the challenge. Saul reluctantly agrees and offers his armor, which David declines, taking only his sling and five stones chosen in a brook. David and Goliath confront each other, Goliath with his armor

and shield, David with his staff and sling. "The Philistine cursed David by his gods," but David replies: "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down, and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that God saves not with sword and spear; for the battle is God's, and he will give you into our hand." David strikes Goliath in the head with a stone from his sling, the Philistine falls on his face to the ground, David takes Goliath's sword and cuts off his head. The Philistines flee and are pursued by the Israelites "as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron." David puts the armor of Goliath in his own tent and takes the head to Jerusalem, and Saul sends Abner to bring David to him. The king asks whose son he is, and David answers, 'I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.' "

According to the "Book of Exodus", Moses was born in a time when his people, the Children of Israel, were increasing in number and the Egyptian Pharaoh was worried that they might help Egypt's enemies. Moses' Hebrew mother, Jochebed, hid him when the Pharaoh ordered all newborn Hebrew boys to be killed. He ended up being adopted into the Egyptian royal family. After killing an Egyptian slave-master, Moses fled across the Red Sea to Midian where he tended the flocks of Jethro, a priest of Midian on the slopes of Mt. Horeb. After the Ten Plagues were unleashed on Egypt, Moses led the Exodus of the Hebrew people out of Egypt and across the Red Sea, after which they based themselves at Mount Sinai and compassed the borders of Edom. It was at this time that Moses received the Ten Commandments. Despite living to the age of 120, Moses died before reaching the Land of Israel.

Jesus Christ, also known as Jesus of Galilee. Jesus of Nazareth, or simply Jesus is the founder of Christianity, one of the world's largest religions.

According to most Christians, he is the incarnation of God. Christianity views him as the Messiah foretold in the "Old Testament". Islam and the Baha'i Faith consider Jesus a prophet and also the Messiah.

The principal sources of information regarding Jesus' life and teachings are the four canonical gospels, especially the "Synoptic Gospels", though some scholars believe texts such as the "Gospel of Thomas" are also relevant. Most critical scholars in biblical studies believe that some parts of the "New Testament" are useful for reconstructing Jesus' life, agreeing that Jesus was a Jew who was regarded as a teacher and healer, that he was baptized by John the Baptist, and was crucified in Jerusalem on the orders of the Roman Prefect of Judaea, Pontius Pilate, on the charge of sedition against the Roman Empire. Aside from these few conclusions, academic debate continues regarding the chronology, the central message of Jesus' preaching, his social class, cultural environment, and religious orientation. Critical scholars have offered competing descriptions of Jesus as a self-described Messiah, as the leader of an

apocalyptic movement, as an itinerant sage, as a charismatic healer, and as the founder of an independent religious movement. Most contemporary scholars of the historical Jesus consider him to have been an independent, charismatic founder of a Jewish restoration movement, anticipating an imminent apocalypse.



Other prominent scholars, however, contend that Jesus' "Kingdom of God"

meant radical personal and social transformation instead of a future apocalypse. Christians predominantly believe that Jesus is the "Son of God" (generally meaning that he is God the Son, the second person in the Trinity) who came to provide humankind with salvation and reconciliation with God by his death for their sins. Christians traditionally believe that Jesus was born of a virgin, performed miracles, founded the Church, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven, from which he will return. While the doctrine of the Trinity is accepted by most Christians, a few groups reject the doctrine of the Trinity, wholly or partly, as non-scriptural. Most Christian scholars today present Jesus as the awaited Messiah and as God.

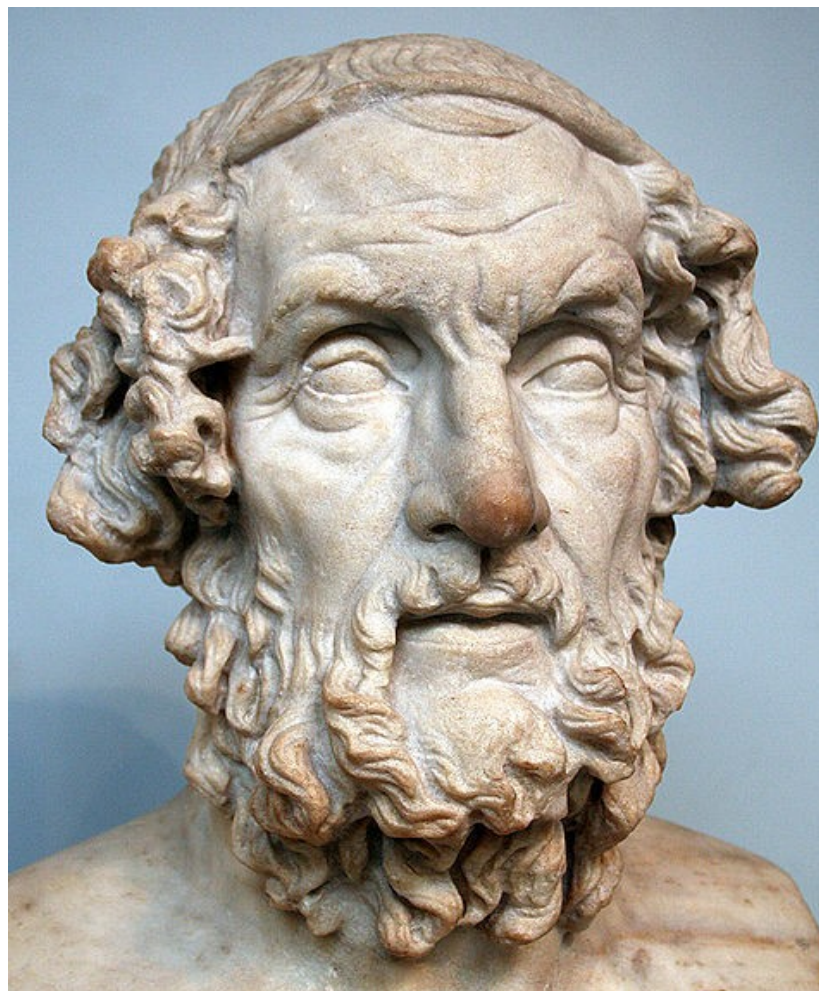
The Tower of Babel, according to the "Book of Genesis", was an enormous tower built at the city of Babylon. According to the biblical account, a united humanity of the generations following the Great Flood, speaking a single language and migrating from the east, participated in the building. The people decided their city should have a tower so immense that it would have "its top in the heavens." However, the Tower of Babel was not built for the worship and praise of Yahweh, but was instead dedicated to the glory of man, to "make a name" for the builders: "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." ("Genesis" 11:4). The "Book of Genesis" then relates how Yahweh, displeased with the builders' intent, came down and confused their languages and scattered the people throughout the earth ("Genesis" 11:5-8). The Tower of Babel has often been associated with known structures, notably the Etemenanki, a ziggurat dedicated to Marduk by Nabopolassar (c. 610 BC). The Great Ziggurat of Babylon base was square (not round), 91m in height, but was finally demolished by Alexander the Great before his death in an attempt to rebuild it. A Sumerian story with some similar elements is preserved in Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta. The Bible is the most read in the world. It represents the basis of Jewish and Christian religions and, widely, of the whole western civilization.

During the centuries, the "Bible" was the main spring of inspiration for many European and American artists and writers. The "Bible" is one of the great books of the humanity. It gathers together varied texts - historic accounts, stories, fairy tales, proverbs, poems - about amazing characters: Adam and Eve, Avraam, Moses, David and Goliath. It tells extraordinary things: about the tower of Babel, about Noah's Ark and the Deluge etc. - which influenced upon the imagination and the memory of many people in the world, faithful or unfaithful people.

2.The antique Athens and Rome

HOMER , HERODOTUS AND TITUS LIVIUS

Homer is a legendary ancient Greek epic poet, traditionally said to be the author of the epic poems the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey". The ancient Greeks generally believed that Homer was an historical individual, but most scholars are skeptical: no reliable biographical information has been handed down from classical antiquity, and the poems themselves seem to represent the culmination of many centuries of oral story-telling and a well-developed formulaic system of poetic composition. The date of Homer's existence was controversial in antiquity and is no less so today. Herodotus said that Homer lived 400 years before his own time, which would place him at around 850 BC; but other ancient sources gave dates much closer to the supposed time of the Trojan War. The date of the Trojan War was given as 1194–1184 BC by Eratosthenes, who strove to establish a scientific chronology of events, and this date is gaining support in light of recent archaeological research .



The "Iliad" is an epic poem in dactylic hexameters, traditionally attributed to Homer. Set in the Trojan War, the ten-year siege of Ilium by a coalition of Greek states, it tells of the battles and events during the weeks of a quarrel between King Agamemnon and the warrior Achilles. Although the story covers only a few weeks in the final year of the war, the "Iliad" mentions or alludes to many of the Greek legends about the siege.

Along with the "Odyssey", also attributed to Homer, the "Iliad" is among the oldest extant works of Western literature, and its written version is usually dated to around the eighth century BC. The "Iliad" contains approximately 15,700 lines, and is written in a literary amalgam of several Greek dialects. The authorship of the poem is disputed. The "Odyssey" is one of two major ancient Greek epic poems attributed to Homer. It is, in part, a sequel to the "Iliad", the other work traditionally ascribed to Homer. The poem is fundamental to the modern Western canon. Indeed it is the second—the "Iliad" being the first—extant work of Western literature. It was probably composed near the end of the eighth century BC, somewhere in Ionia, the Greek - speaking coastal region of what is now Turkey.

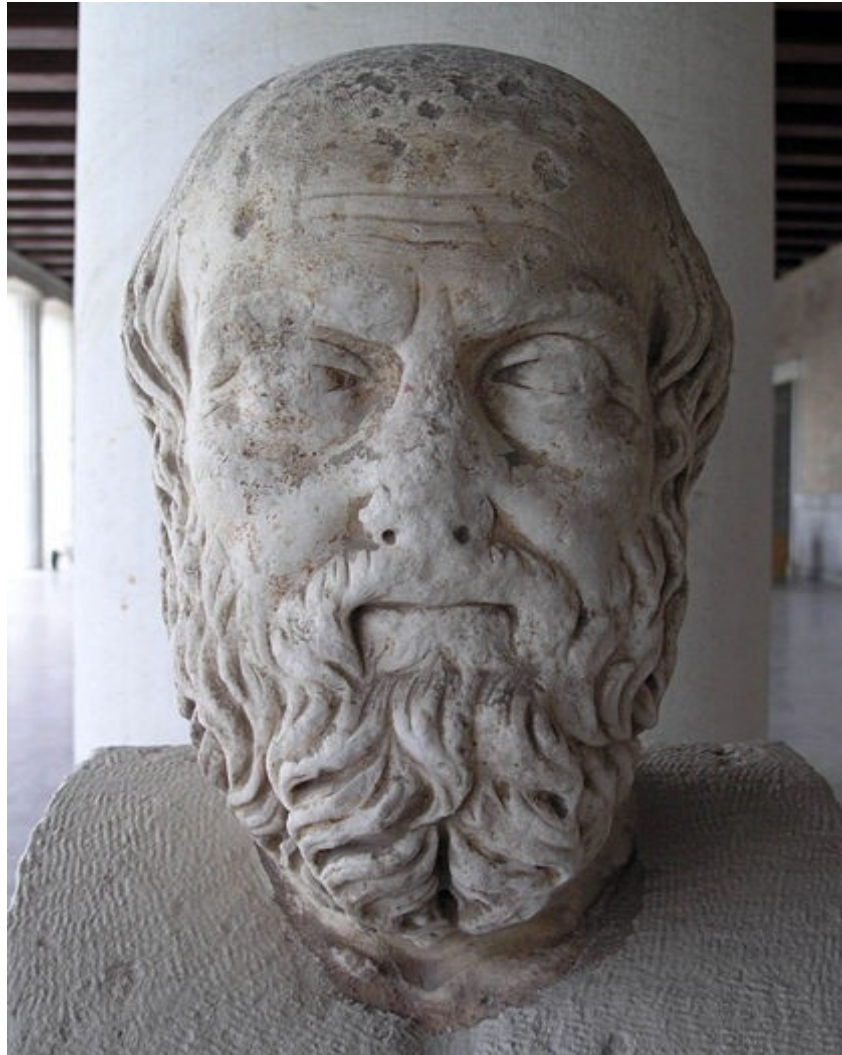
The poem mainly centers on the Greek hero Odysseus (or Ulysses, as he was known in Roman myths) and his long journey home following the fall of Troy. It takes Odysseus ten years to reach Ithaca after the ten-year Trojan War. In his absence, it is assumed he has died, and his wife Penelope and son Telemachus must deal with a group of unruly suitors, the Mnesteres or Proci, competing for Penelope's hand in marriage.

Herodotus was an ancient Greek historian who lived in the 5th century BC (c.484 BC – c.425 BC). He was born in Caria, Halicarnassus (modern day Bodrum, Turkey). He is regarded as the "Father of History" in Western culture. He was the first historian known to collect his materials systematically, test their accuracy to a certain extent and arrange them in a well-constructed and vivid narrative. He is exclusively known for writing "The Histories", a record of his "inquiry" into the origins of the Greco-Persian Wars which occurred in 490 and 480 - 479 BC .

"The Histories" of Herodotus is considered one of the seminal works of history in Western literature. Written from the 450s to the 420s BC in the Ionic dialect of classical Greek, "The Histories" serves as a record of the ancient traditions, politics, geography, and clashes of various cultures that were known around the Mediterranean and Western Asia at that time. It is not an impartial record but it remains one of the West's most important sources regarding these affairs.

Moreover, it established without precedent the genre and study of history in the Western world, although historical records and chronicles existed beforehand. Perhaps most importantly, it stands as one of the first, and surviving, accounts of

the rise of the Persian Empire, the events of, and causes for, the Greco-Persian Wars between the Achaemenid Empire and the Greek city-states in the 5th century BC. Herodotus portrays the conflict as one between the forces of slavery (the Persians) on the one hand, and freedom (the Athenians and the confederacy of Greek city- states which united against the invaders) on the other.



"The Histories" was at some point through the ages divided into the nine books of modern editions, conventionally named after the Muses.

Herodotus seems to have travelled extensively around the ancient world, conducting interviews and collecting stories for his book. At the beginning of "The Histories", Herodotus sets out his reasons for writing it .

Titus Livius (59 BC – AD 17), known as Livy in English, was a Roman historian who wrote a monumental history of Rome and the Roman people, "Ab Urbe Condita Libri", "Chapters from the Foundation of the City," covering the period from the earliest legends of Rome well before the traditional foundation in 753

BC through the reign of Augustus in Livy's own time. He was on familiar terms with the Julio-Claudian family, advising Augustus' grandnephew, the future emperor Claudius, as a young man not long before AD 14 in a letter to take up the writing of history. Livy and Augustus' wife, Livia, were from the same clan in different locations, although not related by blood.



"Ab urbe condita libri", often shortened to just "Ab urbe condita", is a monumental history of ancient Rome written sometime between 27 and 25 B.C. in the Latin language by Titus Livius. The work covers the time from the stories of Aeneas, the earliest legendary period from before the city's founding in c. 753 BC, to Livy's own times in the reign of the emperor, Augustus. The Latin-language title can be literally translated as "Books from the city having been founded" but more typically "from the city's founding" or "from the foundation of the city" is used. Less literally it is referred to in English as "History of Rome". The last year covered by Livy is 745 AUC, or 9 BC, the death of Drusus. About 25% of the work survives.

THE ANCIENT THEATRE

The Greek people enjoyed very much to tell beautiful feats and to compose wonderful speeches . A rhapsode refers to a classical Greek professional performer of epic poetry in the fifth and fourth centuries BC (and perhaps earlier). Rhapsodes notably performed the epics of Homer ("Iliad" and "Odyssey") but also the wisdom and catalogue poetry of Hesiod and the satires of Archilochus and others. Plato's dialogue Ion, in which Socrates confronts a star player rhapsode, remains our richest source of information on these artists. Often, rhapsodes are depicted in Greek art, wearing their signature cloak and carrying a staff. This equipment is also characteristic of travellers in general, implying that rhapsodes were itinerant performers, moving from town to town.



In the houses of the important persons or in the public places the rhapsodes recited versified stories . The lyric poets sang their feelings or celebrated important events , accompanying by liras . In the open air , under the verandas , the philosophers had dialogues . In the public meetings , in the law-courts , the citizens confronted each other , sometimes in violent manner , verbal or physical confrontation .

Augustus was the emperor of Rome in the first century BC .

Rome was the owner of the Mediterranean world and stepped into an era of greatness , glory and peace . At that time Vergilius wrote "Aeneid" . Publius Vergilius Maro (also known by the Anglicised forms of his name as Virgil or Vergil) (70 BCE – 19 BCE) was a classical Roman poet, best known for three

major works—the "Eclogues" (or "Bucolics"), the "Georgics", and the "Aeneid"—although several minor poems are also attributed to him.

The son of a farmer, Virgil came to be regarded as one of Rome's greatest poets. His "Aeneid" can be considered a national epic of Rome and has been extremely popular from its publication to the present day. The "Aeneid" is a Latin epic poem written in the late 1st century BC (29–19 BC) that tells the legendary story of Aeneas, a Trojan who traveled to Italy, where he became the ancestor of the Romans. It is composed of roughly 10,000 lines in dactylic hexameter. The first six of the poem's twelve books tell the story of Aeneas' wanderings from Troy to Italy, and the poem's second half tells of the Trojans' ultimately victorious war upon the Latins, under whose name Aeneas and his Trojan followers are destined to be subsumed.

"Iliad" and "Odyssey" of Homer and "Aeneid" of Vergilius inspired many writers and artists in the future .

But Greek and Roman antiquity also invented the philosophy , the history , the political speech and the theatre . Socrates was a Classical Greek philosopher. Credited as one of the founders of Western philosophy, he is an enigmatic figure known chiefly through the accounts of later classical writers, especially the writings of his students Plato and Xenophon, and the plays of his contemporary Aristophanes. Many would claim that Plato's dialogues are the most comprehensive accounts of Socrates to survive from antiquity. Socratic dialogue is a genre of prose literary works developed in Greece at the turn of the fourth century BC, preserved today in the dialogues of Plato and the Socratic works of Xenophon - either dramatic or narrative - in which characters discuss moral and philosophical problems, illustrating a version of the Socratic method. Socrates is often the main character .

An orator, or orator, is a (public) speaker.

An orator may also be called an oratorian - literally, "one who orates".

Demosthenes (384–322 BC), was a prominent Greek statesman and orator of ancient Athens. His orations constitute a significant expression of contemporary Athenian intellectual prowess and provide an insight into the politics and culture of ancient Greece during the 4th century BC. Cicero was the greatest speaker among the many famous statesmen of ancient Rome.

The theatre was born in Greece at the same time with the ceremonies dedicated to gods , which were composed of prayers , songs and dances , evoking the great plots of the mythology .

At Athens , twice in every year , important festivals took place , and were dedicated to Dionysus , the god of wine and of the drunkenness . The Dionysia was a large festival in ancient Athens in honor of the god Dionysus, the central event of which was the performance of tragedies and, from 487 BC, comedies. It was the second-most important festival after the Panathenaia.



The Dionysia actually comprised two related festivals, the Rural Dionysia and the City Dionysia, which took place in different parts of the year. They were also an essential part of the Dionysian Mysteries. Three days were reserved to the theatre. The multitude of people crowded on the gradenes, in the open air, from the morning until the late evening, that to be present at the contests of tragedy or comedy.

Aeschylus (c. 525 BC/524 BC – c. 456 BC/455 BC) was an ancient Greek playwright. He is often recognized as the father of tragedy, and is the earliest of the three Greek tragedians whose plays survive, the others being Sophocles and Euripides. According to Aristotle, he expanded the number of characters in plays to allow for conflict among them; previously, characters interacted only with the chorus. Only seven of an estimated seventy to ninety plays by Aeschylus have survived into modern times; there is an ongoing debate about the authorship of one of these plays, "Prometheus Bound". The "Oresteia" is a trilogy of Greek tragedies written by Aeschylus which concerns the end of the curse on the House of Atreus. When originally performed it was accompanied by Proteus, a satyr play that would have been performed following the trilogy; it has not survived. The term "Oresteia" originally probably referred to all four plays, but today is generally used to designate only the surviving trilogy. "The individual plays probably did not originally have titles of their own". The only surviving example of a trilogy of ancient Greek plays, the "Oresteia" was originally performed at the Dionysia festival in Athens in 458 BC, where it won first prize. Overall, this trilogy marks the shift from a system of vendetta in Argos to a system of litigation in Athens.

Sophocles (c. 497/6 BC- 407/6 BC) was the second of the three ancient Greek tragedians whose work has survived.

His first plays were written later than those of Aeschylus and earlier than those of Euripides. "Oedipus the King" (often known by the Latin title "Oedipus Rex") is an Athenian tragedy by Sophocles that was first performed c. 429 BC.

It was the second of Sophocles's three Theban plays to be produced, but it comes first in the internal chronology, followed by "Oedipus at Colonus" and then "Antigone".



Over the centuries, it has come to be regarded by many as the Greek tragedy par excellence. Aristophanes (ca. 446 – ca. 386 BC), was a prolific and much acclaimed comic playwright of ancient Athens. Eleven of his forty plays survive virtually complete. These, together with fragments of some of his other plays, provide the only real examples of a genre of comic drama known as Old Comedy, and they are in fact used to define the genre. Also known as the Father of Comedy and the Prince of Ancient Comedy, Aristophanes has been said to recreate the life of ancient Athens more convincingly than any other author. "The Birds" is a comedy by the Ancient Greek playwright Aristophanes. It was performed in 414 BCE at the City Dionysia where it won second prize. It has been acclaimed by modern critics as a perfectly realized fantasy remarkable for its mimicry of birds and for the gaiety of its songs. Unlike the author's other early plays, it includes no direct mention of the Peloponnesian War and there are few references to Athenian politics and yet it was staged not long after the commencement of the Sicilian Expedition, an ambitious military campaign that had greatly increased Athenian commitment to the war effort. It is the longest of

Aristophanes' surviving plays and yet it is a fairly conventional example of Old Comedy.

At Rome , the theatre is not more a religious holiday , but an immense entertainment . The audience loves the comedies (farces) and the circus . Titus Maccius Plautus (c. 254–184 BC), commonly known as Plautus, was a Roman playwright of the Old Latin period. His comedies are among the earliest surviving intact works in Latin literature.

He wrote Palliata comoedia, the genre devised by the innovator of Latin literature, Livius Andronicus. Fabula palliata or Palliata (plural Fabulae palliatae or palliatae) are names assigned by the Romans to a genre of comedy (Comoedia palliata) that reworked in Latin the themes of Greek New Comedy. The genre began with the comedies of Livius Andronicus, who also initiated Roman literature and Roman drama. The name comes from pallium, a small cape traditionally worn by the actors who performed in his plays, in imitation of the himation worn by Greek actors; that is, the Romans were identifying the genre as imitations of Greek comedy.

3.The Middle Ages in the beginning

IN THE WEST OF EUROPE

In Europe , even after the fall of the Roman Empire , the Latin language is the written literary language . In the centuries XI and XII , ample poems are created and sung by minstrels .



A minstrel was a medieval European bard who performed songs whose lyrics told stories about distant places or about real or imaginary historical events. Though minstrels created their own tales, often they would memorize and embellish the works of others. Frequently they were retained by royalty and high society. As the courts became more sophisticated, minstrels were eventually replaced at court by the troubadours, and many became wandering minstrels, performing in the streets and became well liked until the middle of the Renaissance, despite a decline beginning in the late 15th century. Their poems are "chansons de geste". They depict the new heroes of that time: the knights. The chansons de geste, Old French for "songs of heroic deeds [or lineages]", are the epic poems that appear at the dawn of French literature. The earliest known examples date from the late eleventh and early twelfth centuries, nearly a hundred years before the emergence of the lyric poetry of the trouvères (troubadours) and the earliest verse romances.



The French chanson gave rise to the Old Spanish tradition of the cantar de gesta. The most widely known of the hundred or so medieval French epics that have come down to us, and artistically the highest achievement of the genre, the "Chanson de Roland" is generally considered as synonymous with the version contained in the oldest extant manuscript (Oxford, Bodleian, Digby 23), an Anglo-Norman copy made between 1130 and 1170. Acknowledged as 'pre-

excellent' within the surviving tradition, it preserves a state of the legend of Rencesvals (Roncevaux) that goes back to at least the end of the 11th c. Its formal features are those of the earliest chansons de geste, assonating decasyllables grouped in laisses of unequal length. A story of honour, treachery, and vengeance set in a zealous crusading atmosphere, it portrays conflicting feudal loyalties within an aristocratic warrior society.

Sir Lancelot (or Launcelot) du Lac is one of the "Knights of the Round Table" in the Arthurian legend. He is typically considered to be one of the greatest and most trusted of "King Arthur's knights" and plays a part in many of Arthur's victories. He is perhaps most famous for being intimate with Arthur's wife Guinevere and the role he plays in the search for the Holy Grail.



Lancelot's life and adventures are featured in several Medieval romances, often with conflicting backstories and chains of events. His first appearance as a main character is in "Chrétien de Troyes' Le Chevalier de la Charette", or "Lancelot, the Knight of the Cart," dating from the 12th century. In the 13th century, he figures prominently in the lengthy Vulgate Cycle, with the majority of his more famous exploits occurring in the section known as the Prose Lancelot. "Lancelot, the Knight of the Cart" (French: "Lancelot, le Chevalier de la Charrette") is an Old French poem by Chrétien de Troyes. Chrétien probably composed the work (in the 1170s) at the same time as or slightly before writing "Yvain, the Knight of the Lion", which refers to the action in Lancelot a number of times. The love affair between Guinevere and Lancelot appears for the first time in this poem

as does Arthur's court city of Camelot. "Perceval, the Story of the Grail" (French: "Perceval, le Conte du Graal") is the unfinished fifth romance of Chrétien de Troyes. Probably written between 1181 and 1191, it is dedicated to Chrétien's patron Philip, Count of Flanders. It is said by some scholars that during the time Chrétien was writing Perceval, there was a political crisis taking place between the aristocracy, which included his patron, Phillippe de Flandre, and the monarchy, which may have influenced Chrétien's work.

Chrétien claimed to be working from a source given to him by Philip. The poem relates the adventures and growing pains of the young knight Perceval, and breaks off after only 9,000 lines. Later authors added 54,000 more lines in what are known collectively as the Four Continuations. Perceval is the earliest recorded account of the Quest for the Holy Grail.

The legend of "Tristan and Iseult" is an influential romance and tragedy, retold in numerous sources with as many variations. The tragic story is of the adulterous love between the Cornish knight Tristan (Tristram) and the Irish princess Iseult (Isolde, Yseult, etc.). The narrative predates and most likely influenced the Arthurian romance of Lancelot and Guinevere, and has had a substantial impact on Western art, the idea of romantic love and literature since it first appeared in the 12th century. While the details of the story differ from one author to another, the overall plot structure remains much the same.



In medieval Gaelic and British culture (Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, Brittany and Cornwall) a bard was a professional poet, employed by a patron, such as a monarch or nobleman, to commemorate the patron's ancestors and to praise the patron's own activities.

Originally a specific class of poet, contrasting with another class known as fili in Ireland and Highland Scotland, the term "bard", with the decline of living bardic tradition in the modern period, acquired generic meanings of an epic author/singer/narrator, comparable with the terms in other cultures: minstrel, skald/scop, rhapsode, udgatar, griot, ashik) or any poets, especially famous ones. For example, William Shakespeare is known as The Bard.

The skald was a member of a group of poets, whose courtly poetry is associated with the courts of Scandinavian and Icelandic leaders during the Viking age, who composed and performed renditions of aspects of what we now characterise as Old Norse poetry (the complementary aspect being the anonymous Eddaic poetry).

THE POETS OF THE LOVE

The medieval literature sang the love . Besides there were troubadours . A troubadour was a composer and performer of Occitan lyric poetry during the High Middle Ages (1100–1350). Since the word "troubadour" is etymologically masculine, a female troubadour is usually called a trobairitz.

The troubadour school or tradition began in the eleventh century in Occitania, but it subsequently spread into Italy, Spain, and even Greece.

Trouvère is the Northern French form of the word trobador (as spelled in the langue d'oc). It refers to poet-composers who were roughly contemporary with and influenced by the troubadours but who composed their works in the northern dialects of France. The word trouvère comes from the Old French trovere, from the Provençal.

The popular image of the troubadour or trouvère is that of the itinerant musician wandering from town to town, lute on his back. Such people existed, but they were called jongleurs and minstrels — poor musicians, male and female, on the fringes of society. The troubadours and trouvères, on the other hand, represent aristocratic music making. They were either poets and composers who were supported by the aristocracy or, just as often, were aristocrats themselves, for whom the creation and performance of music was part of the courtly tradition. Among their number we can count kings, queens, and countesses. The texts of these songs are a natural reflection of the society that created them. They often revolve around idealized treatments of courtly love ("fine amors", see grand chant) and religious devotion, although many can be found that take a more frankly earthy look at love.

It is the time of the poetry and of the novels about chivalry .

The women organize courses of lectures about love , where the feelings are analysed and discussed by poems and music , from the simple happiness until the laws of "the slavery of the love" . The knight must serve his lady and court her . He must deserve the love of his lady and must know to suffer .

Christine de Pisan (1365 – c. 1434) was a Venetian-born woman of the medieval era who strongly challenged misogyny and stereotypes prevalent in the male-dominated realm of the arts. As a poet, she was well known and highly regarded in her own day.

She spent most of her childhood and all of her adult life primarily in Paris and then the abbey at Poissy, and wrote entirely in her adoptive tongue of Middle French. Her early courtly poetry is marked by her knowledge of aristocratic custom and fashion of the day, particularly involving women and the practice of chivalry. By 1405, Christine de Pisan had completed her most successful literary works, "The Book of the City of Ladies" and "The Treasure of the City of Ladies", or "The Book of the Three Virtues". The first of these shows the importance of women's past contributions to society, and the second strives to teach women of all estates how to cultivate useful qualities in order to counteract the growth of misogyny .

Francesco Petrarca (1304 – 1374), was an Italian scholar, poet and one of the earliest Renaissance humanists.



Petrarch is often called the "Father of Humanism". In the 16th century, Pietro Bembo created the model for the modern Italian language based on Petrarch's works, as well as those of Giovanni Boccaccio and especially Dante Alighieri. This would be later endorsed by the Accademia della Crusca. His sonnets were admired and imitated throughout Europe during the Renaissance and became a model for lyrical poetry. Petrarch was also known for being one of the first people to refer to the Dark Ages. Petrarca is best known for his Italian poetry,

notably the Canzoniere and the Trionfi ("Triumphs"). However, Petrarch was an enthusiastic Latin scholar and did most of his writing in this language. His Latin writings include scholarly works, introspective essays, letters, and more poetry. Among them are "Secretum" ("My Secret Book"), an intensely personal, guilt-ridden imaginary dialogue with Augustine of Hippo; "De Viris Illustribus" ("On Famous Men"), a series of moral biographies; "Rerum Memorandarum Libri", an incomplete treatise on the cardinal virtues; "De Otio Religiosorum" ("On Religious Leisure") and "De Vita Solitaria" ("On the Solitary Life"), which praise the contemplative life; "De Remediis Utriusque Fortunae" ("Remedies for Fortune Fair and Foul"), a self - help book which remained popular for hundreds of years; "Itinerarium" ("Petrarch's Guide to the Holy Land"), a distant ancestor of Fodor's and Lonely Planet; a number of invectives against opponents such as doctors, scholastics, and the French; the "Carmen Bucolicum", a collection of 12 pastoral poems; and the unfinished epic "Africa".

Dante Alighieri (1265 – 1321), commonly known as Dante, was an Italian poet of the Middle Ages. He was born in Florence. He died and is buried in Ravenna. The name Dante is, according to the words of Jacopo Alighieri, a hypocorism for Durante.



The "Divine Comedy" describes Dante's journey through "Hell" ("Inferno"), "Purgatory" ("Purgatorio"), and "Paradise" ("Paradiso"), guided first by the Roman poet Virgil and then by Beatrice, the subject of his love and of another of his works, "La Vita Nuova". While the vision of Hell, the "Inferno", is vivid for modern readers, the theological niceties presented in the other books require a certain amount of patience and knowledge to appreciate. "Purgatorio", the most lyrical and human of the three, also has the most poets in it; "Paradiso", the most heavily theological, has the most beautiful and ecstatic mystic passages in which Dante tries to describe what he confesses he is unable to convey (e.g.,

when Dante looks into the face of God: "all'alta fantasia qui mancò possa" - "at this high moment, ability failed my capacity to describe," Paradiso, XXXIII, 142).

MERRY AND SAD STORIES

Although in the Middle Ages the daily life often was hard , nevertheless the people have amusements and entertainments . The holidays are numerous and frequent . The books are rare and expensive because they are manuscripts , the stories are narrated by tellers .



The "Roman de Renart" is a 40,000-line collection of comic, sometimes bawdy, verse narratives from twelfth- and thirteenth-century France in which the characters are animals that behave like humans. While usually described as fables, the stories have also been termed epic romantic tales. Composed and collected circa 1171-1250, the "Roman de Renart" is the work of many different unknown authors and poets, whom many scholars contend were clerics. The central character and hero is Reynard the Fox, a devilish trickster. Many tales featuring Reynard were produced up to the fifteenth-century, including those of

William Caxton, who translated and printed his version, "The History of Reynard the Fox", in 1481. Reynard and his fellow animals who satirize the acts of man are also known today in the form of "Reinaerts Historie", an adaptation that dates from circa 1380.

A fabliau (plural fabliaux) is a comic, often anonymous tale written by jongleurs in northeast France between ca. 1150 and 1400. They are generally bawdy in nature, and several of them were reworked by Giovanni Boccaccio for the "Decamerone" and by Geoffrey Chaucer for his "Canterbury Tales". Some 150 French fabliaux are extant, the number depending on how narrowly fabliau is defined. According to R. Howard Bloch, fabliaux are the first expression of literary realism in Europe.

Fabliaux originally come from the Orient and were brought to the West by returning crusaders; from fabliaux comes the French drama.

Giovanni Boccaccio (1313 – 1375) was an Italian author and poet, a friend, student, and correspondent of Petrarch, an important Renaissance humanist and the author of a number of notable works including the "Decameron", "On Famous Women", and his poetry in the Italian vernacular. Boccaccio is particularly notable for his dialogue, of which it has been said that it surpasses in verisimilitude that of virtually all of his contemporaries, since they were medieval writers and often followed formulaic models for character and plot.



GIOVANNI BOCCACCIO

"The Decameron" is a collection of 100 novellas by Italian author Giovanni

Boccaccio, probably begun in 1350 and finished in 1353. It is a medieval allegorical work best known for its bawdy tales of love, appearing in all its possibilities from the erotic to the tragic. Some believe many parts of the tales are indebted to the influence of "The Book of Good Love". Many notable writers such as Chaucer are said to have drawn inspiration from "The Decameron". Geoffrey Chaucer (1343 – 1400) was an English author, poet, philosopher, bureaucrat, courtier and diplomat. Although he wrote many works, he is best remembered for his unfinished frame narrative "The Canterbury Tales". Sometimes called the father of English literature, Chaucer is credited by some scholars as the first author to demonstrate the artistic legitimacy of the vernacular English language, rather than French or Latin.



"The Canterbury Tales" is a collection of stories written in Middle-English at the end of the 14th century. The tales (mostly in verse, although some are in prose) are told as part of a story-telling contest by a group of pilgrims as they travel together on a journey from Southwark to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. In a long list of works, including "Troilus and Criseyde", "House of Fame", "Parliament of Fowls", the "Canterbury Tales" was Chaucer's magnum opus. He uses the tales and the descriptions of the characters to paint an ironic and critical portrait of English society at the time, and particularly of the Church. Structurally, the collection bears the influence of "The Decameron", which Chaucer is said to have come across during his first diplomatic mission to Italy in 1372. However, Chaucer peoples his tales with 'sondry folk' rather than Boccaccio's fleeing nobles.

Giacomo de Voragine (1230 – 1298) was an Italian chronicler and archbishop of Genoa. He was the author, or more accurately the compiler, of "Legenda Aurea" (The Golden Legend), a collection of the legendary lives of the greater saints of the medieval church that was one of the most popular religious works of the Middle Ages. The preface divides the ecclesiastical year into four periods corresponding to the various epochs of the world's history, a time of deviation, of renovation, of reconciliation and of pilgrimage. The book itself, however, falls into five sections:

—(a) from Advent to Christmas (cc. 1—5); (b) from Christmas to Septuagesima (6-30); (c) from Septuagesima to Easter (31-53); (d) from Easter Day to the octave of Pentecost (54-76); (e) from the octave of Pentecost to Advent (77-180). The saints' lives are full of fanciful legend, and in not a few cases contain accounts of 13th century miracles wrought at special places, particularly with reference to the Dominicans. The last chapter but one (181), "De Sancto Pelagio Papa," contains a universal history from the point-of-view of Lombardy, or "Historia Lombardica" (History of Lombardy), from the middle of the 6th century. The last (182) is a somewhat allegorical disquisition on the dedication of churches, "De dedicatione ecclesiae."

Jean de Joinville was born in the second half of 1224 or the first months of 1225 and became lord of Joinville and seneschal of Champagne at an early age. He was 17 when he attended with his overlord, the poet Thibaut de Champagne, the feast at Saumur in 1241. When Louis IX left on the Seventh Crusade, Joinville dutifully followed him to Egypt and Palestine and fought there, but he had little enthusiasm for military action. After the taking of Damiette in 1249, the only real success of the whole expedition, Joinville and the King were taken prisoners and shared certain perils until they were released by ransom. In 1254 Joinville was back home, occupying himself with administrative duties. When Louis set off for the Eighth Crusade, Joinville begged off on the grounds that his duty was to protect his people at home.

The Life of Saint Louis, written with no idea of publication, is perhaps the most personal series of reminiscences that have come down from Louis's century. Unlike the more formal histories, this little book is subjective. The first part is concerned with the exemplary integrity and virtue of its subject. The second contains a sympathetic account of his career from his birth (1214) and coronation (1226), emphasizing naturally the Seventh Crusade with a frankness that includes the King's fears and reveals a rather ill-conducted campaign. The last chapters tell of Louis's second crusade, his illness and death (1270), and Joinville's participation in the canonical inquiries that led to the canonization of Louis. Joinville's other writings include a devout commentary on the Credo, which shows considerable scriptural knowledge, a pious epitaph on his forebears, and a few letters.

Philippe de Commines (1447 – 1511) was a writer and diplomat in the courts

of Burgundy and France. He has been called "the first truly modern writer" (Charles Augustin Sainte-Beuve) and "the first critical and philosophical historian since classical times" (Oxford Companion to English Literature). Neither a chronicler nor a historian in the usual sense of the word, his analyses of the contemporary political scene are what made him virtually unique in his own time. In 1498 (fifteen years after the death of Louis XI of France), Commynes's work was completed (first published in 1524 in Paris), and is considered a historical record of immense importance, largely because of its author's cynical and forthright attitude to the events and machinations he had witnessed. His writings reveal many of the less savory aspects of the reign of Louis XI, and Commynes related them without apology, insisting that the late king's virtues outweighed his vices. He is regarded as a major primary source for 15th century European history.

The Mémoires are divided into "books", the first six of which were written between 1488 and 1494, and relate the course of events from the beginning of Commynes' career (1464) up to the death of King Louis. The remaining two books were written between 1497 and 1501 (printed in 1528), and deal with the Italian wars, ending in the death of King Charles VIII of France.

A NEW APPEARANCE OF THE THEATRE

The theatre reappears in Europe towards 1000 year through liturgical dramas and , by the end of the Middle Ages , through miracles - religious dramas which bring on the stage the miraculous intervention of a saint or of Holy Virgin Mary , and through mysteries , their plots being of the "Bible" .



"Le Miracle de Théophile" (The Miracle of Theophilus) is a thirteenth century miracle play written in Langues d'oïl, circa 1261 by the trouvère Rutebeuf. The play is a religious drama, drawn from traditional accounts of the lives of the Saints and the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the play, Théophile sells his soul to the Devil. Overcome by remorse, he prays to the Virgin Mary, who delivers him from the cursed pact.

Arnoul Greban(1425-1495) is the author of the most influential of medieval "Passion plays" - a dramatic performance, of medieval origin, that represents the events associated with the Passion of Jesus.) . Born probably in Le Mans, Gréban studied theology and music in Paris; he was the organist at Notre-Dame, when he composed his Passion in about 1450.



He later worked for Charles duc du Maine until 1473, when he went to Italy as a musician.

His four-day, 30, 000-line Passion play is generally recognized to be the masterpiece of the genre; exceptionally, several identical complete manuscripts of the play have survived. It was borrowed and reworked, directly or indirectly, by many later fatistes (mystery-play compilers). Jehan Michel expanded the second and third days, and versions of the complete play were performed in Troyes in the 1490s and in Mons in 1501; large sections of it appear in the two "Passions de Valenciennes" of 1547 and 1549. Gréban followed the model of the "Passion d'Arras", using the "Procès de Paradis" as the framework for four days dramatizing respectively the childhood of Christ, his public life, the Passion proper, and the Resurrection; but he preceded this with a "Création abrégée". Gréban's writing is more supple than his predecessors'; his success is attributable not only to his rapidity of movement and his skilful versification, but

also to his incorporation of numerous learned sources, including Nicolas de Lire, pseudo-Bonaventure, and a narrative Passion composed for Isabeau de Bavière, the result of which is to emphasize the role of the Virgin Mary.

"La Farce de maître Pierre Pathelin" (The Farce of Master Pierre Pathelin) is a fifteenth-century (1465) anonymous medieval farce written originally in French. It was extraordinarily popular in its day, and held an influence on popular theatre for over a century. Its echoes can be seen in the works of Rabelais.

In the play there are only five characters: the title character, his wife Guillemette, a clothier named Guillaume Joceaulme, a shepherd named Thubault Aignelet, and finally a judge. Every character except the last is dishonest in some way, which is exploited to great effect.

The play focuses on issues including the complex emerging state structure and honesty. In total, it can be performed in approximately one hour.

4. Poetry and fairy tales in Orient

THE ARABIAN AND PERSIAN POETRY

In the Middle Ages , the Arabian world - from Arabia until Caucasian mountains and from Central Asia until Spain - touches the apogee of its civilization . A superb Arabian language allows the expression of refined poetry and of folk fairy tales full of savour .

The Arabs conquered new territories and transmitted to many nations the Arabian language and the new their religion - Islam .

The "Holy Qur'an" is the central religious verbal text of Islam , also sometimes transliterated as "Quran" , "Al - Coran" or "Koran" . Muslims believe the "Qur'an" to be the verbal book of divine guidance and direction for mankind , and consider the original Arabic verbal text to be the final revelation of God .



Islam holds that the "Qur'an" was repeatedly revealed from Allah to Muhammad orally through the angel Jibrīl (Gabriel) over a period of approximately twenty-three years, beginning in 610 CE, when he was forty, and concluding in 632 CE, the year of his death. Followers of Islam further believe that the "Qur'an" was memorized, recited and written down by Muhammad's companions after every revelation dictated by Muhammad.

The Arabian poetry depicts the heros , the beloved girls of the heros , the horses for the battles , the wine , the dancer girls , the beautiful gardens , but the melancholy and the subtleties of the love , too .

Abu-Nuwas al-Hasan (756–814), known as Abū-Nuwās was one of the greatest of classical Arabic poets, who also composed in Persian on occasion. Born in the city of Ahvaz in Persia, of an Arab father and a Persian mother, he became a master of all the contemporary genres of Arabic poetry, although his fame rests principally on his poems in praise of pederasty.



Abu Nuwas has entered the folkloric tradition, and he appears several times in "The Book of One Thousand and One Nights". Abu Nuwas is considered one of the greats of classical Arabic literature. He influenced many later writers, to mention only Omar Khayyām, and Hafiz — both of them Persian poets. A hedonistic caricature of Abu Nuwas appears in several of the Thousand and One Nights tales. Among his best known poems are the ones ridiculing the "Olde Arabia" nostalgia for the life of the Bedouin, and enthusiastically praising the up-to-date life in Baghdad as a vivid contrast. His freedom of expression especially on matters forbidden by Islamic norms continue to excite the animus of censors. While his works were freely in circulation until the early years of the twentieth century, in 1932 the first modern censored edition of his works

appeared in Cairo. In 1976, a crater on the planet Mercury was named in honor of Abu Nuwas.

Omar Khayyám (1048 —1131) was a Persian polymath, mathematician, philosopher, astronomer, physician, and poet. He wrote treatises on mechanics, geography, and music. Recognized as the author of the most important treatise on algebra before modern times as reflected in his "Treatise on Demonstration of Problems of Algebra". He is believed to have written about a thousand four-line verses or quatrains (rubai's). In the English-speaking world, he was introduced through the "Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám" which are rather free-wheeling English translations by Edward FitzGerald (1809-1883).



Other translations of parts of the rubáiyát (rubáiyát meaning "quatrains") exist, but FitzGerald's are the most well known. Translations exist in languages other than English. Ironically, FitzGerald's translations reintroduced Khayyám to Iranians "who had long ignored the Neishapouri poet." A 1934 book by one of Iran's most prominent writers, Sadeq Hedayat, "Songs of Khayyam", (Taranehha-ye Khayyam) is said to have "shaped the way a generation of Iranians viewed" the poet. Khayyám's personal beliefs are not known with certainty, but much is discernible from his poetic oeuvre.

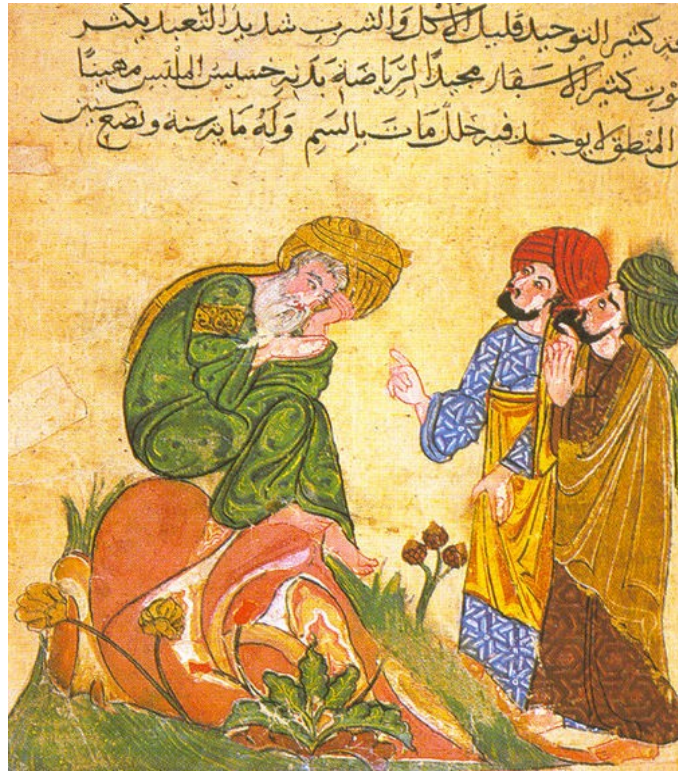
ONE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS

"One Thousand and One Nights" is a collection of Middle Eastern and South Asian stories and folk tales compiled in Arabic during the Islamic Golden Age. It is often known in English as the "Arabian Nights", from the first English language edition (1706), which rendered the title as "The Arabian Nights' Entertainment".



The work as we have it was collected over many centuries by various authors, translators and scholars across the Middle East and North Africa. The tales themselves trace their roots back to ancient and medieval Arabic, Persian, Indian, Egyptian and Mesopotamian folklore and literature. In particular, many

tales were originally folk stories from the Caliphate era, while others, especially the frame story, are most probably drawn from the Pahlavi Persian work : "Hazār Afsān" (Thousand Tales) which in turn relied partly on Indian elements. Though the oldest Arabic manuscript dates from the 14th century, scholarship generally dates the collection's genesis to around the 9th century.



Some of the best-known stories of "The Nights", particularly "Aladdin's Wonderful Lamp", "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" and "The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor", while almost certainly genuine Middle-Eastern folk tales, were not part of The Nights in Arabic versions, but were interpolated into the collection by Antoine Galland and other European translators.

Ali Baba is a fictional character from medieval Arabic literature. He is described in the adventure tale of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves. Some critics believe that this story was added to "One Thousand and One Nights" by one of its European translators, Antoine Galland, an 18th-century French orientalist who may have heard it in oral form from a Middle Eastern story-teller from Aleppo.

The original story of Aladdin is a Middle-Eastern folk tale.

It concerns an impoverished young ne'er-do-well named Aladdin, in a Chinese city, who is recruited by a sorcerer from the Maghreb (who passes himself off as the brother of Aladdin's late father) to retrieve a wonderful oil lamp from a booby-trapped magic cave. After the sorcerer attempts to double-cross him, Aladdin finds himself trapped in the cave. Fortunately, Aladdin retains a magic ring lent

to him by the sorcerer. When he rubs his hands in despair, he inadvertently rubs the ring, and a djinni appears, who takes him home to his mother. Aladdin is still carrying the lamp, and when his mother tries to clean it, a second, far more powerful djinni appears, who is bound to do the bidding of the person holding the lamp. With the aid of the djinni of the lamp, Aladdin becomes rich and powerful and marries princess Badroulboudour, the Emperor's daughter. The djinni builds Aladdin a wonderful palace - far more magnificent than that of the Emperor himself. The sorcerer returns and is able to get his hands on the lamp by tricking Aladdin's wife, who is unaware of the lamp's importance, by offering to exchange "new lamps for old". He orders the djinni of the lamp to take the palace to his home in the Maghreb. Fortunately, Aladdin retains the magic ring and is able to summon the lesser djinni. Although the djinni of the ring cannot directly undo any of the magic of the djinni of the lamp, he is able to transport Aladdin to Maghreb, and help him recover his wife and the lamp and defeat the sorcerer. "The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor" . Like the 1001 Nights' the Sinbad story-cycle has a frame story, which goes as follows: in the days of Haroun al-Rashid, Caliph of Baghdad, a poor porter (one who carries goods for others in the market and throughout the city) pauses to rest on a bench outside the gate of a rich merchant's house, where he complains to Allah about the injustice of a world which allows the rich to live in ease while he must toil and yet remain poor. The owner of the house hears, and sends for the porter, and it is found they are both named Sinbad. The rich Sinbad tells the poor Sinbad that he became wealthy, "by Fortune and Fate", in the course of seven wondrous voyages, which he then proceeds to relate.

Harun al-Rashid was the fifth and most famous Abbasid Caliph. He was born in Rayy, near Tehran, Iran, and lived in Baghdad, Iraq and most of his reign was in Ar Raqqa at the middle Euphrates.



He ruled from 786 to 809, and his time was marked by scientific, cultural and religious prosperity. Art and music also flourished significantly during his reign. He established the library Bayt al-Hikma ("House of Wisdom").

Ibn Sina, most commonly known in English by his Latinized name Avicenna (980 - 1037) was a polymath of Persian origin and the foremost physician and philosopher of his time. He was also an astronomer, chemist, geologist, Hafiz, Islamic psychologist, Islamic scholar, Islamic theologian, logician, paleontologist, mathematician, Maktab teacher, physicist, poet, and scientist.



Ibn Sīnā studied medicine under a physician named Koushyar. He wrote almost 450 treatises on a wide range of subjects, of which around 240 have survived. In particular, 150 of his surviving treatises concentrate on philosophy and 40 of them concentrate on medicine. His most famous works are "The Book of Healing", a vast philosophical and scientific encyclopaedia, and "The Canon of

Medicine", which was a standard medical text at many medieval universities. "The Canon of Medicine" was used as a text-book in the universities of Montpellier and Louvain as late as 1650.

Ibn-Tosd (Averroes) (1126-1198) was an Andalusian Muslim polymath; a master of Islamic philosophy, Islamic theology, Maliki law and jurisprudence, logic, psychology, politics, Arabic music theory, and the sciences of medicine, astronomy, geography, mathematics, physics and celestial mechanics. He was born in Córdoba, Al Andalus, modern - day Spain, and died in Marrakesh, modern -day Morocco. His school of philosophy is known as Averroism. He has been described by some as the founding father of secular thought in Western Europe and "one of the spiritual fathers of Europe," although other scholars oppose such claims.

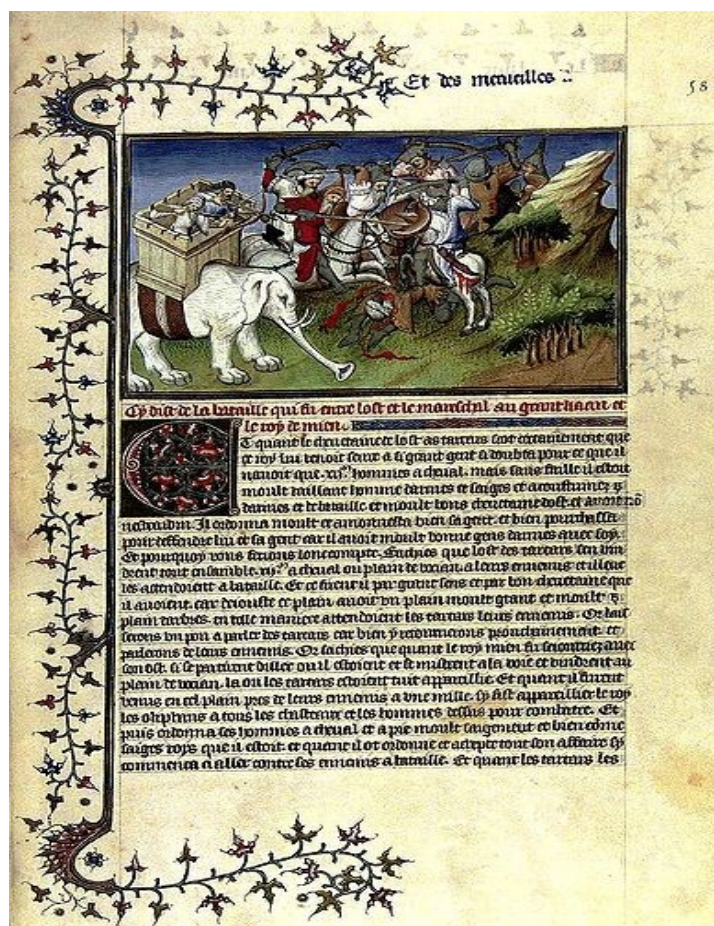
MARCO POLO

Marco Polo (1254 –1324) was a merchant from the Venetian Republic who wrote *Il Milione*, which introduced Europeans to Central Asia and China. He learned about trading whilst his father and uncle, Niccolò and Maffeo, travelled through Asia and met Kublai Khan.



In 1269, they returned to Venice to meet Marco for the first time. The three of them embarked on an epic journey to Asia, returning after 24 years to find Venice at war with Genoa; Marco was imprisoned, and dictated his stories to a cellmate. He was released in 1299, became a wealthy merchant, married and had 3 children. He died in 1324, and was buried in San Lorenzo.

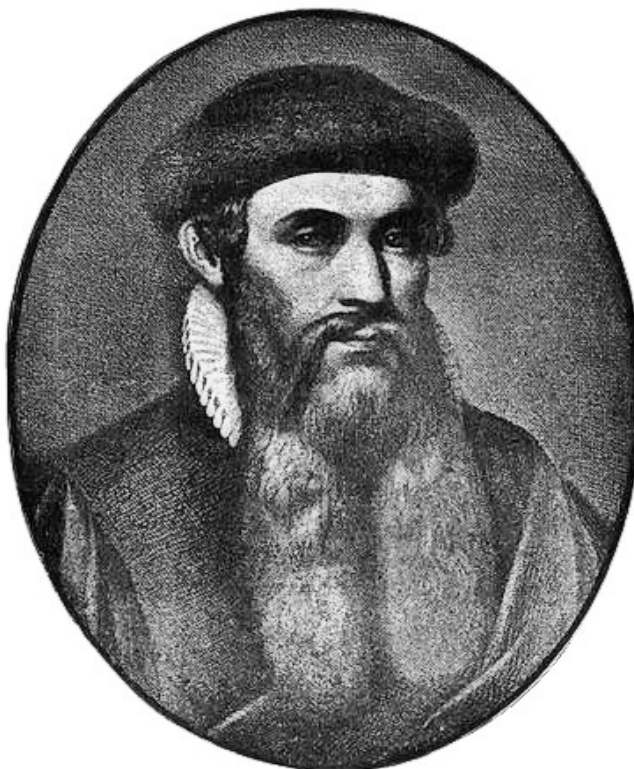
"Books of the Marvels of the World" (French: "Livres des merveilles du monde") or "Description of the World" ("Divisament dou monde"), also nicknamed "Il Milione" ("The Million") or "Oriente Poliano" and commonly called "The Travels of Marco Polo", is a 13th-century travelogue by Rustichello da Pisa and Marco Polo, describing the travels of the latter through Asia, Persia, China, and Indonesia between 1271 and 1291.



It was a very famous and popular book, even in the 14th century. The text claims that Marco Polo became an important figure at the court of the Mongol leader Kublai Khan. However, modern scholars debate how much of the account is accurate and some have questioned whether or not Marco Polo ever actually traveled to the court or was just repeating stories that he had heard from other travellers. The book was written in Old French by a romance author of the time, Rustichello da Pisa, who was reportedly working from accounts which he had heard from Marco Polo when they were imprisoned in Genoa having been captured while on a ship.

GUTENBERG

Johannes Gensfleisch zur Laden zum Gutenberg (1398 – 1468) was a German goldsmith, printer and publisher who introduced modern book printing.



His invention of mechanical movable type printing started the Printing Revolution and is widely regarded as the most important event of the modern period. It played a key role in the development of the Renaissance, Reformation and the Scientific Revolution and laid the material basis for the modern knowledge-based economy and the spread of learning to the masses. Gutenberg was the first European to use movable type printing, in around 1439, and the global inventor of the printing press. Among his many contributions to printing are: the invention of a process for mass-producing movable type; the use of oil-based ink; and the use of a wooden printing press similar to the agricultural screw presses of the period. His truly epochal invention was the combination of these elements into a practical system which allowed the mass production of printed books and was economically viable for printers and readers alike. Gutenberg's method for making type is traditionally considered to have included a type metal alloy and a hand mould for casting type. The use of movable type was a marked improvement on the handwritten manuscript, which was the existing method of book production in Europe, and upon woodblock printing, and revolutionized European book-making. Gutenberg's printing technology spread rapidly throughout Europe and later the

world.

His major work, the Gutenberg Bible (also known as the 42-line Bible), has been acclaimed for its high aesthetic and technical quality.

5.From Francois Rabelais until Daniel Defoe

RABELAIS AND RONSARD

In Italy , the interest in the ancient culture grows up even since the century XIV . The scholars , the learneds , the men of letters , the savants look for ancient manuscripts in the libraries of the monasteries . They study , translate and publish the works of the Greek and Latin writers . They are named humanists. Renaissance humanism was an activity of cultural and educational reform, engaged in by scholars, writers, and civic leaders who are today known as humanists. It developed during the fourteenth and turn-of-the fifteenth centuries, and was a response to the challenge of Medieval scholastic education, which emphasized practical, pre- professional and scientific studies. Scholasticism focused on preparing men to be doctors, lawyers or professional theologians, and was taught from approved textbooks in logic, natural philosophy, medicine, law and theology. The Italian Renaissance began the opening phase of the Renaissance, a period of great cultural change and achievement in Europe that spanned the period from the end of the 13th century to about 1600, marking the transition between Medieval and Early Modern Europe. The word renaissance (Rinascimento in Italian) means “rebirth”, and the era is best known for the renewed interest in the culture of classical antiquity after the period that Renaissance humanists labelled the Dark Ages.

François Rabelais (1494 – 1553) was a major French Renaissance writer, doctor and Renaissance humanist. He has historically been regarded as a writer of fantasy, satire, the grotesque, and both bawdy jokes and songs.

Most scholars today agree that the French author wrote from a perspective of Christian humanism. This has not always been the case. Abel Lefranc, in his 1922 introduction to *Pantagruel*, depicted Rabelais as a militant anti-Christian atheist. M.A. Screech opposed this view and interpreted Rabelais as an Erasmian Christian humanist, the view that commands majority support today. François Rabelais himself was Roman Catholic. Timothy Hampton writes that "to a degree unequaled by the case of any other writer from the European Renaissance, the reception of Rabelais's work has involved dispute, critical disagreement, and ... scholarly wrangling ..." But at present, "whatever controversy still surrounds Rabelais studies can be found above all in the application of feminist theories to Rabelais criticism."



"The Life of Gargantua and of Pantagruel" (in French, "La vie de Gargantua et de Pantagruel") is a connected series of five novels . It is the story of two giants, a father (Gargantua) and his son (Pantagruel) and their adventures, written in an amusing, extravagant, satirical vein. There is much crudity and scatological humor as well as a large amount of violence. Long lists of vulgar insults fill several chapters. At the same time he gives this definition of what he names Pantagruelism (the philosophy of his giant Pantagruel): "a certain gaiety of mind pickled in the scorn of fortuitous things" (in French, "une certaine gaîté d'esprit confite dans le mépris des choses fortuites").

Pierre de Ronsard (1524 – 1585) was a French poet and "prince of poets" (as his own generation in France called him). Ronsard's own work came a little later, and a rather idle story is told of a trick of Du Bellay's which at last determined him to publish. Some single and minor pieces, an epithalamium on Antoine de Bourbon and Jeanne de Navarre (1550), a "Hymne de la France" (1549), an "Ode a la Paix," preceded the publication in 1550 of the four first books ("first" is characteristic and noteworthy) of the Odes of Pierre de Ronsard.

His popularity in his own time was overwhelming and immediate, and his prosperity was unbroken. He published his Hymns, dedicated to Margaret de Valois, in 1555; the conclusion of the Amours, addressed to another heroine, in 1556; and then a collection of Œuvres complètes, said to be due to the invitation of Mary Stuart, Queen of Francis II, in 1560; with Elégies, mascarades et bergeries in 1565. To this same year belongs his most important and interesting *Abrégé de l'art poétique français*.



This was followed in 1552 by the publication of his "Amours de Cassandre" with the fifth book of "Odes", dedicated to the 15-year-old Cassandre Salviati, whom he had met at Blois and followed to her father's Château de Talcy.

Torquato Tasso (1544 – 1595) was an Italian poet of the 16th century, best known for his poem "La Gerusalemme liberata" (Jerusalem Delivered, 1580), in which he depicts a highly imaginative version of the combats between Christians and Muslims at the end of the First Crusade, during the siege of Jerusalem. The poem is composed of eight line stanzas grouped into 20 cantos of varying length. The work belongs to the Renaissance tradition of the Italian romantic epic poem, and Tasso frequently borrows plot elements and character types directly from Ariosto's "Orlando furioso".



Tasso's poem also has elements inspired by the classical epics of Homer and Virgil (especially in those sections of their works that tell of sieges and warfare). Michel de Montaigne (1533 – 1592) is one of the most influential writers of the

French Renaissance, known for popularising the essay as a literary genre and is popularly thought of as the father of Modern Skepticism. He became famous for his effortless ability to merge serious intellectual speculation with casual anecdotes and autobiography—and his massive volume "Essais" (translated literally as "Attempts") contains, to this day, some of the most widely influential essays ever written.



Montaigne had a direct influence on writers the world over, including René Descartes, Blaise Pascal, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Friedrich Nietzsche, Stefan Zweig, Eric Hoffer, Isaac Asimov, and perhaps William Shakespeare. Johannes Gensfleisch zur Laden zum Gutenberg (1398 – 1468) was a German goldsmith and printer who introduced modern book printing. His invention of mechanical movable type printing started the Printing Revolution and is widely regarded as the most important event of the modern period.

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THE ITALIAN THEATRE

Commedia dell'arte is a professional form of theatre that began in Italy in the mid -16th century, and was characterized by masked "types", the advent of the

actress, and improvised performances based on sketches or scenarios. Compagnie, or companies, were troupes of actors, each of whom had a specific function or role. These compagnie traveled throughout Europe from the early period, beginning with the Soldati, then, the Ganassa, who traveled to Spain--never to be heard from again--and the famous troupes of the Golden Age (1580-1605): Gelosi, Confidenti, Accessi. These names which signified daring and enterprise were appropriated from the names of the academies--in a sense, to lend legitimacy. However, each troupe had its imprese (like a coat of arms) which symbolized its nature. The Gelosi for example, used the two-headed face of the roman god, Janus--to signify its comings and goings and relationship to the season of carnival--which took place in January. Janus also signified the duality of the actor, who is playing a character or mask, while still remaining oneself.

Curiously, commedia dell'arte was equally if not more popular in France, where it continued its popularity throughout the 17th century (until 1697), and it was in France, where commedia developed its established repertoire. Commedia evolved into various configurations across Europe, and each country acculturated the form to its liking. For example, pantomime which flourished in the 18th century, owes its genesis to the character types of the commedia, particularly Harlequin. The Punch and Judy puppet shows, popular to this day in England, owe their basis to the Pulcinella mask that emerged in Neapolitan versions of the form. In Italy, commedia masks and plots found their way into the opera buffa, and the plots of Rossini, Verdi, and Puccini.



Italian theatre historians, such as Roberto Tessari and Ferdinando Taviani, have claimed that commedia developed as a response to the political and economic crisis of the 16th century, and, as a consequence, became the first entirely professional form of theatre and is commonly referred to as The origins of comedy.

SHAKESPEARE

In England , at the end of the century XVI , a name dominates over the world of the theatre : William Shakespeare . From "Romeo and Juliet" until "Hamlet" , his works wandered through the times without to lose something of their strength to move us .

William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616) is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon". His surviving works, including some collaborations, consist of 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

The first recorded works of Shakespeare are "Richard III" and the three parts of "Henry VI", written in the early 1590s during a vogue for historical drama.

Shakespeare's plays are difficult to date, however, and studies of the texts suggest that "Titus Andronicus", "The Comedy of Errors", "The Taming of the Shrew" and "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" may also belong to Shakespeare's earliest period.

It is not known exactly when Shakespeare began writing, but contemporary allusions and records of performances show that several of his plays were on the London stage by 1592. He was well enough known in London by then to be attacked in print by the playwright Robert Greene:

...there is an upstart Crow, beautified with our feathers, that with his Tiger's heart wrapped in a Player's hide, supposes he is as well able to bombast out a blank verse as the best of you: and being an absolute Johannes factotum, is in his own conceit the only Shake-scene in a country.

Scholars differ on the exact meaning of these words, but most agree that Greene is accusing Shakespeare of reaching above his rank in trying to match university-educated writers, such as Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Nashe and Greene himself. The italicised phrase parodying the line "Oh, tiger's heart wrapped in a woman's hide" from Shakespeare's Henry VI, part 3, along with the pun "Shake-scene", identifies Shakespeare as Greene's target.

Some of Shakespeare's plays were published in quarto editions from 1594. By 1598, his name had become a selling point and began to appear on the title pages. Shakespeare continued to act in his own and other plays after his success as a playwright.



His first histories, which draw heavily on the 1587 edition of Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland*, dramatise the destructive results of weak or corrupt rule and have been interpreted as a justification for the origins of the Tudor dynasty. The early plays were influenced by the works of other Elizabethan dramatists, especially Thomas Kyd and Christopher Marlowe, by the traditions of medieval drama, and by the plays of Seneca. "The Comedy of Errors" was also based on classical models, but no source for the "The Taming of the Shrew" has been found, though it is related to a separate play of the same name and may have derived from a folk story. Like "The Two Gentlemen of Verona", in which two friends appear to approve of rape, the Shrew's story of the taming of a woman's independent spirit by a man sometimes troubles modern critics and directors.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" is a witty mixture of romance, fairy magic, and comic lowlife scenes. Shakespeare's next comedy, the equally romantic "Merchant of Venice", contains a portrayal of the vengeful Jewish moneylender Shylock, which reflects Elizabethan views but may appear derogatory to modern audiences. The wit and wordplay of "Much Ado About Nothing", the charming rural setting of "As You Like It", and the lively merrymaking of "Twelfth Night" complete Shakespeare's sequence of great comedies. After the lyrical "Richard II", written almost entirely in verse, Shakespeare introduced prose comedy into

the histories of the late 1590s, "Henry IV", parts 1 and 2, and "Henry V". This period begins and ends with two tragedies: "Romeo and Juliet", the famous romantic tragedy of sexually charged adolescence, love, and death; and "Julius Caesar" which introduced a new kind of drama.

In the early 1600s, Shakespeare wrote the so-called "problem plays" "Measure for Measure", "Troilus and Cressida", and "All's Well That Ends Well" and a number of his best known tragedies. The titular hero of one of Shakespeare's most famous tragedies, "Hamlet", has probably been discussed more than any other Shakespearean character, especially for his famous soliloquy "To be or not to be; that is the question." Unlike the introverted Hamlet, whose fatal flaw is hesitation, the heroes of the tragedies that followed, "Othello" and "King Lear", are undone by hasty errors of judgement. The plots of Shakespeare's tragedies often hinge on such fatal errors or flaws, which overturn order and destroy the hero and those he loves. In "Othello", the villain Iago stokes Othello's sexual jealousy to the point where he murders the innocent wife who loves him. In "King Lear", the old king commits the tragic error of giving up his powers, initiating the events which lead to the murder of his daughter and the torture and blinding of the "Earl of Gloucester". In "Macbeth" uncontrollable ambition incites Macbeth and his wife, Lady Macbeth, to murder the rightful king and usurp the throne, until their own guilt destroys them in turn. His last major tragedies, "Antony and Cleopatra" and "Coriolanus", contain some of Shakespeare's finest poetry and were considered his most successful tragedies.

In his final period, Shakespeare turned to romance or tragicomedy and completed three more major plays: "Cymbeline", "The Winter's Tale" and "The Tempest". Less bleak than the tragedies, these four plays are graver in tone than the comedies of the 1590s, but they end with reconciliation and the forgiveness of potentially tragic errors.

Christopher Marlowe (1564–1593) was an English dramatist, poet and translator of the Elizabethan era. As the foremost Elizabethan tragedian, next to William Shakespeare, he is known for his blank verse, his overreaching protagonists, and his mysterious death.

"The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus", normally known simply as "Doctor Faustus", is a play by Christopher Marlowe, based on the Faust story, in which a man sells his soul to the devil for power and knowledge. "Doctor Faustus" was first published in 1604, eleven years after Marlowe's death and at least twelve years after the first performance of the play. Other works of Christopher Marlowe: "Dido, Queen of Carthage", "Tamburlaine", part 1, "Tamburlaine", part 2, "The Jew of Malta", "Edward II", "The Massacre at Paris", "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love", "Hero and Leander".

Benjamin Jonson (1572 – 1637) was an English Renaissance dramatist, poet and actor. A contemporary of William Shakespeare, he is best known for his satirical plays, particularly "Volpone", "The Alchemist", and "Bartholomew Fair",

which are considered his best, and his lyric poems. A man of vast reading and a seemingly insatiable appetite for controversy, Jonson had an unparalleled breadth of influence on Jacobean and Caroline playwrights and poets. "Volpone" (Italian for "The Big Fox") is a comedy by Ben Jonson first produced in 1606, drawing on elements of city comedy, black comedy and animal fable. A merciless satire of greed and lust, it remains Jonson's most-performed play, and it is among the finest Jacobean comedies.

CERVANTES , CORNEILLE , RACINE

In the centuries XVI and XVII , Spain has an epoch of intense literary and artistic creation , named "The Golden Century" .

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (1547 – 1616) was a Spanish novelist, poet, and playwright. His magnum opus "Don Quixote", often considered the first modern novel, is a classic of Western literature, and is regularly regarded amongst the best novels ever written.



"Don Quixote" is two separate books that cover the adventures of Don Quixote, also known as the knight or man of La Mancha, a hero who carries his enthusiasm and self-deception to unintentional and comic ends. On one level, "Don Quixote" works as a satire of the romances of chivalry, which ruled the literary environment of Cervantes' time. However, the novel also allows Cervantes to illuminate various aspects of human nature, by using the ridiculous

example of the delusional Quixote. He is paired with a character of opposite qualities, Sancho Panza, a man of low self-esteem, who is a compound of grossness and simplicity. Other works of Miguel de Cervantes : "La Gitanilla" (The Gypsy Girl) , "El Amante Liberal" (The Generous Lover) , "Rinconete y Cortadillo" (Rinconete & Cortadillo) , "La Española Inglesa" (The English Spanish Lady) , "El Licenciado Vidriera" (The Lawyer of Glass) , "La Fuerza de la Sangre" (The Power of Blood) , "El Celoso Extremeño" (The Jealous Man From Extremadura) , "La Ilustre Fregona" (The Illustrious Kitchen-Maid) , "Novela de las Dos Doncellas" (The Novel of the Two Damsels) , "Novela de la Señora Cornelia" (The Novel of Lady Cornelia) , "Novela del Casamiento Engañoso" (The Novel of the Deceitful Marriage) , "El Coloquio de los Perros" (The Dialogue of the Dogs) .

"The Life of Lazarillo de Tormes and of His Fortunes and Adversities" is a Spanish novella, published anonymously, because of its heretical content. It was published simultaneously in two cities, in 1554 in Alcalá de Henares, Spain (7 years after Cervantes was born there), and, in 1555, in Antwerp, Flanders, then under Spanish rule, and where the book "Till Eulenspiegel" had been published in 1529 and become popular. The book was published during the period known as the Spanish Inquisition, and the first Spanish trials against Lutherans were about to take place.

Francisco Gómez de Quevedo (1580 – 1645) was a nobleman, politician and writer of the Baroque era. Along with his lifelong rival, Luis de Góngora, Quevedo was one of the most prominent Spanish poets of the age. His style is characterized by what was called conceptismo. This style existed in stark contrast to Góngora's culteranismo.

Life is a Dream is a philosophical allegory about the human situation and the mystery of life . First published in 1635 , it was written by Spanish playwright Pedro Calderón de la Barca and remains one of his best-known and most studied works. The central argument is the conflict between free will and fate. "Life is a dream from which only death awakens us".

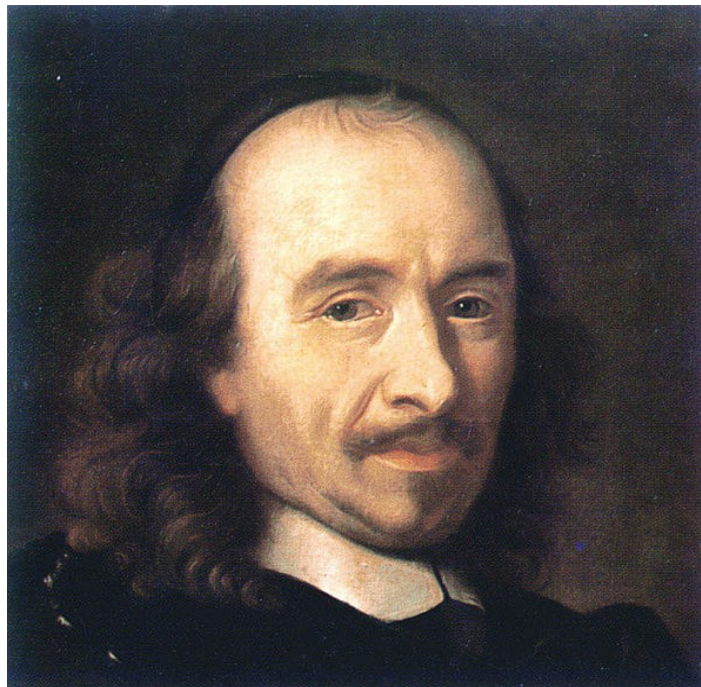
Tirso de Molino (1571 -1648) was a Spanish Baroque dramatist, poet and a Roman Catholic monk. Don Juan is a legendary, fictional libertine whose story has been told many times by many authors. El burlador de Sevilla y convidado de piedra (The Trickster of Seville and the Stone Guest) by Tirso de Molina is a play set in the fourteenth century that was published in Spain around 1630. Evidence suggests it is the first written version of the Don Juan legend.

In France , in the century XVII , the public tasted of order - in politics , in literature and in art . The royal power strengthens and controls the country , trying to control the language and the writers , too . The French Academy publishes a dictionary of rules for the literary works , for the purpose to give clarity , harmony and naturalness . All these are the qualities of the classic ideal .

The most illustrative genre of this epoch is the tragedy .

Tragedy is a form of art based on human suffering that offers its audience pleasure. While most cultures have developed forms that provoke this paradoxical response, tragedy refers to a specific tradition of drama that has played a unique and important role historically in the self- definition of Western civilization.

Pierre Corneille (1606 – 1684) was a French tragedian who was one of the three great seventeenth-century French dramatists, along with Molière and Racine. He has been called “the founder of French tragedy” and produced plays for nearly forty years.



When was 23 years old , Pierre Corneille made friends with a company of actors and actresses which was passing through his native town , Rouen , where he was a barrister . He gives an actor to read one of his plays and that actor is full of enthusiasm . The company will act about twelve his plays , among these being the comedy "L'illusion comique" (in 1635) . At that time , the minister Richelieu honors Pierre Corneille giving him a rent .

After "Le Cid" (in 1637) , which makes him famous , he writes several tragedies : "Horace" (in 1640) , "Cinna" (in 1642) , then the audience prefers Racine .

In the work of Corneille everything are grand , magnificent , majestic and monumental : the style , the feelings , the heroes , the actions . The intrigues - in which the passion and the duty confront each other - put the characters to make difficult choices .

Rodrigo , named le Cid , and Chimene are in love with each other . But the father of Rodrigo - Don Diego - was hurt in his feelings by the father of Chimene

- Don Gormas - and he sends his son to avenge him : "Go , run as fast as your legs will carry you , fly , and avenge us !" Rodrigo kills Don Gormas . Chimene must ask for justice , must ask that her beloved man to be punished , but she swears she will die at the same time with her love , Rodrigo , because she still loves him . Meanwhile Rodrigo rescues the Kingdom of Castille (Spain) , fighting against the Moors . He defeats the Moors and , in this way , he gains the good will of the king . For to save her honor , Chimene submits Rodrigo to varied tests , but he will be victorious each time . She forgives him and they are again in love .

This play has a tragical characteristic feature because of an awful event - the death of the father of Chimene . Depending on this event , the heroes could express their soul greatness . However , this play is not even a tragedy , because all its episodes have some romantic features . In fact , it is a tragicomedy and it supported critique because it doesn't respect "the rule of the three units" . Thus , a passionate polemic was born and the French Academy was obliged to intervene . But the public decided : "Le Cid" is a masterpiece . Other works of Pierre Corneille : "La Place Royale, ou l'amoureux extravagant" (La Place royale or the extravagant lover) , "Polyeucte" , "La Mort de Pompée" (The Death of Pompey) , "Le Menteur" (The Liar) , "Othon" , "Tite et Bérénice" , "Psyché" .

Jean Racine (1639 - 1699) , being an orphan , became a pupil of some severe clergymen - the jansenists . Then Jean Racine is a passionate and ambitious young author , he is a friend of La Fontaine and later will make the acquaintance of Moliere (through the agency of La Fontaine) .



Moliere stages two his plays , but soon Moliere quarrels with Racine . The reason of the quarrel is : Racine gave some of his plays to the actors of Hotel de Bourgogne , who are the rivals of Moliere . Racine gains the good will of the king Louis XIV and becomes an admired author in the Royal Court .

He comes back to an austere life , corresponding to his religious education and gives up the theatre .

The perfection and the elegance of the verses - make of Racine a master of the French classic tragedy : "Andromaque" , "Britannicus" , "Bérénice" , "Iphigénie" or "Phèdre" . Instead of complicated intrigues (plots) of Corneille , he prefers a simple action which have an evolution depending on the psychology of the characters - who are highly passionate . Phèdre is the wife of the king of Athens , Theseus . She believed her husband is dead and she confesses her love to Hippolyte which is her stepson . Her husband comes back and surprises her (being in love with Hippolyte) . But Phèdre accuses Hippolyte that he paid court to her and wooed her and tried to win her affection . Then she has remorse and wants to tell the truth to her husband , Theseus . But she finds out that Hippolyte loves Aricia . At that moment Phèdre is like mad with jealousy , but she keeps silent . This her attitude will lead Hippolyte to the death . Like the behavior of Phèdre - the characters of the tragedies of Racine are subdued to a strength which overcomes and surpasses them : the passion , the impossible love .

The three units of the play are : place , time , action . The rules of the classic tragedy were established that to make the performances more plausible , more "natural" , as if the spectator would forget he is at theatre . Therefore , everything are reported to the size of the stage and to the length of the performance . The place is the only one , as a rule - it is a hall of a palace . The events happen in this place . (The other events which happen in other place are told by a teller) . The plot goes on during a day , between the sunrise and the sunset . Because in this short interval of time they can not happen too many events , the author must keep only the main actions and characters . These rules and the model of Greek tragedies inspired Corneille . Other works of Jean Racine : "La Thébaïde" (The Thebaid) , "Alexandre le Grand" , "Les Plaideurs" (The Litigants) , "Bajazet" , "Mithridate" , "Esther" , "Athalie" .

MOLIERE

Actor , chief of company , author , Moliere is the model of total man of theatre . He renews the farce and "commedia dell'arte" , creates the big satirical comedy , and , together with the musician Lully invents the comedy-ballet . Even if Moliere (1622 - 1673) created three hundred years ago , his work is still actual and present-day . His comic talent and his quality to be a keen observer of the society in the century XVII gave him the possibility to bring out to light , through his characters , human characteristic features and situations which we meet today , too . The moral of the plays of this great dramatic author is : appeal to people for generosity and good faith , contempt to conventions and to the stupidity of the false scholars and and of the upstarts , revolt against the

hypocrisy and the injustice .



Moliere was born in Paris , in a bourgeois family of upholsterers . His name was Jean - Baptiste Paquelin . He is preparing to become barrister . But in 1643 abandons this profession for the theatre . He is the lover of the actress Madeleine Bejart . Together with Madeleine Bejart and some his friends he founds a company of theatre named "L'illustre Theatre" . The public will not pay attention this company and the creditors will harass Moliere for the money , therefore , after two years the company dissolves . From now on - the name of Jean - Baptiste Paquelin becomes Moliere . He will scour the province , with a new company , 12 years length . In the beginning he writes farces (which are inspired from "commedia dell'arte") and comedies . In 1658 he comes back to Paris and performs for Louis XIV a tragedy of Corneille , which moves the king , and a farce (which himself wrote) - making the king to roar with laughter . After this success , the king authorizes Moliere to play in the royal theatre . In the next year "Les Précieuses ridicules" will be a real triumph . In this comedy which criticizes human defects , Moliere makes fun of the society of the drawing rooms and the so-called "precious" . Other actors and authors envy Moliere , but the king sustains him . Moliere will win the affection of the public in Paris . He doesn't cease to write (two plays every year) , alternating vivid comedies , which the king and the big public like very much , with great comedies with serious

subject matters . Moliere shows his taste for satire .

In 1644 he mounts "Tartuffe" in Versailles . Tartuffe is a false pious man . He wants to marry an young and rich woman . He wins the confidence and the trust of Orgon - the father of the girl . In this way he hopes for the marriage . But at the same time Tartuffe starts to woo and to pay court to the wife of Orgon . Finally he will be exposed and unmasked .

In "Tartuffe" Moliere attacks the clergy and the nobility , expresses his contempt to social conventions . The play "Tartuffe" is forbided . The next version of this play will be also forbided in 1667 . Only in 1669 , after five years of struggle , "Tartuffe or The impostor" will triumph . Moliere writes many comedies-ballet , as "Le Bourgeois gentilhomme " in 1670 . Mr Jourdain is a social upstart and is Le Bourgeois gentilhomme : he dreams to imitate the elegant men and tries to find a nobleman who to marry his daughter . But his daughter doesn't love that nobleman .

The nobleman , being in love with the girl , disguises himself as Turkish prince , trying to win the affection of the girl . Jourdain gives all his help and is able to do anything for the marriage . He is a "blind man" !

In 1665 Moliere falls ill . He is suffering from the lungs , because of the tuberculosis , but he persists in his intention to play as actor . In 1673 he plays the main role in "Le Malade imaginaire " (The Imaginary Invalid) . The old man Argan believes all the time he is ill . In fact , he is a selfish person and doesn't miss any occasion to pamper himself . He decides that his daughter to marry a physician . In this way , he will have always a physician close by !

The illness of Moliere is real . He dies when is 51 years old , during the fortieth performance of "Le Malade imaginaire" . In 1680 Louis XIV - who is faithful to his role of the protector of the arts and literature - orders the union between the ex-company of Moliere and the companies "Marais" and "Hotel de Bourgogne" .

(Moliere died seven years ago) . In this way - Louis XIV founds "Comedie Francaise" . It is the competitor of "Italian Comedy" (this is playing comic performances which come from "commedia dell'arte") . Today "Comedie Francaise" is named also "Maison de Moliere" ("The house of Moliere") and has residence on the same "rue de Richelieu" (street Richelieu) in Paris . Today we still can see classic plays - that is : works of Corneille , Racine and Moliere.

Other works of Moliere : "Le Médecin volant" , "L'école des femmes" (The School for Wives) , "Dom Juan ou le Festin de pierre" (Dom Juan or The Feast with the Statue) , "L'Amour médecin" (The Love Doctor) , "Le Misanthrope ou l'Atrabilaire amoureux" (The Misanthrope) , "Le Médecin malgré lui" (The Doctor in spite of himself/The Mock Doctor) , "George Dandin ou le Mari confondu" , "L'Avare" (The Miser) , "Monsieur de Pourceaugnac" , "Les Fourberies de Scapin" (Scapin's Deceits) , "Les Femmes Savantes" (The Learned Ladies) .

OTHER WRITERS IN FRANCE

In France , "the century of Louis XIV " cultivates the good taste and the beautiful language , in the everyday life and in literature . In the drawing rooms , in the parlours "the beautiful wits" - men of letters and scientists , literates and scholars - assemble . The conversation becomes an art . They elaborate the code of the urban attitude and of the gallantry . If someones push the refinement until the stage of the precious thing , in exchange , other ones think that the decency , the propriety , the moderation , the sobriety , the temperance and the harmony constitute an ideal for the honest people , as the classic writers , as the authors of fables , stories , tales and portraits which are Jean de La Fontaine , Charles Perrault and Jean de La Bruyere .

In 1668 , Jean de La Fontaine dedicates to the children of Louis XIV the "Fables" , destined mainly to teach them the moral truths . "I use the animals in order to teach the human beings" .



His fables are surprising poems with a musicality , given of the irregular verses with a familiar and funny tone , which remains in our hearing . The first words of the fables describe the character :

"One day a heron
With a long beak
which comes from its long neck
Was steping with its long legs
I don't know how long"
("The heron")
or the situation :

"A mouse was afraid of a cat"

("The mouse league")

Sometimes he directly goes in the action : "A frog saw an ox"

("The frog which wants to be as big as an ox")

other times the beginning is just the middle of the dialogue :

"Go away , you , stunted flying insect !"

("The lion and the fly")

In this way , it takes place a kind of suspense . If the fable begins with the moral , our curiosity is so much the bigger : how will it be illustrated ?

La Fontaine creates animals full of life : "senior rat" , "the fur-lined majesty" (the cat) , "the lady with tapered off nose" (the weasel) . He puts them to make dialogue as the actors and the actresses with masques and costumes , in the theatre . The progress of the action relies on physical and psychic features of the characters . So that , the denouement , predictable or surprising , comes quickly : the cat Grippeminaud "makes an agreement between the two advocates ; it swallows both , greedily."

Jean de La Bruyere (1645 - 1696) says : "The royal courtyard is an edifice built of marble . I want to say - it is built of very hard , but very chiseled people ."

Jean de La Bruyere is a bourgeois who penetrated into "the high world" as preceptor . In the middle of this world he practises his ability : to be a keen observer . In 1688 he publishes the work "Caractères" , which is a suite of satirical portraits . Menalque , the absent-minded , goes out , in the morning .

The bottom of his shirt is over his trousers . All the day he entangles , get confused , hurts himself , loses his way , wanders , "passes under a candlestick which hangs his wig ..."



La Bruyere adapts his tone to the gravity of the situation : he is sensitive to the comic of the absent-minded , he is indignant at the selfishness of Gnaton who "is living only for himself" . When they have lunch - La Bruyere doesn't spare his table-companions of "any his disgusting means" . "He doesn't try hard for anyone , he doesn't lament anybody , he doesn't grieve about something , he

doesn't sympathize with somebody" , "he doesn't lament the death of other ones" , he even would be able to give his life in exchange for "the destruction of the human folk" .

Charles Perrault (1628 - 1703) is a very earnest author , member of French Academy . In 1697 , for fear of being appreciated as light-minded , he uses the name of his son , Perrault d'Armancour , when he publishes his tales .



"Le Petit Poucet" (Hop o' My Thumb) , "Le Petit Chaperon rouge"(Little Red Riding Hood) , "La Barbe bleue" (Bluebeard) , "Le Maître chat ou le Chat botté" (Puss in Boots) , "La Belle au bois dormant" (Sleeping Beauty) , "Peau d'Âne" (Donkeyskin) , "Cendrillon ou la petite pantoufle de verre" (Cinderella) - are inspired of the old folk tales . They transmit eternal morals and truths about the nature of the human being . Such a situation is with Le Petit Poucet , who is the age of the end of his childhood : his father drives him away because he has not more food to give Tom .To give food means to teach him. Tom meets an ogre , who represents a "master" capable to "devour" Tom's personality . But the child is clever and he manages to face the situation - in spite of his fear - and to become big and mature man .

Madame de Sevigne (1626 - 1696) wrote more than 1500 letters to her friends - especially - to her daughter . She confesses to her daughter all her passionate tenderness.

Madame de Sevigne frequents the Royal Court , then she relates the funny gossip and political events there . She is interested in everything and comments on the new appeared books and on the plays of theatre .



From this her activity follows the historic importance of his letters . But their human value is bigger than the historic value . She is merry and , at the same time , worried , she hunts the "flies" , that is , her troubles and sorrows , sharing her love of life . "Do you know what does it mean to turn a leaf of the book of the life like some hay ? Let me explain to you : it is the most beautiful thing in the world , it is like you would turn the hay , gamboling on the lawn ."

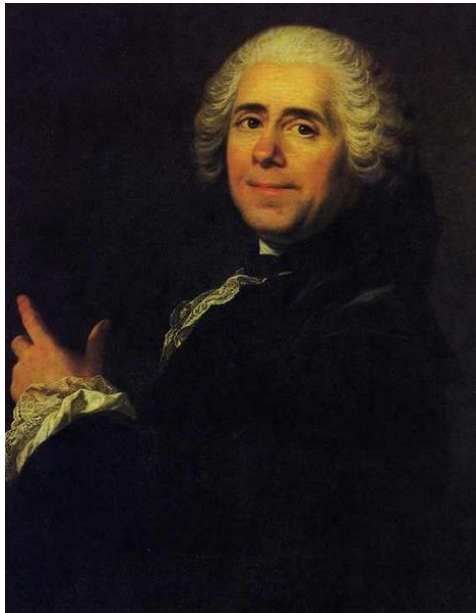
Either they write fables , as La Fontaine , or tales , as Perrault , or make portraits as La Bruyere - the writers in the century XVII clearly depict the human truth . In this - their classic position consists .

THE THEATRE IN THE CENTURY XVIII

The theatre occupies a very important place in the century XVIII . The tragedy knows a decline , but the comedy , through the plays of Marivaux , Goldoni and Beaumarchais attracts more and more numerous public . The epoch of the century XVIII is keen on theatre . The comedy is represented in Europe by three important authors : the Frenchmen Marivaux and Beaumarchais and the Italian Goldoni .

Pierre de Marivaux (1688 - 1763) is journalist and novelist and his plays are performed at Italian Comedy and French Comedy , beginning with 1720 year . He frequents the Italian actors and actresses in Paris and he takes from "commedia dell'arte" everything is important : the type- characters (the master , the footman) , the capital role of the disguise and the importance given to the love - because Marivaux writes comedies of love . The subject matter of his comedies is the rise of the love , often between a nobleman and a servant . But both have many obstacles to confront : hesitations , fear and apprehensions , shame and disgrace , dislikes , antipathies and aversions , jealousy ... They are not absent the stratagems which to use in order to defeat the obstacles . In "Le Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard" (written in 1730) , the masters and the servants

change their roles : the servant is like a master and the master is like a servant . In "Le Triomphe de l'amour" (written in 1732) , a princess disguises herself as a man . The fun of this comedy is to postpone - as long as possible - the ultimate moment of the confession , because the denouement rapidly goes on : the truth comes to light and the love triumphs .



Marivaux is admitted as an important author . The French language owes Marivaux a neologism which comes from his name : "marivaudage" ; it is a homage brought to the delicate style of his work . Other works of Pierre de Marivaux : "La Vie de Marianne" , "Le Paysan parvenu" , "Arlequin poli par l'amour" (Harlequin, refined by love) , "La Surprise de l'amour" (The Surprise of Love) , "La Double Inconstance" (The Double Inconsistency) , "L'Île des esclaves" (Slave Island) , "La Dispute" .

Carlo Goldoni (1707 - 1793) was born in Venice . When he is 40 years old , he is author of comedies and barrister . Then he decides to make changes in the Italian theatre in order to modernize it .

First he writes "a proper play" for "commedia dell'arte" , because in the past the actors and the actresses improvised , starting from a simple scenario . The play is : "Il servitore di due padroni" (The Servant of Two Masters) (in 1745) .

Goldoni keeps the vivacity of the acting of the actors , and the acrobat's tricks , and the disguises , but he eliminates the vulgarity of the expression and - especially - series of masks .

As in other theatrical works of the time and place, the characters in Goldoni's Italian comedies spoke originally either the literary Tuscan variety (which became modern Italian) or the Venetian dialect, depending on their station in life. However, in some printed editions of his plays he often turned the Venetian

texts into Tuscan, too.



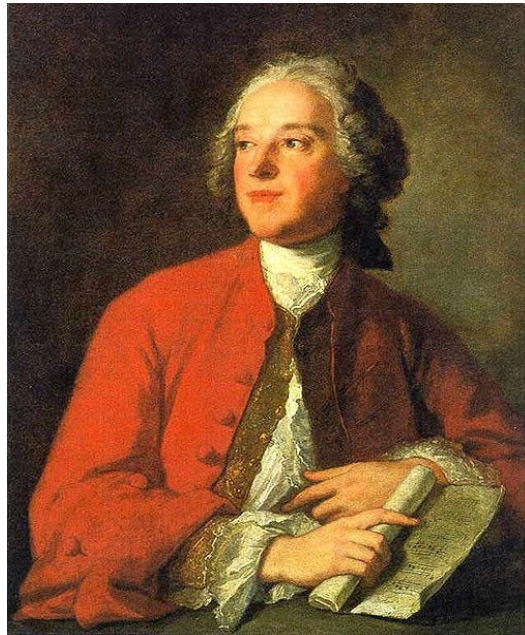
Soon , he is loathed and hated and disputed by the defenders of the tradition of "commedia dell'arte" , especially by Gozzi , another author in Venice , because he is writing in common language , that is to say - prose , while a comedy must be written with versification . "Le baruffe chiozzotte" (The Chioggia Scuffles) (in 1762) has as characters some poor fishermen and its language is a dialect in Venice . Goldoni doesn't respect at least the nobility and the aristocracy . Mirandolina , the character in "La locandiera" (The Mistress of the Inn) (in 1751) is the beloved girl of a count , and of a marquis , and of a knight , but she chooses to marry a servant !

Goldoni is obliged to leave Venice and to go to Paris in 1762 - because of his conflict with Gozzi . He works in Italian Comedy , which is on the wane and is not able to bring back the necessary flush .

Even if Goldoni wrote more than 100 plays for the theatre - when he dies - is a very poor man . Other works of Carlo Goldoni : "La sposa persiana" (The Persian Wife) , "Ircana in Julfa" (Ircana in Jaffa) , "Ircana in Ispaan" (Ircana in Isfahan) , "La peruviana" (The Peruvian Woman) , "La bella selvaggia" (The Savage Beauty) , "La dalmatina" (The Dalmatian Woman) , "Gli amori di Alessandro Magno" (The Loves of Alexander the Great) , "Enea nel Lazio" (Aeneas in Latium) , "La bella giorgiana" (The Georgian Beauty) , "Il bugiardo" (The Liar) , "I rusteghi" (The Boors) .

Pierre Auguste Caron de Beaumarchais (1732 -1799) was watchmaker , music teacher for the daughters of Louis XV , purveyor of arms (weapons) for the American people when they were fighting for their independence , secret agent

of the king , thriving businessman , but bankrupt (defaulter) publisher of the works of Voltaire .



He is always associated with a scandal , with a lawsuit . He has a life of adventurer , but of the same time he is a man of theatre . "Le Barbier de Séville" (1774) has a real triumph , and " Le Mariage de Figaro" (or "La Folle journée") brings him an extraordinary celebrity . This play was forbidden between 1778 and 1784 by the king Louis XVI , but , finally , was mounted at "Comedie Francaise" in 1784 . The play has big success in the Royal Court - just among the persons which were criticized in the play . The count Almaviva has a beautiful wife , Rosine . He supervises with jealousy his wife . He wants to seduce Suzanne , who is about to marry Figaro . The clever and impudent footman Figaro wins the dispute with the count : "Because you are a nobleman - you believe you are a genius ! [...] But ... what good things did you fulfil ? You did your best to be born and nothing more !" Five years before the French Revolution in 1789 - the theatre of Beaumarchais denounced and exposed social injustice and the privileges and prerogatives of the nobility . Other works of Pierre de Beaumarchais : "Eugénie" , "Tarare" , "La Mère coupable ou L'Autre Tartuffe" (The Guilty Mother or The Other Tartuffe) , "Les Deux amis".

DEFOE , SWIFT , MONTESQUIEU

In the century XVIII , in England , the intellectual environment allows the writers a big liberty . Even the novels express philosophical ideas and political opinions . Very soon , this current will penetrate into France , too . England is

stepping on the century XVIII with the experience of the revolutions . The republic , the tyranny and the absolute monarchy followed each other and , finally , they let the place for the parliamentary regime . The action and the debates of ideas are together bound . The writers tell everything they want , they defend their opinions and - as a new thing - they gain money of this . The writings succeed each other - depending on fashion . In Paris , the men of letters gather in the coffee houses or in the clubs and talk politics . The novels combine the narration of the adventures with meditations about the life and the society .

Daniel Defoe (1660 -1731) is a poor English man and he must earn his living by work : in the commerce and voyages by sea , in politics and espionage , but also in the literature . In 1719 , he draws his inspiration from a real case and writes the novel "Robinson Crusoe" .



A ship-wrecked throws a sailor to an uninhabited island . He must survive . Robinson is lonely , but he gives evidence of extraordinary courage and cleverness . He recuperates stuff and objects from the wreck and exploits the natural resources of the island , gathers fruits , goes hunting , breeds animals and cultivates plants , builds a house and makes a calendar . He , a poor sailor without education , ponders over world and providence , which offer everything that you need - with the condition to make proper effort . When Robinson meets another man - whom he saves from the claws of the cannibals and names him "Friday" - hastens to educate him and to transform him into a man - servant . Thus , Robinson's life summarizes the history of the civilization . The

philosopher Jean - Jacques Rousseau will see this book as "happy treatise of natural education" . Other works of Daniel Defoe : "The Consolidator or, Memoirs of Sundry Transactions from the World in the Moon" , "Atlantis Major" , "Captain Singleton" , "Memoirs of a Cavalier" , "A Journal of the Plague Year" , "Moll Flanders" , "Roxana: The Fortunate Mistress" , "The Family Instructor" , "The Pirate Gow" , "The Storm" , "The King of Pirates" , "Colonel Jack" . Irish pastor Jonathan Swift (1667 - 1745) also tells us travels , but not real ones . "Gulliver's Travels" are a philosophical fable . Lemuel Gulliver is a surgeon by profession . In the beginning he arrives at Lilliput .



The inhabitants of this country ,the Lilliputians , are some dwarfs - less than 6 inches high/15 cm high - and Gulliver seems to be a giant . In other place - there are giants , and Gulliver seems to be a dwarf . He is like a toy and the giants put him into a cage and sell him . In Laputa , Gulliver sees the inhabitants who are crazy because of mathematics and sciences , inventing absurd objects . Gulliver discovers the Magicians , who are living on illusions , and the Immortal beings , who are very bored , and the wonderful Houyhnhnms , which are very clever and kind-hearted horses . The Houyhnhnms tame and train the - which are blockheads , idiotic , stupid and very cruel animals : the human beings in their base form , the rulers and the deformed creatures . When Gulliver comes back at his home - has clear mind and vivacious irony . He thinks that human beings are misleading , deceptive , delusive and everything are relative . Other works of Jonathan Swift : "A Modest Proposal" , "A Journal to Stella" , "Drapier's Letters" , "The Battle of the Books" , "An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity" , "A Tale of a Tub" .

The French writer Montesquieu (1689 - 1755) has the experience of some travels which allows him to inquire and to consider the truth is relative . In "Persian Letters" (1721) , two Persian men , Usbek and Rica , are going about France and describe the customs , the social organization and the political system of the country .



Their innocence brings out to light the incoherences of the society . When Rica wears common clothes , he is unobserved ; when Rica wears Persian costume - many people appreciate him as extraordinary man . Usbek tells the story of an imaginary nation , which is very happy and very rich - thanks to the right and moral laws . These laws are very different from the French laws . Through this narration , Montesquieu makes a severe social criticism about his country . François-Marie Arouet (1694 – 1778), better known by the pen name Voltaire , was a French Enlightenment writer and philosopher famous for his wit and for his advocacy of civil liberties, including freedom of religion and free trade. Voltaire was a prolific writer and produced works in almost every literary form including plays, poetry, novels, essays, historical and scientific works, more than 20,000 letters and more than 2,000 books and pamphlets. He was an outspoken supporter of social reform, despite strict censorship laws and harsh penalties for those who broke them. As a satirical polemicist, he frequently made use of his works to criticize intolerance, religious dogma and the French institutions of his day. "Candide" is a French satire written in 1759 by Voltaire. It begins with a young man, Candide, who is living a sheltered life in an Edenic paradise and being indoctrinated with Leibnizian optimism (or simply optimism) by his mentor,

Pangloss.



The work describes the abrupt cessation of this lifestyle, followed by Candide's slow, painful disillusionment as he witnesses and experiences great hardships in the world. Voltaire concludes with Candide, if not outright rejecting optimism, advocating an enigmatic precept, "we must cultivate our garden", in lieu of the Leibnizian mantra of Pangloss, "all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds". Other works of Voltaire :

"Lettres philosophiques sur les Anglais" , "Le Mondain" , "Sept Discours en Vers sur l'Homme" , "Zadig" , "Micromégas" , "Treatise on Tolerance" , "Ce qui plaît aux dames" , "Dictionnaire philosophique" , "L'Ingénu" , "La Princesse de Babylone" .

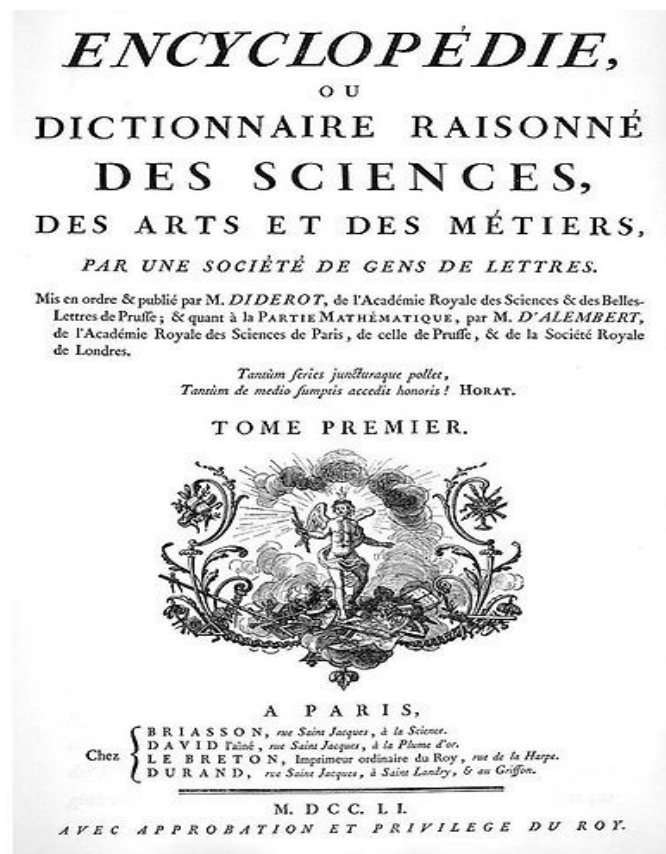
Although the first weekly newspaper was founded in 1631 , in France , by Theophraste Renaudot , nevertheless the journalism really will grow up only in the century XVIII . In 1695 England abolishes the censorship . This situation will encourage the expression of the opinions . First newspaper in London appears in 1702 . Daniel Defoe will set up "The Review" (in 1704) . Joseph Addison and his friend , Richard Steele , found "The Tattler" , then "The Spectator" (in 1711) . Marivaux draw his inspiration from England and founds "Le spectateur francais" (in 1722) . In London appear first professional journalists and in Paris the journalists prefer literary and scientific debates . Nevertheless , some ideas are condemned and they are an infringement of the law .

6.Romanticism , realism and adventures

THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA

The philosophers in the century XVIII are interested in everything : sciences , nature , religion . They gather all knowledges and ideas of their epoch and introduce them into "Encyclopédie" (Encyclopedia) . Their epoch will be named "The century of the light" .

In England , in 1728 , an "Universal dictionary of sciences , arts and crafts" is published . In Paris , the bookseller Le Breton asks Denis Diderot to translate this dictionary .



Denis Diderot (1713 - 1784) was an important and dignified representative of the enlightenment . He conceives an ample project . Together with d'Alembert (1717 - 1783) he chooses the most modern authors of the epoch (Montesquieu , Voltaire , Rousseau etc.) for the part of sciences and co-ordinates a team of more than 150 redactors and editors . They will publish (1751 - 1772) the 17 volumes of the dictionary and the 11 volumes with pictures . Encyclopédie is a gigantic work and it wants , through the agency of its articles - which are arranged in alphabetical order - to present the progress of the science and thinking in all domains .



It denounces and exposes the fanaticism and the superstitions and extols the justice, the tolerance and the liberty. Diderot is a bold thinker and a philosopher greedy of new and generous ideas. He brings back in debate the fundamental matters of his epoch: the religion, the family, the abuses and the privileges of the noblemen and clergymen. His ideas, full of reproach and accusation, bring the admiration of Voltaire, but at the same time - three months into jail. He is not satisfied only to criticize all the unjust and obsolete things, but he tries hard to find and to propose solutions, too. Diderot is working about twenty years for *Encyclopédie*. At the same time he writes also very personal works, which will be published after his death. In "*Jacques le fataliste et son maître*" (Jacques the Fatalist and his Master) he exhibits his doubts about the divine providence and asks questions about the freedom of the human being and about the ability of the human being to act on the destiny. "*Le Neveu de Rameau*" (Rameau's Nephew) depicts a real character, Jean - Francois Rameau, a man who failed to do something in his life, but full of vitality and singular ideas. Diderot - through the agency of Jean - Francois Rameau - puts in debate his own ideas. Diderot was one of the first atheist thinkers.

Voltaire (1694 -1778) is the redactor of the articles "Elegance", "Eloquence", "Imagination", "History", and "Spirit" in *Encyclopédie*. He ask the king "to thank to God" because the authors were born. This philosopher criticizes the religions, but he is deist. His point of view is: the existence of the world proves the existence of God, as an watch supposes an watchmaker. Besides, the belief in God is useful because it is well-grounded on the morals. But, also, the unfaithful persons must have a morality which relies on conscience and rationality.

Voltaire likes the drawing rooms and the parlours - where people admire his intelligence . But his insubordination brings him a beating (flogging) and an incarceration and an exile to England . After he lived in the royal court of the king Louis XV of France and in the royal court of the king Frederick II of Prussia , Voltaire withdrew , in 1760 , at Ferney , near the frontier of Switzerland . The case Calas preoccupies him long time : a protestant is suspected to be guilty about the death of his son . Even if he is not guilty (he didn't kill his son) , the High Court of justice condemns him to death . Voltaire revolts because of this verdict and , finally , he will get the rehabilitation of the protestant . Then , Voltaire will publish a "Treatise on Tolerance" . He will use his talent and his capacity to fight against the abuses of the old monarchy , against the fanaticism , intolerance , prejudice and bias . His works , especially "Zadig" and "Candide" shine with intelligence and humour .

Jean - Jacques Rousseau (1712 -1778) is a philosopher from Geneve . He redacted the article "Music" in Encyclopédie . He is a passionate and idealist philosopher and believes that human being is kind-hearted , thanks to the natural creation , but the society is corrupting and perverting the human kindness .



He thinks the primitive human being is kind-hearted because the society didn't pervert his natural instincts . This primitive human being is "the noble savage" . We must find again the virtues of "the noble savage" , we must remove the inequalities in the society . For this - we must get back the nature . Rousseau conceives an ideal society , which has the family in the center . This is the educational principle in "Emile" (1762) : "The only book is the world , the only education are the deeds" .Rousseau extracts his theories from his sensibility .

"Les Rêveries du promeneur solitaire" (Reveries of a Solitary Walker) reveals his love for the nature and announces the romanticism .

The count Buffon (1707 - 1788) is a mathematician , and an inventor , and a naturalist . He is the intendant of the Jardin du Roi in Paris . He is the author of the article "Nature" in Encyclopédie . He says : "The only true science is the knowledge of the deeds ." In 1749 he begins an enormous work , with 36 volumes : "Histoire naturelle" . This work is illustrated with many pictures . Most of these pictures will become famous .



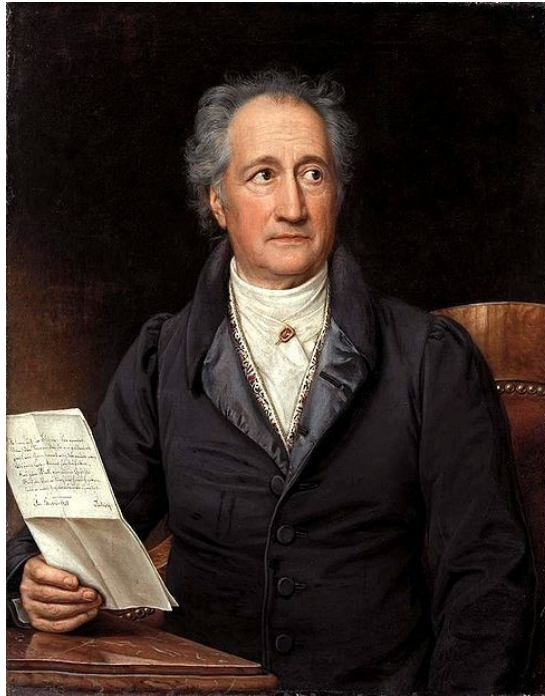
Most known pictures are dedicated to the animals , but Buffon also studies the mineral rocks , the genesis of the Earth and the evolution of the human being . He criticizes , then he agrees to the new theories - about the existence of the prehistoric species and the adaptation of the animals to the environment .

THE EUROPEAN ROMANTICISM

At the end of the century XVIII the romanticism vanquishes Europe . The romantic writers are fond of the nature , the myths and the legends , the history , the dreams , the fantastic things , the exotic things , the loneliness , the impossible love and the freedom . Although it was born in Germany and in England , with an important development in France , in Italy and even in Central Europe , the romanticism has the roots in French works , like those of Jean - Jacques Rousseau , "Julie, ou la nouvelle Héloïse" (Julie, or the New Heloise) and "Les Rêveries du promeneur solitaire" (Reveries of a Solitary Walker) - an anthem dedicated to the love and to the celebration of the nature . These two themes had a special echo in Germany in 1770 years , through the

representatives of the current "Sturm und Drang" and Goethe .

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832) is an universal wit , a multilateral man , capable of highest philosophy and most passionate love . Poet , novelist , man of theatre , painter , scholar , minister of the big duke of Weimar , then head of the university , of the theatre and of the museums in the town , Goethe tackles all domains .



He knows first success in the literature after 1770 (when he was twenty years old) with two works : a historic drama ("Gotz von Berlichingen" , a story of an warrior who is passionate of justice and liberty) and a sentimental novel - which will influence very much upon young generation in Germany - " The Sorrows of Young Werther" (1774) . The novel has a building as several letters which the young Werther sends to a friend . In the letters he tells his impossible love for a girl ,Charlotte , who was promised for another man . Crazy because of love for Charlotte , but at the same time conscious of impossible love , Werther decides to commit suicide . This denouement of the novel will impress very much the readers . Many readers will commit suicide . Could be Goethe responsible for the suicides of his readers ?

The apparition of Werther means the birth of the romanticism . Some years later Goethe writes the most important his work : the drama "Faust" . The old doctor Faust studied the secrets of the nature all his life . He doubts him . The devil Mephistopheles tempts Faust . The devil Mephistopheles wants the soul of Faust . The devil wants to serve Faust twenty years length , to give him everything he wants , to bring him back the desire to live and to taste all the pleasures of the life , and to make him a great scholar . The devil wants , in

exchange for these , the soul of Faust . The doctor Faust agrees to proposal . He will enjoy many pleasures of the world . He will seduce several women (Margareta , Elena) , he will try to know everything about magic , devilry , occult practice and to build a huge and unique work . Finally he defeats the devil . Doctor Faust saw and understood the limits of the science and of the love . The human being must not surpass these limits . William Wordsworth (1770 - 1850) and his friend Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772 - 1834) wrote beautiful poems which put together in the collection "Lyrical Ballads" (in 1798) .



With this collection - the English romanticism was born . Here we find the fantastic poem of Coleridge "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" . An old sailor

tells his life . While his ship was going to South Pole , he killed an albatross which was going out the fog . Suddenly , the curse swerved over the ship .

"Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.
Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink."

He will face the tempest , the big ice and the glaciers and the supernatural beings . He will meet a ship-phantom ; the Death will kill all the sailors , excepting the old sailor . He was condemned to scour the world and to tell the story to everybody , thus , the love and the respect for the creatures of the world will triumph .

Lord Byron (1788 - 1824) is the very romantic type . He will wander through all Europe to find adventure , freedom and love . His collections of poems "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage" , "The Giaour" , "The Corsair" show us anguished characters , which are the mirror of the poet and his life : Byron - cursed poet .



He will go in the political life of England , then will fight for the national unity of Italy and for the liberation of Greece from the Ottoman domination . He will not

see the fruits of his struggle : he will die in 1824 , in Greece , because of fever .
The last his poem reunites all his principles in his life : the passion for the
Freedom and the Love .

In 1818 , when Byron wrote his poems , nine years after Goethe wrote "Faust" ,
an English woman , Marry Shelley (1797 - 1851) published a horror novel :
"Frankenstein: or, The Modern Prometheus". Frankenstein is a man of science .
He took some parts of the human body of the cemetery and gather these
together . He was able to give life to this creature - a strange being which seems
to be a human being . The creature has not soul . This monster is conscious that
he is very different from human beings and wants to avenge himself on
Frankenstein and his friends .

THE FRENCH ROMANTICISM

Francois Rene Chateaubriand (1768 -1848) is a forerunner of the romanticism .



In his main work "Mémoires d'Outre- Tombe" (Memoirs from Beyond the Grave)
he tells his life as writer and politician , opponent of the Revolution and of the
emperor Napoleon I . He also speaks about his childhood , about his passionate
affection for his sister , Lucile , about his emotions , full of anxiety , which he felt
on the solitary area of his family , in Bretagne . In the novel "Atala" he makes a
"portrait of two lovers who are going and talking while the loneliness surrounds
them" . The story happens somewhere in America . An young disillusioned
Frenchman, René, has joined an Indian tribe and married a woman named
Céluta. On a hunting expedition, one moonlit night, René asks Chactas, the old
man who adopted him, to relate the story of his life.

At the age of seventeen, the Natchez Chactas loses his father during a battle against the Muscogees. He flees to St Augustine, Florida, where he is raised in the household of the Spaniard Lopez. After 2½ years, he sets out for home, but is captured by the Muscogees and Seminoles. The chief Simagan sentences him to be burnt in their village.

The women take pity on him during the weeks of travel, and each night bring him gifts. Atala, the half-caste Christian daughter of Simagan, tries in vain to help him escape. On arrival at Apalachucua, his bonds are loosed and he is saved from death by her intervention. They elope and roam the wilderness for 27 days before being caught in a huge storm. While they are sheltering, Atala tells Chactas that her father was Lopez, and he realises that she is the daughter of his erstwhile benefactor.

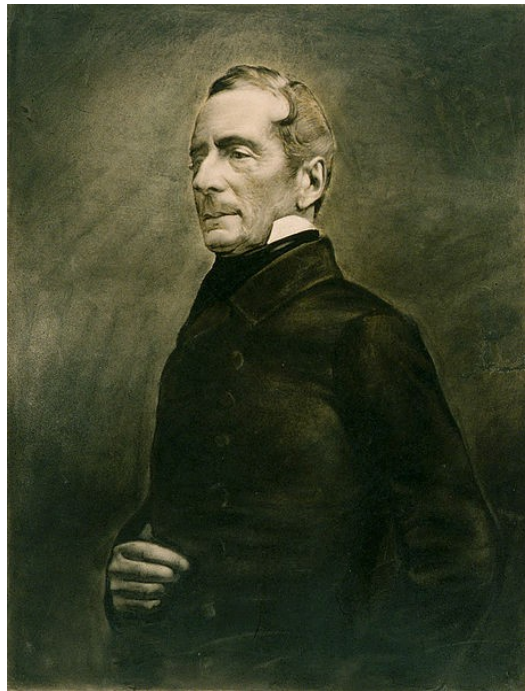
Lightning strikes a tree close by, and they run at random before hearing a church bell. Encountering a dog, they are met by its owner, Père Aubry, and he leads them through the storm to his idyllic mission. Aubry's kindness and force of personality impress Chactas greatly.

Atala falls in love with Chactas, but cannot marry him as she has taken a vow of chastity. In despair she takes poison. Aubry assumes that she is merely ill, but in the presence of Chactas she reveals what she has done, and Chactas is filled with anger until the missionary tells them that in fact Christianity permits the renunciation of vows. They tend her, but she dies, and the day after the funeral, Chactas takes Aubry's advice and leaves the mission.

In an epilogue it is revealed that Aubry was later killed by Cherokees, and that, according to Chactas's granddaughter, neither René nor the aged Chactas survived a massacre during an uprising. The full account of Chactas's wanderings after Atala's death, in *Les Natchez*, gives a somewhat different version of their fates.

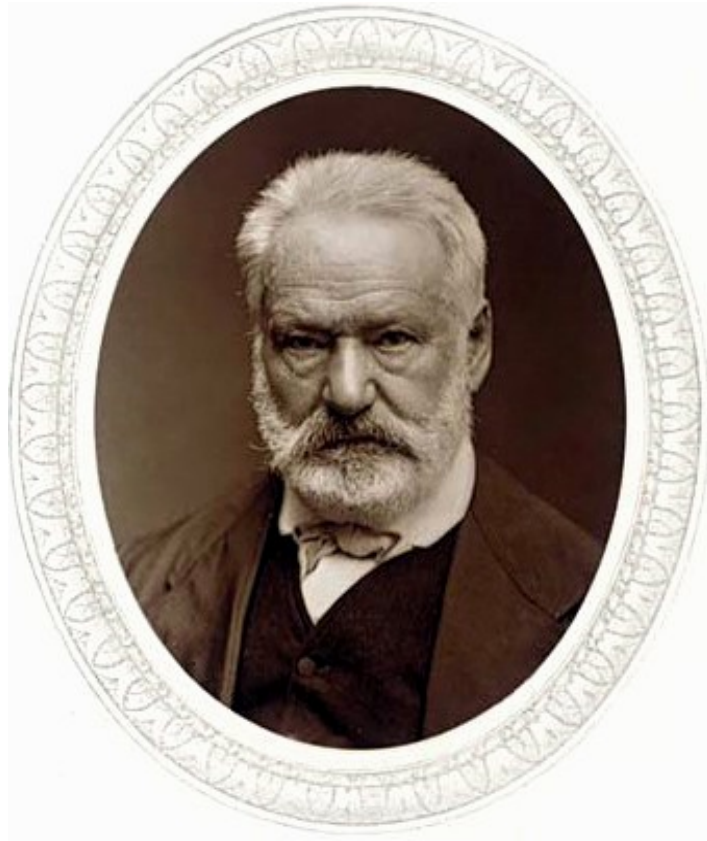
The romantic wave spreads in France through "*Méditations poétiques*" (1820) of Alphonse de Lamartine . In the next ten years many young authors come into sight : Alfred de Vigny , Alfred de Musset , Victor Hugo , Theophile Gautier , Gerard de Nerval - and will amplify the literary motion and will define its principles . They exalt the freedom and give the reins to their imagination , sensibility and desire of mysterious and fantastic things .

Alphonse de Lamartine (1790 -1869) , like many aristocratic youngs , grew up with the nostalgia in his epoch . In 1816 he meets an young woman , Julie Charles , and passionately falls in love with her . After two years , Julie dies because of tuberculosis . In 1820 , Lamartine , deeply moved and impressed and hurt about the death of Julie , publishes "*Méditations poétiques*" - a collection of poems which mark the apparition of the French romanticism . Among the poems we can find "Le Lac" (The Lake) , which comes out the destroyed love of the poet .



This work has an immediate and big success because , first time after Renaissance , the poet unfetters his sensibility and expresses his own feelings . From now on , the important principles of the romanticism are imperative : the poem must express the emotion of the poet , and his melancholy , and his nostalgia , and his communication with the nature , reflecting the wincings of his soul .

Victor Hugo (1802 - 1885) is a novelist , dramatist and poet of genius . His contemporary people welcome him as the real coryphoeus of the romantic ones . When he is 16 years old , writes his first novel "Bug-Jargal" , then poems which quickly make him well-known .When he is 25 years old , presents first romantic manifesto - in the preface of the play "Cromwell" . Here , Hugo exhibits a new conception of the theatre . The years 1830 bring him the glory : the drama "Hernani" has a big success and brings about much excitement and noise , the novel "Notre-Dame de Paris" (The Hunchback of Notre Dame) (1831) is an immense success . He will publish numerous poems . But , in 1843 , he experiences a brutal and savage blow : his play "Les Burgraves" is an unsuccess and failure and his daughter , Leopoldine , and his son-in-law , Charles Vacquerie , get drowned in the Seine . Hugo is unconsoled and demolished and broken-hearted . He doesn't more write and goes in politics . He promotes and defends democratic and humanitarian ideas . After the revolution in 1848 he becomes deputy of Parliament . He spoke against the death penalty and social injustice, and in favour of freedom of the press and self-government for Poland.



However, he was also becoming more supportive of the Republican form of government and, following the 1848 Revolution and the formation of the Second Republic, was elected to the Constitutional Assembly and the Legislative Assembly.

When Louis Napoleon (Napoleon III) seized complete power in 1851, establishing an anti-parliamentary constitution, Hugo openly declared him a traitor to France. He relocated to Brussels, then Jersey, and finally settled with his family on the channel island of Guernsey at Hauteville House, where he would live in exile until 1870.

While in exile, Hugo published his famous political pamphlets against Napoleon III, *Napoléon le Petit* and *Histoire d'un crime*. The pamphlets were banned in France, but nonetheless had a strong impact there. He also composed or published some of his best work during his period in Guernsey, including *Les Misérables*, and three widely praised collections of poetry (*Les Châtiments*, 1853; *Les Contemplations*, 1856; and *La Légende des siècles*, 1859).

He convinced the government of Queen Victoria to spare the lives of six Irish people convicted of terrorist activities and his influence was credited in the removal of the death penalty from the constitutions of Geneva, Portugal and Colombia. He had also pleaded for Benito Juarez to spare the recently captured emperor Maximilian I of Mexico but to no avail.

Although Napoleon III granted an amnesty to all political exiles in 1859, Hugo

declined, as it meant he would have to curtail his criticisms of the government. It was only after Napoleon III fell from power and the Third Republic was proclaimed that Hugo finally returned to his homeland in 1870, where he was promptly elected to the National Assembly and the Senate . The people in Paris cheered and acclaimed Hugo . Victor Hugo's death on 22 May 1885, at the age of 83, generated intense national mourning. He was not only revered as a towering figure in literature, he was a statesman who shaped the Third Republic and democracy in France. More than two million people joined his funeral procession in Paris from the Arc de Triomphe to the Panthéon, where he was buried. He shares a crypt within the Panthéon with Alexandre Dumas and Émile Zola. Most large French towns and cities have a street named for him. The avenue where he died, in Paris, now bears his name.

Hugo resorts to extreme measures to portray Louis- Napoléon as ruler with much blood on his hands, and "Les Châtiments" is littered with references to corrupt and flawed historical figures. Some better known than others, they all gained notoriety for their corrupt and cruel natures. A device particularly favoured by Hugo is the comparison to Roman emperors, such as Caligula, Claudius and Julius Caesar. Allusions to the Bible include Judas Iscariot, Barabbus and Cain. Others include European leaders and French criminals who were well-known in their days.

Not satisfied with evil despots and tyrants, Hugo also turns to animalistic imagery as a means of implying that Louis- Napoléon is less than human. References to snakes, crocodiles, worms, bees, wasps and spiders can be found. Hugo reserves the *vous* form of address for Napoleon Bonaparte. Along with being the polite form of address in French, it also denotes respect for someone in a higher position of power. The *tu* is used in a disparaging way for Louis-Napoléon. It would be unthinkable that anybody should address the Emperor of the French in such a way. This form of address may denote familiarity between friends, but this is not Hugo's intention and it is used purely to belittle a futile leader.

"Les Contemplations" sont un recueil de 158 poèmes rassemblés en 6 livres que Victor Hugo a publié en 1856.

La plupart de ces poèmes ont été écrits entre 1841 et 1855, mais les poèmes les plus anciens de ce recueil datent de 1834. Les Contemplations sont un recueil du souvenir, de l'amour, de la joie mais aussi de la mort, du deuil et même d'une certaine foi mystique. Le souvenir, surtout, y prend une place prépondérante, puisque Hugo y expérimente le genre de l'autobiographie versifiée.

"La Légende des siècles"(The Legend of the Centuries) is a collection of poems by Victor Hugo, conceived as an immense depiction of the history and evolution of humanity. Written intermittently between 1855 and 1876, while the exiled Victor Hugo worked on numerous other projects, the poems were published in

three series in 1859, 1877, and 1883. Bearing witness to an unparalleled poetic talent in which all Hugo's art is evident, the *Légende des Siècles* is often considered the only true French epic and, according to Baudelaire's formulation, the only modern epic possible.

The dreaming poet contemplates the "wall of the centuries," indistinct and terrible, on which scenes of the past, present and future are drawn, and along which the whole long procession of humanity can be seen. The poems are depictions of these scenes, fleetingly perceived and interspersed with terrifying visions. Hugo sought neither historical accuracy nor exhaustiveness; rather, he concentrated on obscure figures, usually his own inventions, who incarnated and symbolized their eras. As he proclaimed himself in the preface to the first series, "this is history, eavesdropped upon at the door of legend." The poems, by turns lyrical, epic and satirical, form a view of the human experience, seeking less to summarize than to illustrate the history of humanity, and to bear witness to its long journey from the darkness into the light.

"Hernani" is a drama. The play opened in Paris on February 25, 1830. Today, the drama is more remembered for the demonstrations which accompanied the premiere, and for being the inspiration of Verdi's opera *Ernani*, than it is for its own merits.

THE SOCIAL NOVEL

In the century XIX, the sciences and the technique accelerate the spring of the industry. Thanks to the economic revolution, a new kind of society was built, and its history captivated the novelists.

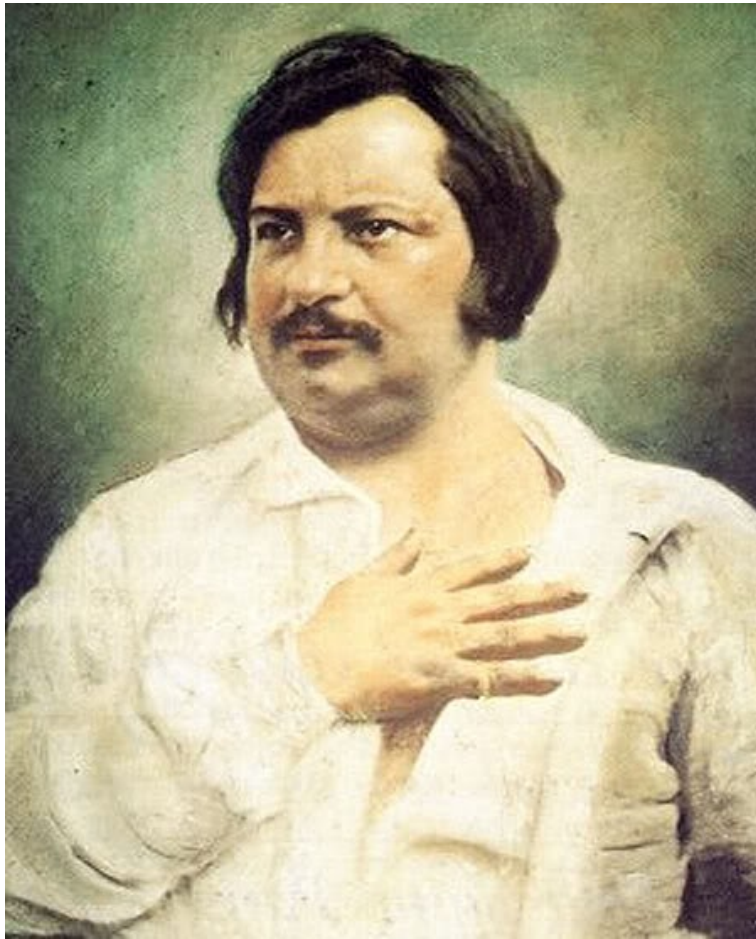
Stendhal (1783 - 1842) said: "A novel is a mirror which has a walk along the street" - that is to say, the novel must reflect, with exactness, the reality. This image of the mirror is a good definition of the realism.



Stendhal specifies that the mirror alike reflects the blue sky and the mud in the street: the writer must be realist when depicts the characters and the society and must exhibit the good things and the wrong things, too. He applies this

principle when describes the behaviour of this characters in the novels "Le Rouge et le Noir" (The Red and the Black) and "La Chartreuse de Parme" (The Charterhouse of Parma) . These are two great novels about love and ambition and have as frame the society of that time .

Honore de Balzac (1799 - 1850) has the idea of a huge literary attempt : the methodical description of the society of his time . "La Comédie humaine" is somehow an unique novel - with 90 books and 2000 characters .



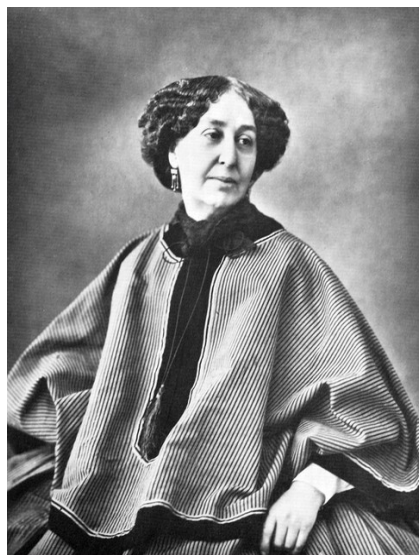
Each volume is a chapter which describes the "manners" of a social group : the bankers ("La Maison Nucingen") , the petty bourgeois , the provincial aristocracy ("Le Lys dans la vallée") , or the aristocracy in Paris , the press or the politicians ("Illusions perdues") , the administration , the people in the country , the bourgeois in the country ("Eugenie Grandet") or the bourgeois in Paris ("Le Cousin Pons") . Balzac makes detailed descriptions of the characters , houses , clothes , but also of the human passions , which make his work lively and actual : the love for the money , the search of pleasure , the ambition .

Madame Vauquer has a family boarding house . Here are living : the jolly and exciting Vautrin , two students (the ambitious and seducing Rastignac and a

soulful young woman) and le père Goriot . The old man has two daughters and loves them very much . The girls are well married : one to an aristocrat , the other one to a rich banker - Nucingen . They are caught in their life of high society and of fashion , and neglect their father . They visit him only to get money from him . Old Goriot pays for the debts of his daughters and forgives anything about his "divine daughters" . When he is in the bed about to die , his daughters are at ball . He waits for them , but they will not come to see him . "Le Père Goriot" (Old Goriot) appears in 1833 . In this novel Balzac has a brilliant idea : to use "recurrent characters" . The readers could find Vautrin , Rastignac or Nucingen in other novel , too .

Balzac takes the characters from the reality . He depicts their physical features , and exaggerates about their characters , temperaments and passions . In this way he creates a type , which sometimes gives the name of the novel : "Eugenie Grandet" is sacrificed by the avarice of his father ; "La Cousine Bette" (Cousin Betty) is an old girl , she never got married , and envies the happiness of the other ones ; "Le Cousin Pons" (Cousin Pons) loves the art , but he will be humiliated , then robbed of money and goods by his family ; in "Illusions perdues" (Lost illusions) the young idealist poet Lucien de Rubempré loses his soul in Paris ; in "Le Lys dans la Vallée" (The Lily of the Valley) we meet Madame de Mortsauf , as beautiful as a lily ; in "Le Père Goriot" (Old Goriot) and "La maison Nucingen" (The house Nucingen) appears Eugene de Rastignac , who is ready to succeed in doing something and defies Paris .

Aurore Dupin (1804 - 1876) , with the pseudonym George Sand , in 1839 leaves Paris and goes to Berry , the town of her childhood and the background of many his novels .



The characters are adolescents in the country : the little Marie , in "La Mare au

diable" (The marsh of the devil) , confronts the witchcrafts of the nights near an ill-fated marsh and wins the heart of the widower Germain and the love of his children . "La Petite Fadette" (Little Fadette) is an young witch . She will find her place in the society , but will not sacrifice her vivacity - as main feature of her character . All the characters of the work of George Sand have "simple knowledge" , inspired from the nature , which bring them happiness .

In his novels , as in his life , Victor Hugo fights for social equity , justice and righteousness . He says that the wretchedness and the misery create "infamous , nefarious and villainous human beings" . In 1862 , Victor Hugo publishes "Les Misérables" (The Miserable Ones) . Jean Valjean , an ex-convict who escaped from the prison , wants to redeem his mistakes doing good to people . He takes an orphan girl from the family Thenardier . Her name is Cosette and she was tortured by her adoptive father and mother - "a couple of wretched ones" . Gavroche is the son of this family . He is a clever and tricky boy and , at the same time , a little support for Cosette . Valjean will bring up Cosette as his daughter . But Javert , the police man who pursued Jean Valjean for many years , reappears . The destinies of the characters intersect on the barricade , during the folk mutiny . Gavroche defies the bullets and sings . But , at last , a bullet kills him . "His little great soul flies" .

After 1850 , the little streets in Paris disappear . Large boulevards open . It is more difficult than in the past to rise barricades here . The bourgeois settle themselves in the center of the town , and the workers in the periphery . The art of the novel consists in the contemplation and the studies of the industrial society and its dramas , tragedies , injustices , hardships , injuries and immorality .

Gustave Flaubert (1821 -1880) documents during many years in order to write realistic novels . Other writers , as Maupassant or Zola , study and survey the human nature and the society through a scientific spirit , as scholars . This wish to study and to depict the reality gives birth to the naturalism .



In 1857 , Gustave Flaubert publishes "Madame Bovary" , the story of Emma , an young woman who feeds on sentimental novels . She with difficulty bears the mediocre petty bourgeois in Normandy and his boring husband , and the neighbour Homais - a precious quasi savant . When she goes to the ball in the castle , her dreams of refined luxury and romantic passion awake again . Hoping to escape from the boredom , she abandons her husband for another man and neglects her little daughter . She will be caught in the trap of her own lies , and illusions , and debts - and will commit suicide . Gustave Flaubert worked four years for the "scientific" description of the surroundings , character and the feelings of Emma and for the perfecting of his writing . Because of the exactness of his analysis , someones accuse Flaubert of immorality .

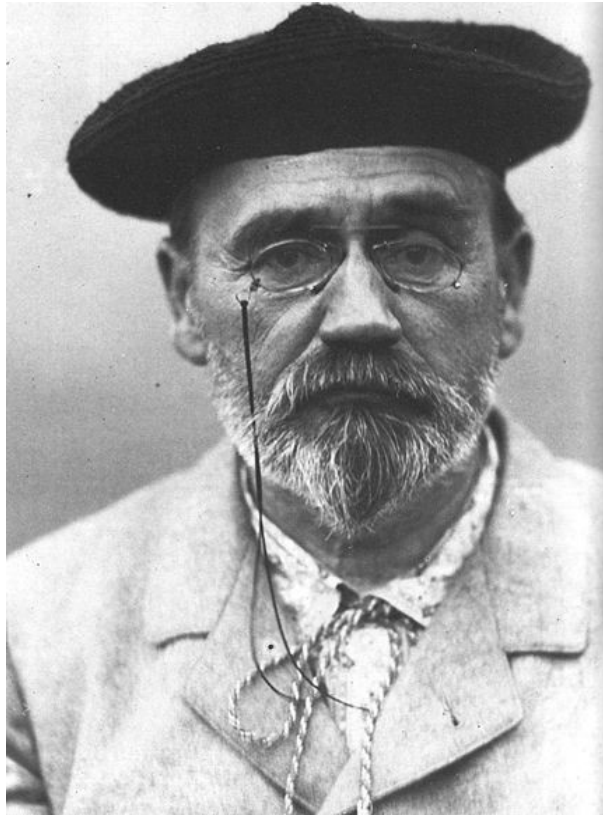
Guy de Maupassant (1850 - 1893) is a friend of Flaubert ; he takes to the simple style and short stories . He writes 6 novels and 300 short stories . He draws his inspiration from his life in the high society or in the country , from the war in 1870 or from his travels . In "Boule de Suif" he attacks the social prejudices : some bourgeois , a military man and an young harlot travel by stagecoach from Rouen to Le Havre .



According to the conventions - the girl must give her place to the German military officer , but when she gives him the place , the other ones show their big contempt to the girl . The novel "Bel - Ami" (1885) brought him big success . In this book , the beautiful man Georges Duroy , with the nickname "Bel - Ami" , is ready to do anything for his raising in the society . He uses his force of seduction , he deceives women and is unfaithful in love , he betrays , cheats and hoaxes women and men , he dupes men . He succeeds in achieving his aim , even if he was completely immoral , and becomes the baron Roy de

Cantel and an almighty millionaire .

Emile Zola (1840 - 1902) is a "master" of the naturalist school . He conceives the novel like an experience in the laboratory , and the destinies of the people like a product and an output of their heredity and of the social surroundings .



Corresponding to this principle - he begins to publish , in 1871 , "Les Rougon-Macquart" . This is the collective title given to twenty- novel cycle. Subtitled "Histoire naturelle et sociale d'une famille sous le Second Empire" (Natural and social history of a family during the Second Empire), it follows the life of a fictional family living during the Second French Empire (1852–1870) and is an example of French naturalism. Before to write a novel , Zola makes investigation as a sociologist or as a journalist . He talks to miners , bankers , peasants , ploughmen , villagers , shopkeepers , dealers , merchants , workers in the railway , politicians , statesmen , workmen and bourgeois . He takes photos in the streets of Paris .

The social inequality scandalizes him . He takes part in the political fight and is the adept of socialism .

Adelaide has children - from her husband , Rougon , and from her alcoholic lover , Macquart . The cycle Rougon - Macquart tells us about the life of thirty descendants of Adelaide . The thirty descendants mean five generations . Their inheritance consists of mental and physical diseases , hard life and misery . The working woman Gervaise (Macquart) is the sad heroine of the novel

"L'Assommoir" (1877) - the seventh novel in Émile Zola's twenty- volume series Les Rougon-Macquart. Usually considered one of Zola's masterpieces, the novel—a harsh and uncompromising study of alcoholism and poverty in the working-class districts of Paris— was a huge commercial success and established Zola's fame and reputation throughout France and the world.

In "Germinal" (1885) her son , Etienne Lantier , is working in the mine , in the north . Dissatisfied with the inhuman working conditions in the mine , he organizes a strike . The mining company relies on the hunger of the miners in order to stop their protest .

But the strikers ravage the mine and are crying : "Bread ! Bread !"

The Police use fire arms and shoot the strikers . There is a lot of blood and the strikers cease their protest . Etienne Lantier will begin his political fight in Paris . There he will find again his brother , Jacques , the character in the novel "La Bête humaine" .

The captain Dreyfus was a Jewish officer in French army . In 1894 he was accused that he is a spy . The Court of justice convicted him and sent him to the prison , even if all the time he said he is not guilty . Emile Zola was indignant at this injustice and published in the newspaper "Aurora" (in 13th of January , 1898) an open letter for the President of the Republic , with a very large headline : "I accuse ... !" He begins each paragraph of this leading article with the words : "I accuse ... !" Zola accuses the government of injustice , cowardice , incompetence and lie . Zola finishes his article with : "I await ..." Of course , he is waiting for the revision of the case . Zola has troubles because of this open letter and must go to Enland for a time . Only in 1906 the innocence of Dreyfus will be admited .

THE EUROPEAN REALISM

In the century XIX , England and Russia give birth to great realistic novelists . Dickens , Tolstoy , Gogol or Dostoevsky try to reproduce the image of their surrounding world . Like the French writers , the great English and Russian novelists are characterized and marked by realism . Either they depict the dramas of the misery in the industrial world , or they retrace the history of their countries , they are not satisfied only with the inquiry of the reality and to be objective : they give life the characters , who are very complex , and openly express their subjectivity .

Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870) begins his literary career with jocose sketches , which he pubishes in the newspapers , then he writes novels . At that time , the important newspapers were publishing serials : each episode of the novel urges you to read the next one . Like this , "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club" appeared in the newspaper . In 1837 , the episodes of "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club" were brought together into volume . Samuel

Pickwick is the founder of an imaginary club - Pickwick Club . He and his servant gather together strange guys , who tell their adventures . At the same time , Pickwick himself has a lot of adventures . This book illustrates with humour the bourgeois and popular stupidity of victorian England .



In his youth , Dickens made the acquaintance of the terrible poverty and misery of the children , forced to work . Someones exploit children and don't take pity on them . The themes of the children appear in several novels of Dickens . The children Oliver Twist and David Copperfield bear the wickedness and the nastiness of the adults . They endure , undergo and bear the cruel tyranny of the headmasters of the odious schools and know the misery and the hunger . The novel "Oliver Twist" (1838) tells us about an abandoned child . He grows in the orphanage , which is a sort of jail for the unhappy persons , and will get in the mechanism of the crime . A kind-hearted harlot and a generous old man will take him out this mire . This book depicts the image of the rubbish of the society in London during the industrial revolution . In "David Copperfield" we learn the story of the happy life of a boy when he was near his mother and his wet nurse . His universe of tenderness falls down when his mother marries again , and , especially , after the death of his mother . The step father sends the boy to a

boarding school , than obliges him to work in the shop in London . David wants to escape from the misery and goes to his aunt - who is an eccentric one - then he works for a lawyer and , finally , he becomes an writer . His destiny was influenced by various characters : odious , shameful , detestable , hateful , manginess , sordid , delicious , charming , enchanting , rapturous , delightful , ecstatic , prepossessing , droll , funnily , quizzical ones . Many of his novels, with their recurrent theme of social reform, first appeared in magazines in serialised form, a popular format at the time. Unlike other authors who completed entire novels before serialisation, Dickens often created the episodes as they were being serialized. The practice lent his stories a particular rhythm, punctuated by cliffhangers to keep the public looking forward to the next instalment. The continuing popularity of his novels and short stories is such that they have never gone out of print. Notable works : "Sketches by Boz", "The Old Curiosity Shop", "Oliver Twist", "Nicholas Nickleby", "Barnaby Rudge", "A Christmas Carol", "Martin Chuzzlewit", "A Tale of Two Cities", "David Copperfield", "Great Expectations", "Bleak House", "Little Dorrit", "Hard Times", "Our Mutual Friend", "The Pickwick Papers" .

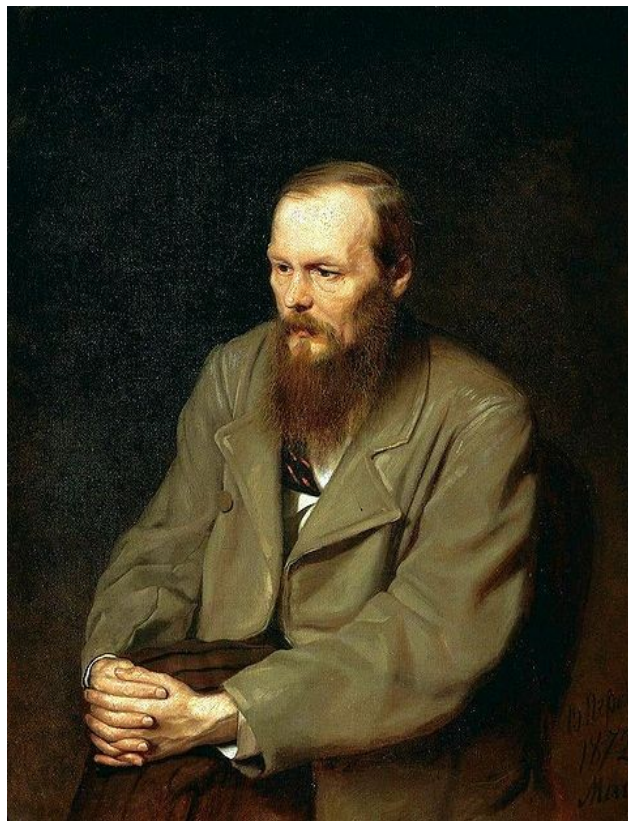
Nikolai Vasilievich Gogol (1809 -1852) writes "Dead Souls" in 1842 . "Dead Souls" are the Russian peasants - who worked the ground , then died , and the administration didn't register their death in the bookkeeping . A little agrarian owner makes traffic with dead souls , because the State attributes the grounds depending on the number of the peasants which can work .



Gogol depicts especially the living people , that is , the society which has a bad

organization , made by deception . Gogol has a passionate love for the "Russian human beings", even for their vices . Gogol has the talent to describe the platitude of the life , the littleness , meanness and vulgarity of the people . He depicts the real things with a force which reaches the fantastic level . He is considered the father of modern Russian realism. His early works, such as "Evenings on a Farm Near Dikanka", were heavily influenced by his Ukrainian upbringing and identity. His more mature writing satirised the corrupt bureaucracy of the Russian Empire, leading to his exile. On his return, he immersed himself in the Orthodox Church. The novels "Taras Bul'ba" (1835) and "Dead Souls" (1842), the play "The Inspector - General" (1836, 1842), and the short stories "Diary of a Madman", "The Nose" and "The Overcoat" (1842) are among his best known works. With their scrupulous and scathing realism, ethical criticism as well as philosophical depth, they remain some of the most important works of world literature.

Fyodor Mikhaylovich Dostoyevsky (1821 -1881) has a life full of suffering , pain ,ailment , anguish , infliction , misery and poverty . His novels are the reflection of the life : the indignant characters oscillate between well and badly . He loves very much his mother , but she dies . After the death of his mother , Dostoyevsky wishes that his father to die , because he is a tyrannical and brutal drunkard .

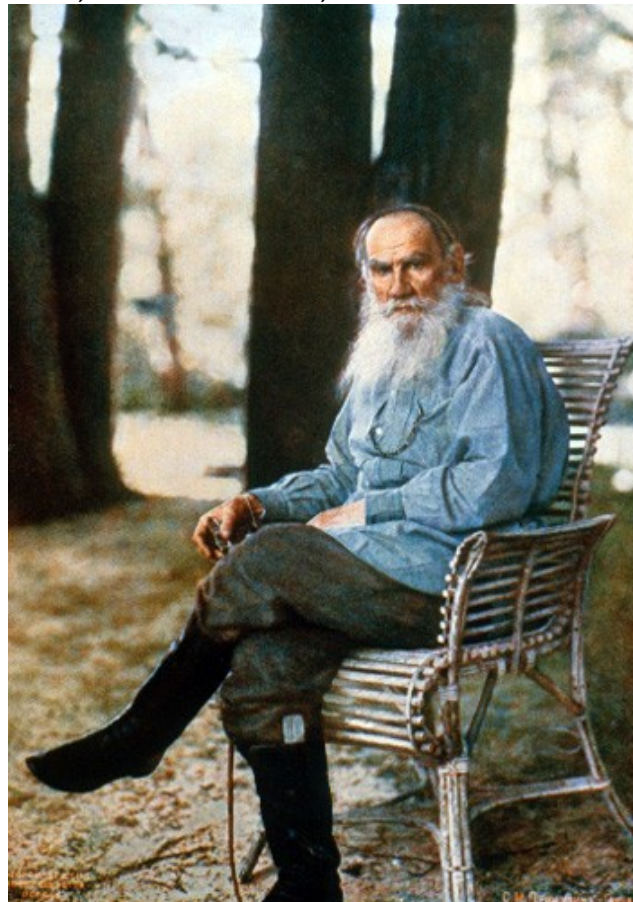


One day the servants in the household kill his father . The son , Fyodor

Dostoyevsky , is feeling guilty . The wish to kill is less grave than the fact to kill , perhaps ? In 1865 , Dostoyevsky publishes "Crime and Punishment" , an ample novel which is almost a detective novel . A student , Raskolnikov , kills an old unscrupulous pawnbroker woman . The judge Petrovich investigates the case . The real inquest is a psychological analysis . The murderer himself leads the psychological investigation - about the reasons of the crime : did he murder because of charity , that to help poor people ? Did he murder because of conceit , for the principle of the social justice ? The judge guessed all the matters , but is waiting the murderer to denounce his crime and to accept the punishment . In this way , the assassin will find the reconciliation with his conscience .

Dostoyevsky's literary output explores human psychology in the troubled political, social and spiritual context of 19th-century Russian society. Considered by many as a founder or precursor of 20th-century existentialism, his "Notes from Underground" (1864), written in the embittered voice of the anonymous "underground man", was called the "best overture for existentialism ever written" by Walter Kaufmann. A prominent figure in world literature, Dostoyevsky is often acknowledged by critics as one of the greatest psychologists in world literature. Notable works : "Notes from Underground" , "Crime and Punishment" , "The Idiot" , "The Brothers Karamazov" , "The Possessed" .

Leo Tolstoy (1828 -1910) is a real force of the nature which has everything : genius , glory , love ; but , nevertheless , he is worried and restless .

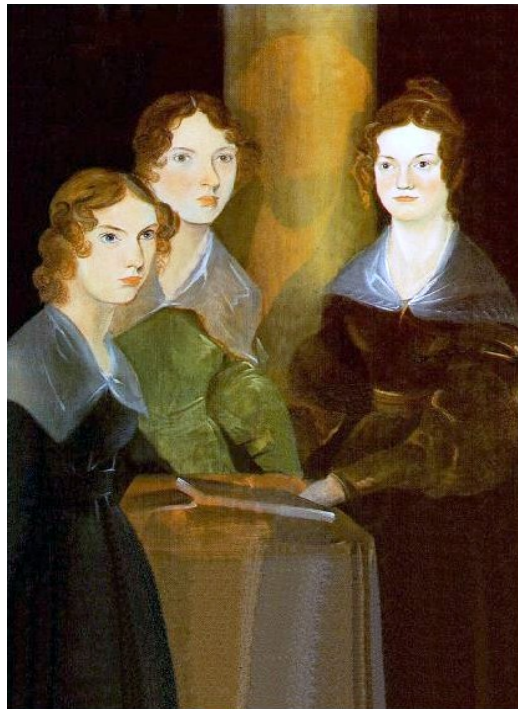


He is indignant at the unhappiness of the Russian peasants . In "War and Peace" (1865 -1869) he gives life to a new world , makes recreation of each detail , analyses the characters , pursues , dogs , follows , watches and gives chase to the historical truth in order to evoke the life in Russia during the wars against Napoleon I . This ample fresco portrays hundreds of characters around the prince Andrei and young woman Natasha .

Leo Tolstoy is widely regarded as among the greatest of novelists. His masterpieces "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina" represent in their scope, breadth and vivid depiction of 19th-century Russian life and attitudes, the peak of realist fiction.

Tolstoy's further talents as essayist, dramatist, and educational reformer made him the most influential member of the aristocratic Tolstoy family. His literal interpretation of the ethical teachings of Jesus, centering on the Sermon on the Mount, caused him in later life to become a fervent Christian anarchist and pacifist. Notable works : "War and Peace" , "Anna Karenina" , "Childhood" , "Boyhood" , "Youth" , "Family Happiness" , "The Cossacks" , "The Death of Ivan Ilyich" , "The Kreutzer Sonata" , "Resurrection" , "Hadji Murat" .

The children of the English pastor Brontë are : Charlotte , Emily , Anne and their brother , Branwell . They are like characters of the novel : without mother , without love , they grow up either in the boarding - school , or in their home , in the middle of the wild land .



They escape from the reality writing stories . The sisters were governesses and school - mistresses . In 1847 , each girl writes a novel : Charlotte - "Jane Eyre" ,

almost an autobiography ; Emily , with most imagination and fancy - "Wuthering Heights" ; and Anne , the naive one - "Agnes Grey" .

ADVENTURES AND EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

In the century XIX there is a big passion for history . The writers full of enthusiasm inquire after the historical past of their countries , but not after the Antiquity , as in the previous century . The novels with historical content and adventures are the reflection of this new direction . Since the French Revolution until the end of the Empire of Napoleon I (1789 -1815) , Europe knows extraordinary historic transformations . The taste of history is more and more prevailing .

The writers pay attention to the historical past . In England , people rediscover Anglo-Saxon traditions and in Scotland - Celtic traditions . In France , there is a big interest in the Middle Ages . The first important researcher of the Middle Ages in France is Prosper Merimee . In the countries submissive to foreign domination , as North Italy , which belongs to Austria , or in the new countries , as Belgium - the patriot intellectuals extract from the past messages of independence or patriotism .

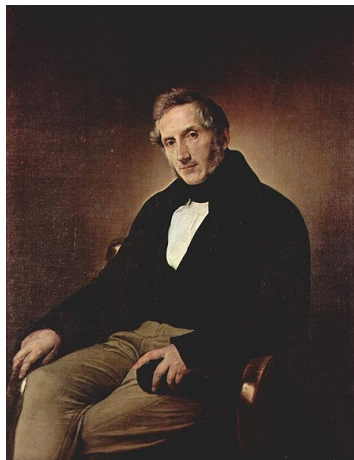
Walter Scott (1771 -1832) is a lawyer and poet . He is passionate on the old Scottish legends . He becomes famous writer when publishes first his novels , "Waverley" (1814) and "Rob Roy" (1816) .



He draws his inspiration from his visits in Scottish regions where gather old tales from the peasants . From the tales he takes out characters for his novels , as "The Bride of Lammermoor" - a lover girl who will be a prey of the murderous madness , because of a tragic misunderstanding , or "Quentin Durward" , a Scottish archer of the French king Louis XI , and , of course , Ivanhoe .

Walter Scott creates the character Wilfred Ivanhoe in 1819 . Ivanhoe is a Saxon nobleman in the century XIII and is loyal knight of the king of England , Richard the Lionhearted . Together with his comrades , Robin Hood , Little John , Friar Tuck and "merry men" , he baffles and thwarts the treachery of the prince John – brother of King Richard , fights off and rejects the Normans , wins in the tournament , saves Rebecca - a Jewish healer, daughter of Isaac of York , who is accused and recriminated of witchcraft and marries Rowena , a noble Saxon Lady . The psychology of the novel is simple , the historical truth is vague , but Ivanhoe glorifies the bravery of the Anglo - Saxons in their fight against the sovereign Normans . The novel has big success and will influence on Manzoni and Hugo and will fill with enthusiasm Dumas .

The Italian Alessandro Manzoni (1781 -1873) publishes in 1821 "The Betrothed" : the happiness of the young peasants Renzo and Lucia is endangered because of Thirty Years War in Lombardia , a region in North Italy .



The story depicts fights , kidnappings , cunning and perfidious men and a kind - hearted monk . Manzoni analyses with fineness the psychological and historical truth and is interested of the life of the humble ones .

Alexandre Dumas , pere (1802 - 1870) is novelist , dramatist and journalist . He is a volcanic temperament . He writes "The Three Musketeers" (1844) . Athos , Porthos and Aramis are The Three Musketeers . Later d'Artagnan joins them . All the knights serve the king Louis XIII . The courageous and cute d'Artagnan loves Constance Bonnacieux , who serves the queen . But the strong cardinal Richelieu wants to destroy the queen . The four friends defend the queen . They confront the opponents , especially the spy woman Milady . They made a vow :

"One for all , and all for one !"



In "Twenty Years After" we find again d'Artagnan and his friends . The son of Athos gives the name of the third novel : "The Vicomte de Bragelonne" . But the most read book of Dumas is "The Count of Monte Cristo" (1845) . Edmond Dantes is indicted for crime . Even if he is not guilty , he is imprisoned for many years in the Castle If .

At last he escapes from the jail . He becomes The Count of Monte Cristo and consecrates his life for the avenge lost youth and love .

In "Notre-Dame de Paris" (The Hunchback of Notre-Dame) (1831) the cathedral is in the centre of the attention of the writer , Victor Hugo . The narration happens especially in the market before the cathedral , like in the religious theatre in the Middle Ages . The needy persons , as the hunchback Quasimodo and the seductive gipsy woman Esmeralda struggle against the "strong ones" , as the prelate Frollo and the captain Phoebus . The only character which makes a connection between the two groups is the poet Gringoire - like an witness of the happenings .

Charles De Coster (1827 – 1879) was a Belgian novelist whose efforts laid the basis for a native Belgian literature . His masterpiece was "The Legend of Thyl Ulenspiegel and Lamme Goedzak" (1867), a 16th-century romance, in which Belgian patriotism found its fullest expression. In the preparation for this prose epic of the Gueux he spent some ten years. Uylenspiegel (Eulenspiegel) has been compared to Don Quixote, and even to Panurge.

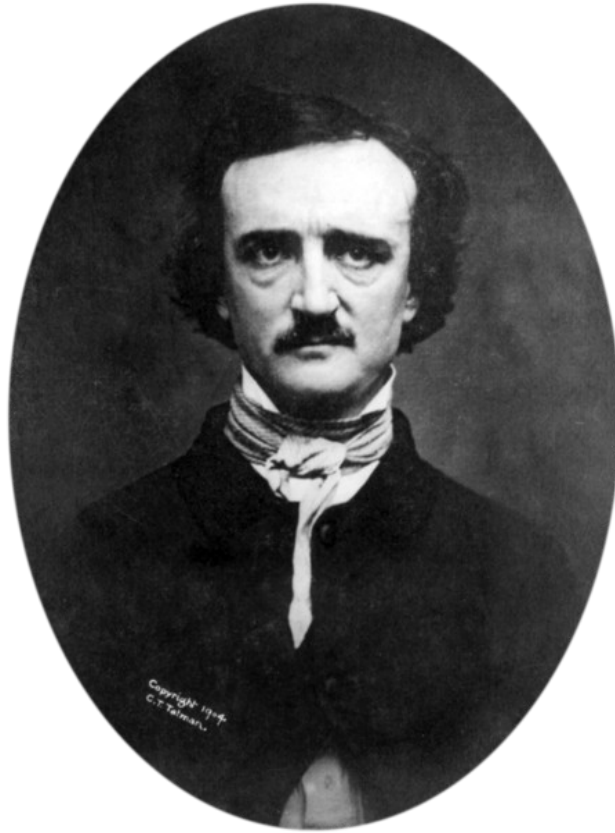


He is the type of the 16th-century Fleming, and the history of his resurrection from the grave itself was accepted as an allegory of the destiny of the race. The exploits of himself and his friend form the thread of a semihistorical narrative, full of racy humour, in spite of the barbarities that find a place in it. This book also was illustrated by Rops and others.

The century XIX is , at the same time , a century of the history and of the realism , but of the fantastic and imaginary things , too , as the romantic tales of E.T.A. Hoffman or the horror stories of Edgar Allan Poe . The Unites States of America become independent at the end of the century XVIII and many American authors appear on the literary stage .

Edgar Allan Poe (1809 - 1849) is an American writer . He is an unhappy man . Orphan , very sensitive , with much imagination and fantasy , he dies when is 40 years old , being ill and alcoholic . On his work there is the finger print of his unrest , disquiet , anxiety , fidget , misgiving , concern . In "The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket" (1838) , the young man Pym ran away from the home . He embarks a ship which departs from America and goes to the seas in the South . After a riot and a shipwreck he arrives at a strange world , like a nightmare . Here the rivers seem to be coloured with blood , or with ink (nobody knows) . Then the frightful snows in the South Pole will swallow him . Edgar Allan Poe is the author of the extraordinary stories : the horror stories , as "The Fall of the House of Usher" - the tale opens with the unnamed narrator arriving at the house of his boyhood friend, Roderick Usher, having received a letter from him in a distant part of the country complaining of an illness and asking for his comfort . As the narrator reads of the knight's forcible entry into the dwelling, cracking and ripping sounds are heard somewhere in the house. When the dragon is described as shrieking as it dies, a shriek is heard, again within the house. As he relates the shield falling from off the wall, a reverberation, metallic and hollow, can be heard. Roderick becomes increasingly hysterical, and eventually exclaims that these sounds are being made by his sister, who was in fact alive when she was entombed and that

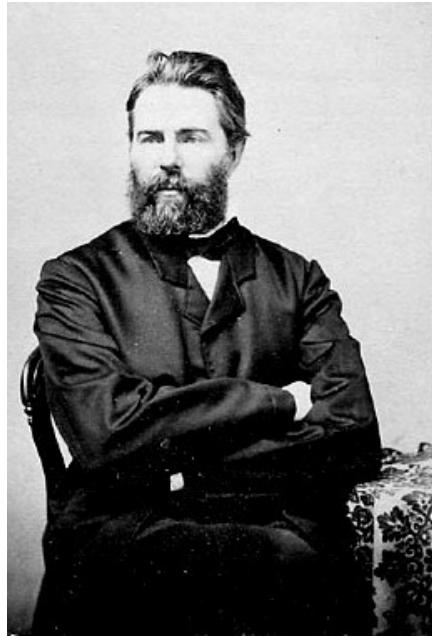
Roderick knew that she was alive.



The bedroom door is then blown open to reveal Madeline standing there. She falls on her brother, and both land on the floor as corpses. The narrator then flees the house, and, as he does so, notices a flash of light causing him to look back upon the House of Usher, in time to watch it break in two, the fragments sinking into the tarn - and puzzle narration , as "The Gold-Bug" - set on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, the plot follows William Legrand, who was recently bitten by a gold-colored bug. His servant Jupiter fears him to be going insane and goes to Legrand's friend, an unnamed narrator who agrees to visit his old friend. Legrand pulls the other two into an adventure after deciphering a secret message that will lead to a buried treasure.

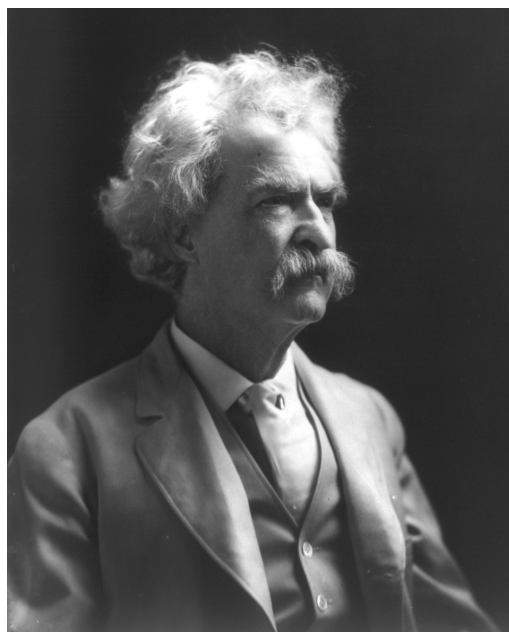
Another American writer is Herman Melville (1819 - 1891) . He draws his inspiration from "The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket" and writes "Moby Dick" , but he also uses his experience. He was a sailor when he was an young man : was hunting whales , was strolling and scouring the Pacific Ocean , even was captive of cannibals . The hero in "Moby Dick" is Ismael , an young sailor . He embarks the whale ship Pequod . The captain of the ship is the sudden and turbulent Ahab . He has a leg of ivory , because the famous whale Moby Dick broke his natural leg . Ahab always pursues Moby Dick through the seas and oceans . At last Ahab meets the whale . A cruel , horrible , frightful , desperate struggle begins . Captain Ahab wants to kill Moby Dick . But the

whale has an outburst of force , fury , frenzy , madness , tantrum , fierceness , violence and ferocity .



It destroys the ship and kills all the sailors , excepting one . The survivor will tell the story to the people . This beautiful story is - at the same time - a meditation about the destiny of the human beings , about good and bad things .

Mark Twain (1835 -1910) has an youth full of adventures . He navigated on the big river Mississippi , being apprentice . In 1876 publishes "Tom Sawyer" , an exciting story of two children . They were in the cemetery at night - to bury a dead cat - and involuntarily became the eye witness of a crime .



In 1884 Mark Twain publishes "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", which is the continuation of "Tom Sawyer". In this novel - Huck has a drunkard father. Two old women have the mission to take care of Huck and to give him necessary education. But Huck escapes from the supervision of the old women and, together with Jim - a Negro slave escaped from the slavery - take a boat and navigate on the river Mississippi. They will find again Tom Sawyer. In their adventure, Tom, Huck and Jim discover the madness, craziness, foolishness and ill will of the people. A deep friendship unites the three ones. Even if the slavery was not abolished at that time in United States, Huck doesn't denounce his friend Jim. Mark Twain was a friend to presidents, artists, industrialists, and European royalty. Twain was very popular, and his keen wit and incisive satire earned praise from critics and peers. Upon his death he was lauded as the "greatest American humorist of his age", and William Faulkner called Twain "the father of American literature".

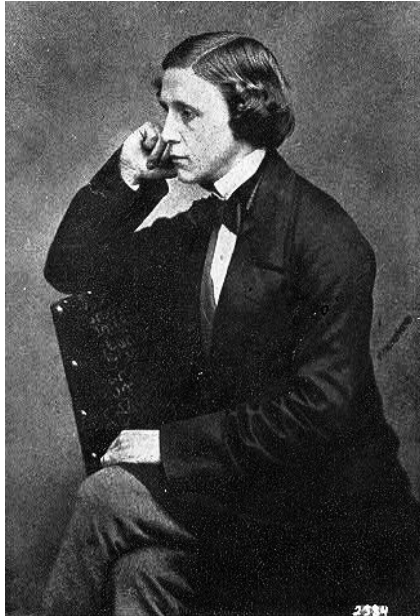
The Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894) loves very much the adventures. He travels to France, to the Ceveni mountains, riding a donkey, then tries to settle in United States of America and, finally, becomes a writer in England. He will spend the end of his life in the Samoan Islands, in the Pacific Ocean. The most known his novel is "Treasure Island", the story of the search for the treasure.



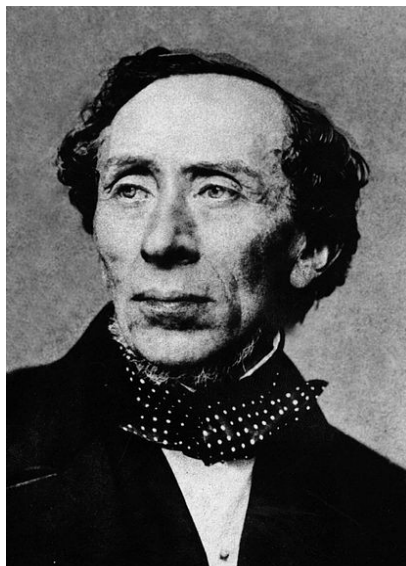
During the search, a boy, Jim Hawkins, faces a gang of pirates. Stevenson also writes a fantastic story: "Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde". The good doctor Jekyll invents a product. Because of this product he changes his personality and, at night, becomes a criminal.

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832 – 1898), better known by the pseudonym Lewis Carroll, was an English author, mathematician, logician, Anglican deacon

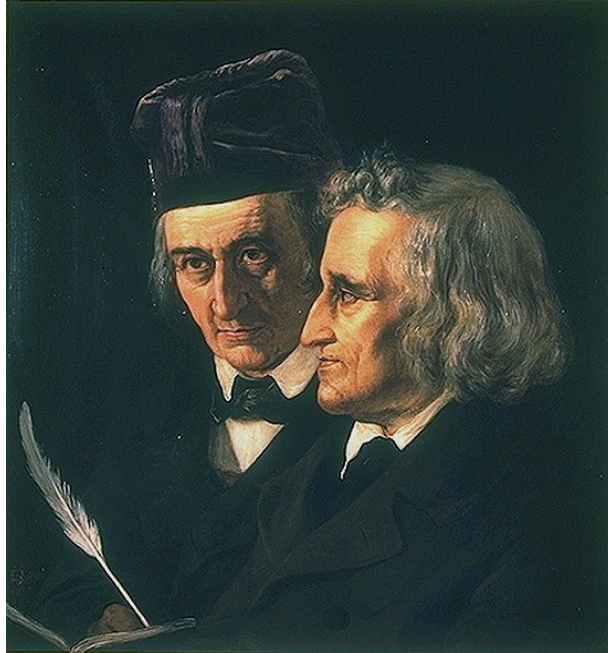
and a photographer. In 1865 he writes "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" . Pursuing a rabbit , Alice falls and somersaults to the center of the Earth . Here she meets a lot of strange beings , as The Cheshire Cat , which can appear and disappear when it wants .



The Alice drinks the tea near the Mad Hatter and is invited (or some might say ordered) to play a game of croquet with the Queen of Hearts and the rest of her subjects but the game quickly descends into chaos. Live flamingos are used as mallets and hedgehogs as balls and Alice once again meets the Cheshire Cat ... It was just a dream which Alice told with much humor and fun . Some years later Lewis Carroll will give a continuation of this story in "Through the Looking-Glass" In the century XIX people like very much the tales . Hans Christian Andersen (1805 – 1875) was a Danish author and poet noted for his children's stories.



These include "The Steadfast Tin Soldier", "The Snow Queen", "The Little Mermaid", "Thumbelina", "The Little Match Girl", and "The Ugly Duckling". In Germany The Brothers Grimm were academics best known for publishing collections of folk tales and fairy tales, which became popular.



They are among the best-known story tellers of folk tales from Europe, and their work popularized such tales as "Rumpelstiltskin", "Snow White", "Rapunzel", "Cinderella", "Hansel and Gretel", and "The Frog Prince". E.T.A. Hoffmann was a German Romantic author of fantasy and horror, a jurist, composer, music critic, draftsman and caricaturist. He is the subject and hero of Jacques Offenbach's famous but fictional opera "The Tales of Hoffmann", and the author of the novelette "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" - a story written in 1816 in which young Marie Stahlbaum's favorite Christmas toy, the Nutcracker, comes alive and, after defeating the evil Mouse King in battle, whisks her away to a magical kingdom populated by dolls.

7.The modern epoch

THE CURSED POETS

The poets cherish so deep love for poetry that nothing else matters them . The pursuit of the Beauty takes them out the laws of the society . However , the poetry of these "cursed poets" excites us nowadays , too . In his book "Les poetes maudits" (Damned poets) (1883) , Paul Verlaine quotes Rimbaud , Mallarme and himself . His point of view is : "cursed ones" mean a little known ,

a little notorious and "forgotten" when official literature makes references . The society "curses" the poets , videlicet , reprehends them , because they have obscure life , in the periphery of the society and scandalize and shock the people . The poets think the word has another meaning : they are torn , between the compulsions of the reality and the wish to reach an inaccessible ideal ,they are feeling cursed and abandoned - some victims of their wretched human condition .

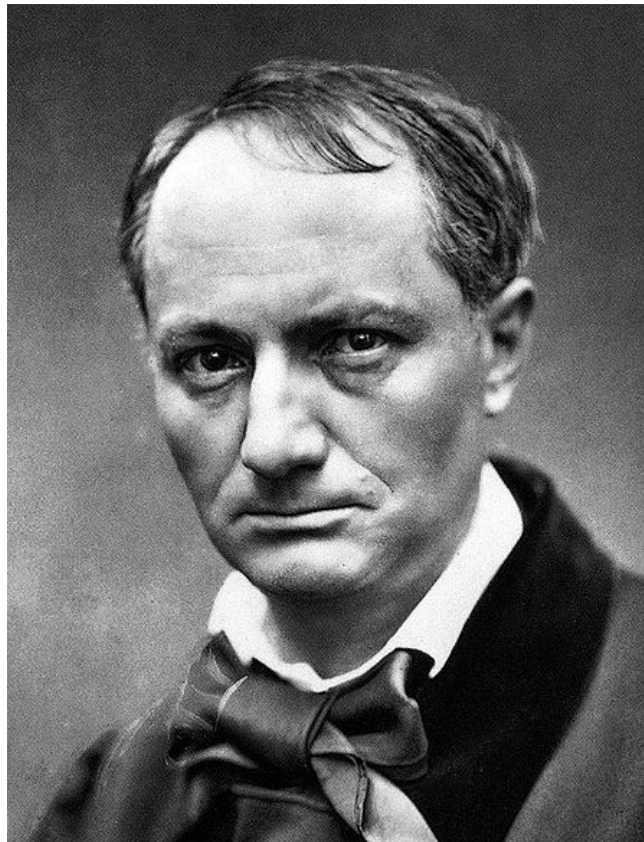
Charles Baudelaire (1821 -1867) is an undesirable and unwelcome child of his family . His mother marries again , then sends Charles to boarding school . His real mother is the poetry : "I am beautiful and I order that - because of love for me - not to love somebody else than the Beauty ."

Later on , his family sends him to travel , in order to end the hubbub in his disorderly life . But he is interested only in poetic exploration ,reconnaissance and field work :

"To plunge into the heart of the abyss , into Inferno or Heaven

What does it matter ?

In the depth of the Ignorance you'll find something new !"



Baudelaire is the adept of the modernism : he discovers correspondences among the sounds , new odours and smells , terrestrial images , symbols of the spiritual and witty world . He looks for lofty things and harmony in "dandyism" (from the English word "dandy" which appoints the young persons who wear eccentric clothes . The "Dandy" ones cultivated the elegance , luxe , stylishness and adopted an attitude of detachment about the society) , in drugs , but doesn't escape from the "spleen" (In French, "splénétique" refers to a state of pensive sadness or melancholy. The connection between spleen - the organ - and melancholy - the temperament - comes from the humoral medicine of the ancient Greeks. This word , by extension , means black humours and disgust at everything) . In 1857 , he publishes "Les Fleurs du mal" (often translated The Flowers of Evil) which arouse a scandal .It was important in the symbolist and modernist movements. The subject matter of these poems deals with themes relating to decadence and eroticism. The initial publication of the book was arranged in six thematically segregated sections:

- Spleen et Idéal (Spleen and Ideal)
- Tableaux parisiens (Parisian Scenes)
- Le Vin (Wine)
- Fleurs du mal (Flowers of Evil)
- Révolte (Revolt)
- La Mort (Death)

The foreword to the volume, identifying Satan with the pseudonymous alchemist Hermes Trismegistus and calling boredom the worst of miseries, neatly sets the general tone of what is to follow:

"Si le viol, le poison, le poignard, l'incendie,
N'ont pas encore brodé de leurs plaisants dessins
Le canevas banal de nos piteux destins,
C'est que notre âme, hélas! n'est pas assez hardie."

"If rape and poison, dagger and burning,
Have still not embroidered their pleasant designs
On the banal canvas of our pitiable destinies,
It's because our souls, alas, are not bold enough!" The preface concludes with the following malediction:

"C'est l'Ennui! —l'œil chargé d'un pleur involontaire,

Il rêve d'échafauds en fumant son houka.
Tu le connais, lecteur, ce monstre délicat,
—Hypocrite lecteur,—mon semblable,—mon frère!"

"It's Ennui! — his eye brimming with spontaneous tear
He dreams of the gallows in the haze of his hookah.
You know him, reader, this delicate monster,
Hypocritical reader, my likeness, my brother!"
Condemned and convicted , ruined , razed , ill , Baudelaire keeps his haughty
attitude , as the albatross , "the prince of the clouds" . The poet is such as the
bird :

"The booings and the mockery banished me from the Earth
My huge wings hinder me
to walk ."

The poetry of this forerunner of genius will be a source of inspiration for Verlaine
, Rimbaud and Mallarmé .

Paul Verlaine (1844 -1896) is a split personality . He says he is a "saturnian" (a
person with sad , sorrowful , gloomy and melancholy temper) , woeful and
anxious ; he much drinks .



The alcohol , but especially the absinthe (a very strong alcoholic drink . It is an
anise-flavoured spirit derived from herbs, including the flowers and leaves of the
herb *Artemisia absinthium*, commonly referred to as "grande wormwood".
Absinthe traditionally has a natural green colour but can also be colourless. It is
commonly referred to in historical literature as "la fée verte" - the Green Fairy)
make him violent : he beats his mother black and blue , takes the pistol and
shoots his friend , Rimbaud . Nevertheless he dreams to have a simple and
quiet life . In "Art poétique" (1874) we find a melodious , tuneful and sweet
poetry :

"Of music before everything—
And for this like the Odd more—
Vaguer and more melting in air,
Without anything in it which weighs or arrests.
It must also be that you do not go about
Choosing your words without some carelessness:
Nothing dearer than the greyish song
Where the Wavering and Precise are joined.
Something like beautiful eyes behind veils,
Something like the trembling wide day of noon,
Something like (when made gentle by an autumn sky)
The blue jumble of clear stars!"

"The music above all" . He chisels and polishes the sonorities , sounds , tones , rhythms , pulses until perfect purity :

"Above the roofs the sky is so blue , so quiet !"

This simplicity doesn't hide his fear , but makes it more visible for the others .

"I remember , I recollect the former days
And I weep ."

His collections of poems "Poèmes saturniens" (1866) , "Fêtes galantes" (1869) , "Romances sans paroles" (1874) are a source of beauty and delight .
Arthur Rimbaud (1854 - 1891) was a poet when he was 16 years old , but ceases to write when is 21 years old and dies when is 37 years old :



he is a fugitive , fleeting , an absolute indignant , mutinous and revolted one , in his life and in his poetry : he passes from the verses to the prose : "We must be

absolutely modern ones" - he writes in "Une Saison en Enfer" (1873) ; he wants to change his life , to become a visionary and "to steal the Fire" . He looks for supernatural powers when is overwhelmed with hallucinations and becomes "Le Bateau ivre" (The Drunken Boat) (1871) :

" As I was floating down impassible

Rivers

I no longer felt myself steered by the haulers:

Gaudy Redskins had taken them for targets

Nailing them naked to coloured stakes. "

"the blue and yellow awakening of singing phosphorescence" ;

"nets where a whole Leviathan was rotting" ;

"fermenting the bitter blushes of love" ;

"Is it in these bottomless nights that you sleep and exile yourself / a million golden birds, oh future Strength?" ;

"O that my keel would break! O that I would go to the sea!" .

Rimbaud liberates the vowels from their fate to be sounds and ascribes colors to the : "A is the Black , E is the White or the Red , U is the Green , O is the Blue ."

He looks for the force of evocation of : perfumes and scents , sounds and tones , colors , tints , hues and dyes , images and pictures , because the poetic language must surprise all the sides of the thinking . He would have wanted , maybe , "to embrace the daybreak of the summer" and whole Universe .

Stephane Mallarme (1842 - 1898) is a teacher , married man and father of a little girl . His life is quiet and reserved .



Nevertheless , for him , "the happiness , here , down , is infamous ..." In fact , he

suffers from spiritual dissatisfaction and seeks in the poetry for a shape of holiness. His obsession is to find a "pure" language , which to be the absolute Beauty (also name "The Azure") . In order to reach his ideal , the poet must disappear behind the words and erase his own experience . You must defend the poetry against the "impure vomiting of the Foolishness" , giving it a hermetic shape . (Hermeticism or the Western Hermetic Tradition is a set of philosophical and religious beliefs or gnosis based primarily upon the Hellenistic Egyptian pseudepigraphical writings attributed to Hermes Trismegistus who is the representation of the conflation of the Egyptian god Thoth with the Greek Hermes. These beliefs have heavily influenced the Western Esoteric Tradition and were considered to be of great importance during the Renaissance . "Hermetic" means : difficult to understand and secret thing) . Therefore , Mallarme scatters the words on the page , uses unusual words and doesn't use punctuation . The language is not more a medium of communication , but stuff for the work of the poet .

Charles Cros (1842 –1888) was a French poet and inventor. He was born in Fabrezan, Aude, France.



Cros was a well-regarded poet and humorous writer. He developed various improved methods of photography including an early color photo process. He also invented improvements in telegraph technology. In the early 1870s Cros had published with Mallarmé, Villiers and Verlaine in the short-lived weekly "Renaissance littéraire et artistique", edited by Emile Blémont. His poem "The Kipperd Herring" inspired Ernest Coquelin to create what he called "monologues", short theatrical pieces whose format was copied by numerous imitators.

THE MODERN THEATRE

In France , in the century XIX , the comedy is performed especially in the boulevards in Paris . A new genre of theatre appears : the vaudeville (a theatrical entertainment in which comedy was enlivened though lyrics using the melody of popular vaudeville songs) . In Scandinavia , Russia and France there is a renewal of the theatre by new dramas . In Paris , in the century XIX , on the Boulevard du Temple , many playhouses and theatres appear . This boulevard becomes "the boulevard of the crime" , because on the stage there are murders , stabs , kidnappings , rapes etc . The new fashion genre is melodrama - a dramatic work which exaggerates plot and characters in order to appeal to the emotions. A new kind of revolution was in Paris when the baron Haussman , the Seine prefect , led a modernisation programme of Paris between 1852 and 1870.

The project encompassed all aspects of urban planning, both in the centre of Paris and in the surrounding districts: streets and boulevards, regulations imposed on facades of buildings, public parks, sewers and water works, city facilities and public monuments. Thus , in 1862 the ediles demolished a part of the Boulevard du Temple and built Place de la République . Some theatres survive , other ones disappear or remove . After this reconstruction and reorganization the vaudeville turns up .

Eugene Labiche (1815 -1888) becomes famous thanks to the play "Un Chapeau de paille d'Italie" (The Italian Straw Hat) (1851) , which has many "qui pro quo"s (which indicate a more-or-less equal exchange or substitution of persons) .



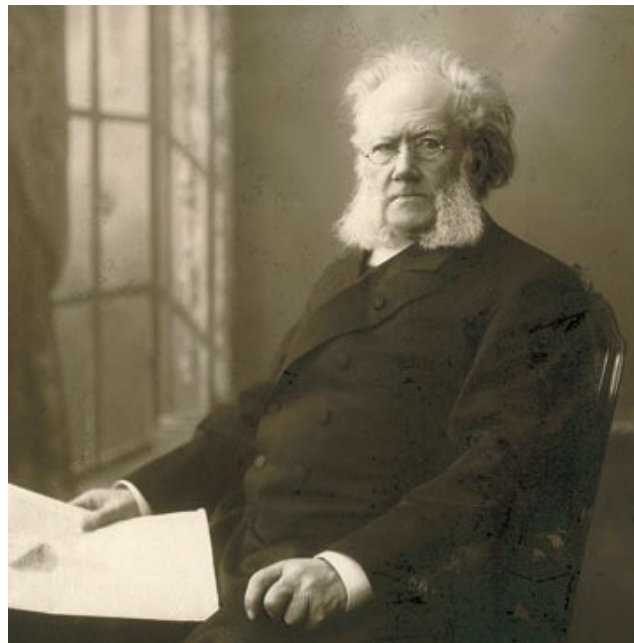
It is the story of a wedding party which goes to pursue a hat .

Georges Feydeau (1862 -1921) is another famous author in the epoch . The characters in his plays are , generally , the husband , the wife and her lover .

They experience incredible situations : "Une puce à l'oreille" (A Flea in Her Ear) , "La Dame de Chez Maxim" (The Girl from Maxim's) , "Hortense a dit: J'm'en fous!" (Hortense says, I don't give a damn!) . The plays also criticize and censure the greed of money and the snobbery .

The main authors of theatre in the epoch are : the Russian Cehov , the Swedish Strindberg and the Norwegian Ibsen .

The dramatist Henrik Ibsen (1828 -1906) is one of the founders of the Norwegian theatre . He was a major 19th- century Norwegian playwright, theatre director, and poet. He is often referred to as "the father" of modern drama and is one of the founders of Modernism in the theatre.



His plays were considered scandalous to many of his era, when Victorian values of family life and propriety largely held sway in Europe. Ibsen's work examined the realities that lay behind many facades, revealing much that was disquieting to many contemporaries. It utilized a critical eye and free inquiry into the conditions of life and issues of morality. Ibsen is often ranked as one of the truly great playwrights in the European tradition, alongside Shakespeare.

His conception about the theatre is : "I demolish the wall of the apartment and I see what happens inside ." Ibsen wants to depict the real life of the people in the street : workers , butchers , clerks ... In France , Emile Zola , author of naturalist novels sustains the birth of this new kind of theatre . When is 36 years old , Ibsen departs from Norway to Italy . Here he writes "Peer Gynt"- a five- act play in verse loosely based on the fairy tale Per Gynt. Interpreted in its day as a satire on the Norwegian personality, Peer Gynt is the story of a life based on avoidance . The play brings on the stage the life of a man , from his adolescence until his late maturity . The play evolves in an enchanting

atmosphere , blending folkloric fantasy and unsentimental realism . Peer is living among the trolls - which are a race of fearsome creatures from Norse mythology - and imitates their manner of life . He will have wealth and ruin , will fight against the monkeys , will become prophet among wild human beings and the king of the madmen . He asks himself questions about the meaning of the life : "What does it mean , as essence , to be yourself ? ... Here it is a job a hell of tangled ." Because Peer is as lying and missing - will as his companions , only the love of Sloveig saves him from death .

An amateur actor , Andre Antoine (1858 - 1943) founded the "Théâtre Libre" in Paris in 1887. His work had enormous influence on the French stage, as well as on similar companies elsewhere in Europe .



He creates a theater profession : stage director . Because of care to reproduce the reality on the stage , Antoine wants that the actors to move among real pieces of furniture , to eat real food , to have a common talk , like in their daily life ... Actor, theatre manager, film director, author, and critic Antoine is considered the inventor of modern mise en scène in France. Plays performed at the Théâtre Libre were often "thin on plot, dense in social and psychological implication" (Chothia, Andre Antoine). Productions rejected formal acting styles that were prevalent at the time and they built the "fourth wall."

Anton Pavlovici Cehov (Anton Pavlovich Chekhov) (1860 - 1904) is a writer and physician , but also philanthropist who attends the peasants free of charge . He is a famous author and much travels through Europe in spite of his tuberculosis . (Moreover , he will die because of the tuberculosis when he will be 44 years old) . Cehov knows very well the soul of the human beings . The characters in his work are lonely , solitary and disillusioned , are living in overwhelming atmosphere . Everyone dream to have another kind of life , but it's impossible . Even it's impossible to love . In "The Seagull" (1896) an young man , Treplev , writes a drama for Nina , his neighbour , whom loves very much . Nina is dreaming always of theatre . She will meet another man , who is a writer in

Moscow . She will go to Moscow for that man . But , soon , he abandons Nina .



She is full of disappointment and comes back to her natal places . As the seagull , the characters uselessly flap the wings before to vanish . Cehov also wrote : "Uncle Vanya" , "Three Sisters" and "The Cherry Orchard" .

NEW FEATURES OF THE NOVELS

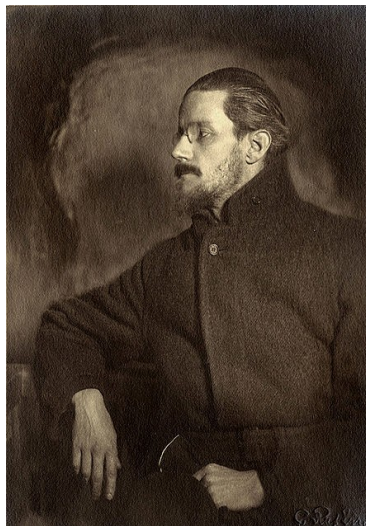
In the first half of the century XX the world very quickly changes . The novelists are not content only to look at the transformations in the world , but they renew their manner to see the world and to write about it . In the century XX , the car , the airplane , the cinema , the radio , the electricity become daily elements . The travels , the voyages , the affairs , the trade , the relations among the people - have a faster rate than in the past . Also the war is ample , with huge size : the first world war (1914 - 1918) is an atrocious and terrible slaughter . The social revolution in 1917 in Russia will bring a communist regime . In Italy , Germany and Spain the Fascism will triumph . Not only the exterior world changes , but the inner human spirit : the psychoanalysis reveals incredible deepness . The novelists want to depict both : the exterior and the inner world .

Marcel Proust (1871 – 1922) was a French novelist, critic and essayist best known for his monumental *À la recherche du temps perdu* (In Search of Lost Time) . His most prominent work, it is popularly known for its extended length and the notion of involuntary memory, the most famous example being the "episode of the madeleine".



(Madeleines are very small sponge cakes with a distinctive shell-like shape acquired from being baked in pans with shell-shaped depressions). The smell of madeleine brings an world of remembrances, hundreds of characters, an whole society in the centuries XIX and XX.

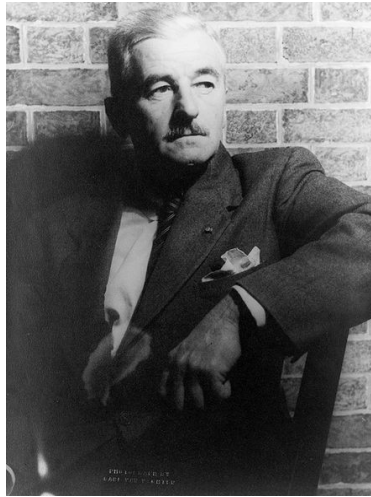
James Joyce (1882 –1941) was an Irish writer and poet, widely considered to be one of the most influential writers of the 20th century. Along with Marcel Proust, Virginia Woolf, and others, Joyce was a key figure in the development of the modernist novel. He is best known for his landmark novel "Ulysses" (1922).



One of the most important works of Modernist literature, it has been called "a demonstration and summation of the entire movement". Ulysses' stream-of-consciousness technique, careful structuring, and experimental prose-full of puns, parodies, and allusions, as well as its rich characterisations and broad humour, made the book a highly regarded novel in the Modernist pantheon. Joyce reconstitutes the soul of his natal town, Dublin.

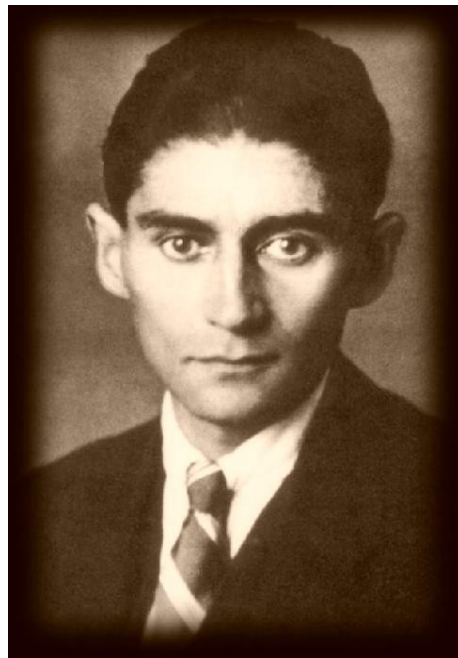
William Faulkner (1897 –1962) was a Nobel Prize-winning American author.

One of the most influential writers of the 20th century, his reputation is based on his novels, novellas and short stories .



In "The Sound and the Fury" he uses the inner monologue when tells the drama of three brothers . He employs a number of narrative styles, including the technique known as stream of consciousness . The novelists want to make us to feel the mystery of the surrounding world . They make up unreal stories , a kind of modern fables .

The most amazing inventor of stories in the century XX is Franz Kafka (1883 – 1924) .



He was born to middle class German-speaking Jewish parents in Prague, Bohemia, now part of the Czech Republic, in what was then the Austro-

Hungarian Empire. "Of course , Joseph K had been calumniated , because , without to do something wrong , he was arrested ." In this way Kafka begins his novel "The Trial" - the history of a small clerk . Some strangers command him to go to the High Court of justice for the trial . Nevertheless , Joseph K never saw the strangers . He asked the Administration about his guiltiness ; he doesn't understand the accusation . Finally someones kill him "as a dog" , on the waste ground . "The Metamorphosis" is often cited as one of the seminal works of short fiction of the 20th century , "one of the few great and perfect works of the poetic imagination written during this century". The story begins with a traveling salesman, Gregor Samsa, waking to find himself transformed into a gigantic insect. He will die because of the repulsion , aversion , repugnance , disinclination and violence of his family . Other his works : "The Castle" (1926) , "Amerika" (1927) , "In the Penal Colony" (1914) .

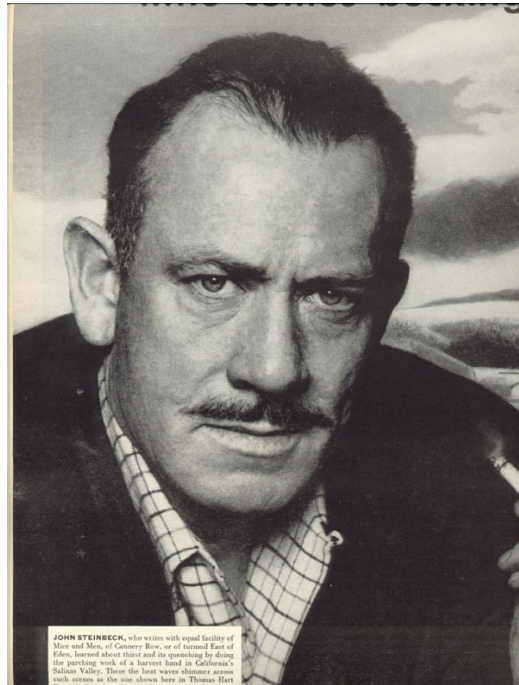
There are other techniques of writing , not only the inner monologue . The German writer Alfred Döblin (1878 - 1957) , in "Berlin Alexanderplatz" , or the American writer John Dos Passos , in "U.S.A." trilogy , introduce in the dialogues of the characters - posters , headlines of the newspapers , statistics , songs , reports of the Police etc. Another modality to portray the reality is the reproduction of the language spoken in the street .

The Frenchwriter Louis - Ferdinand Celine (1894 - 1961) invents a language which uses the rhythm , the topics , the word order and the vulgarity of the common speech . Such speech we find in "Voyage au bout de la nuit" (Journey to the End of the Night) (1932) .

Ferdinand Bardamu is the antiheroic protagonist of Louis-Ferdinand Céline's 1932 novel "Journey to the End of the Night". The antihero's first name, Ferdinand, is shared with Céline, the author/narrator for whom he acts as a surrogate. His surname, Bardamu, is derived from the French words Barda—the "pack" carried by World War I soldiers—and mu, the past participle of the verb *mouvoir*, meaning to move. As the novel progresses, circumstances compel Bardamu to give up his "baggage" of conventional morality and the optimism of youth. He tells about his childhood and his experience when met the human wickedness , in "Mort à crédit" (Death on Credit) (1936) . In Unites States there are two literary currents : the traditional one and the new one .

John Steinbeck (1902 -1968) tries hard to emphasize the hope for a better life , but , finally , he yields up to the disappointment and revolt . "The Grapes of Wrath" (1939) relates the epic of some farmers in Oklahoma - the family Joad - ruined because of the economic crisis in '30 years . They become poor persons and leave for California - where they believe is the fruitful country . After a long journey they arrive at California . Here they find that their life will be harder . Steinbeck grew up in California's Salinas Valley, a culturally diverse place with a rich migratory and immigrant history. This upbringing imparted a regionalistic flavor to his writing, giving many of his works a distinct sense of place. Salinas,

Monterey and parts of the San Joaquin Valley were the setting for many of his stories. The area is now sometimes referred to as "Steinbeck Country". Most of his early work dealt with subjects familiar to him from his formative years. An exception was his first novel, *Cup of Gold*, which concerns the pirate Henry Morgan, whose adventures had captured Steinbeck's imagination as a child.



Other his works : "East of Eden", "Of Mice and Men", "The Long Valley" , "The Forgotten Village" , "The Moon Is Down" , "The Pearl" , "The Log from the Sea of Cortez" , "Sweet Thursday" , "Once There Was A War" , "The Winter of Our Discontent" , "Travels with Charley: In Search of America" , "America and Americans" , "Viva Zapata!" .

Ernest Hemingway (1899 - 1961) is an American writer .

He has a liking for the simple people , like the fisher in "The Old Man and the Sea" (1952) : recounts an epic battle of wills between an old, experienced fisherman and a giant marlin said to be the largest catch of his life. It opens by explaining that the fisherman, who is named Santiago, has gone 84 days without catching any fish at all. Thus on the eighty-fifth day, Santiago sets out alone, taking his skiff far onto the Gulf. He sets his lines and, by noon of the first day, a big fish that he is sure is a marlin takes his bait. Unable to pull in the great marlin, Santiago instead finds the fish pulling his skiff. Two days and two nights pass in this manner, during which the old man bears the tension of the line with his body. Though he is wounded by the struggle and in pain, Santiago expresses a compassionate appreciation for his adversary, often referring to him as a brother. He also determines that because of the fish's great dignity, no one will be worthy of eating the marlin. While Santiago continues his journey back to

the shore, sharks are attracted to the trail of blood left by the marlin in the water. Finally reaching the shore before dawn on the next day, he struggles on the way to his shack, carrying the heavy mast on his shoulder . A group of fishermen gather the next day around the boat where the fish's skeleton is still attached. One of the fishermen measures it to be eighteen feet from nose to tail.



Other his works : "Indian Camp", "The Sun Also Rises" , "A Farewell to Arms" , "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber" , "For Whom the Bell Tolls" , "A Moveable Feast" , "True at First Light" .

The modern world doesn't change the fundamental question : "What the human being is ?" The English writer Rudyard Kipling (1865 -1936) in "The Jungle Book" tells the story of Mowgli , a lost child in the jungle , who is living together with his friends , the animals . Mowgli will understand he is not an animal and will leave for the civilized world , to live near human beings .

The tales in the book (and also those in "The Second Jungle Book" which followed in 1895, and which includes five further stories about Mowgli) are fables, using animals in an anthropomorphic manner to give moral lessons. The verses of "The Law of the Jungle", for example, lay down rules for the safety of individuals, families and communities. Kipling put in them nearly everything he knew or "heard or dreamed about the Indian jungle." Other readers have interpreted the work as allegories of the politics and society of the time. The most famous of the other stories are probably "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi", the story of a heroic mongoose, and "Toomai of the Elephants", the tale of a young elephant-handler.

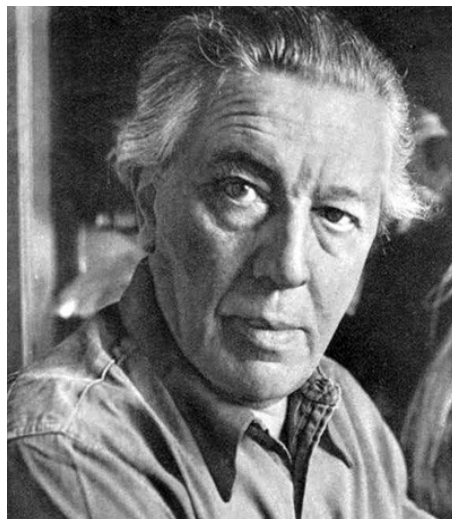
Antoine de Saint - Exupery (1900 -1944) , in "Le Petit Prince" (The Little



Prince) , imagines a child who left the Planet because was angry at a flower which he loved . He can not understand the life of the adult ones , until a fox explains to him what is the love : "If you tame me , then we'll need each other . You'll be for me unique in the world . I'll be for you unique in the world ..." .

The surrealism was born after the first world war in France . It is one of the main literary and artistic currents in the century XX . It revolutionizes the inspiration and poetic forms , giving the poetry the force to see differently the world , even to change it .

Andre Breton (1896 - 1966) is an admirer of Rimbaud and Apollinaire .



He makes friends with Tristan Tzara and the "dadaists" ("Dada" or "Dadaism" is a cultural movement that primarily involved visual arts, literature-poetry, art manifestoes, art theory-theatre, and graphic design, and concentrated its anti-war politics through a rejection of the prevailing standards in art through anti-art cultural works. The movement influenced later styles like the avant-garde and downtown music movements, and groups including surrealism, Nouveau réalisme, pop art, Fluxus and punk rock .) . In 1924 he publishes "Manifeste du surréalisme" (Surrealist Manifesto) which indicates the official birth of the

surrealist movement . He defined surrealism as "pure psychic automatism". Round Breton groups together many poets : Philippe Soupault , Louis Aragon , Paul Eluard , Antonin Artaud , Robert Desnos . This very active group multiplies the poetic experiences and challenges ; for example , they don't hesitate to boo a performance - if they consider it is too conventional - or to insult some authors - if their works are not good . The history of the surrealist group is very agitated : some writers join the group , other ones abandon it , or are excluded , by Breton , because of personal , artistic or political reasons . Nevertheless , the surrealism grows up in France and other countries ; it also influences some painters : Salvador Dali , Max Ernst , Joan Miro , Rene Magritte , Victor Brauner . Its activity continues until 1960 years and its influence extends until today . The surrealist ones want to develop - until the infinite limits - the possibilities of human spirit . They hope to explore and to learn new aspects of the reality , to discover the unknown and hidden sides of the reality - the "surreal" . How do they act ? They are guided by the events , chances , adventures , accidents , cases , contingencies , haphazards , hazards , incidents , occurrences , randomness , facts , happenings , by their wishes and imagination . The poets write anything they want , they don't control their thoughts , their will , their feelings , their imagination , and don't reread the text . Such poems have incomparable , incomprehensible , inane , inconclusive and incongruous connections and surprising , astonishing , mysterious and enigmatic images . We can see the titles of Breton's works : "La Revolver à cheveux blancs" (The Revolver Has White Hair) , "Poisson soluble" (Soluble Fish) , "L'Air de l'eau" (Looks Like Water) or "La Lampe dans l'horloge" (The Lamp in the Clock) . The wish and the love are the force of liberation and poetic creation . Thus , in "Nadja" (1928) , Breton tells about his meeting with Nadja , who is half-woman and half-fairy . She exerts big influence on him . He reveals the poetic aspects of the reality and she helps him to bring out to light the miraculous things of the daily life , because "the miraculous things always are beautiful , but , even only the miraculous things are beautiful ."

Robert Desnos (1900 - 1945) refuses to separate the miraculous things from the daily reality .



His poetic writing is full of strange , but spectacular and often amusing things :
"There are rocking chairs on a deck there are branches that may well scratch
you in the forest

There are in a shop window in the rue Notre-Dame-de-Lorette

Two lovely crossed legs caught in long stockings

Flaring out in the center of a great white clover

There is a silken ladder rolled out over the ivy

There is

By my leaning over the precipice

Of your presence and your absence in hopeless fusion

My finding the secret

Of loving you

Always for the first time "

The surrealism wants to change and to transform the art and the society . It declines and rejects the war , the traditional values , even the literature . The human being must free himself from any obligations , must change the life and the world . Many surrealist poets adhere to marxism .

Futurism was an artistic and social movement that originated in Italy in the early 20th century. It was largely an Italian phenomenon, though there were parallel movements in Russia, England and elsewhere. The Futurists practiced in every medium of art, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, graphic design, industrial design, interior design, theatre, film, fashion, textiles, literature, music, architecture and even gastronomy. Futurism as a literary movement made its official debut with F.T. Marinetti's Manifesto of Futurism (1909), as it delineated the various ideals Futurist poetry should strive for. Poetry, the predominate medium of Futurist literature, can be characterized by its unexpected combinations of images and hyper- conciseness (not to be confused with the actual length of the poem). The Futurists called their style of poetry parole in libertà (word autonomy) in which all ideas of meter were rejected and the word became the main unit of concern. In this way, the Futurists managed to create a new language free of syntax punctuation, and metrics that allowed for free expression. Theater also has an important place within the Futurist universe. Works in this genre have scenes that are few sentences long, have an emphasis on nonsensical humor, and attempt to discredit the deep rooted traditions via parody and other devaluation techniques.

THE WRITERS AND THE WAR

During the world war II , the survival of the spirit depended on the capability of the human beings to resist . The writers assumed the obligation to make testimonies about the war . The Second World War (1939 - 1945) is not only a brutal attempt of Germany and its allies to vanquish and to subjugate the world ,

but also the wish to strangle any liberty and human dignity and to exterminate the Other one , in this case - the Jewish people , on behalf of a dictatorial and racist regime . Therefore , the war had also moral and ideological stakes . It is important not to submit , not to accept the loss of the freedom . A clandestine literature grows . But the risks are fatal . They imprint poems , journals and magazines , even short novels when there is enough paper .



The poets , especially the surrealist ones , exalt the spirit of struggle against the invaders .

In 1942 , Paul Eluard (1895 – 1952)



begins his volume "Poésie et vérité" with an "Anthem for Freedom" :

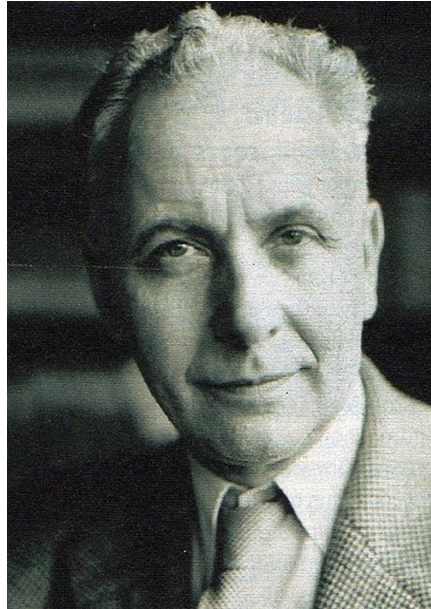
"On my copy - book

On the desk and on the trees

On the sand and on the snow

I write your name ... Freedom ."

Louis Aragon (1897 - 1982) writes poems which give hope to the captives and deported ones .



Aragon's personal story has been the subject of his poetry for, other than his surrealist "exercises," it is essentially a poetry of self-expression. Its first great theme is patriotism, the sentiment which promoted a remarkable flowering of poetry in France during the Occupation. Among Resistance poetry, Aragon's volumes entitled "LeCrèvecoeur" (1941; The Broken Heart), "Le Musée Grévin" (1943; The Grévin Museum), and "La Diane française" (1944; The French Diana). "When you'll come back - because you'll come back- you'll find so many flowers ... , as many as you'll want ." In fact , many prisoners didn't come back their homes , because Nazi Germany organized of concentration and extermination camps where millions of people , children and old people inclusive , died : someones because were communists or anti-nazi , other ones because were homosexuals , or Jewish ones , or gipsy ones . Extermination camps also are known as death camps .

Robert Antelme (1917 -1990) was a French writer. During the Second World War he was involved in the French Resistance and deported . Antelme later wrote "L'Espèce humaine" (1947) depicting his experiences in the camps.

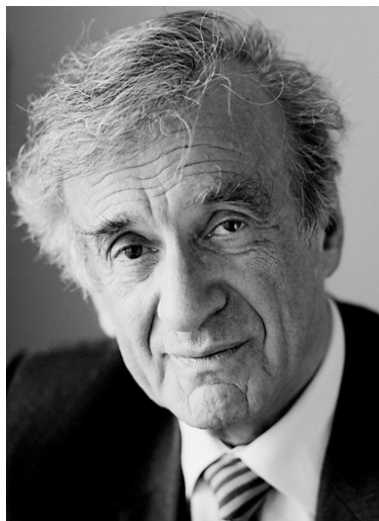
Primo Levi (1919 -1987) was a Jewish-Italian chemist and writer. He is the author of two novels and several collections of short stories, essays, and

poems, but is best known for "If This Is a Man", his account of the year he spent as a prisoner in the Auschwitz concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.



It has been described as one of the most important works of the twentieth century. "If This Is a Man" is a work describing his 11 months - from February 21, 1944 until liberation on January 27, 1945 - in the German concentration camp at Auschwitz in Poland, during the Second World War. The book is described as a memoir, but it goes beyond mere recollection by seeking to consider in narrative form the human condition in all its extremes .

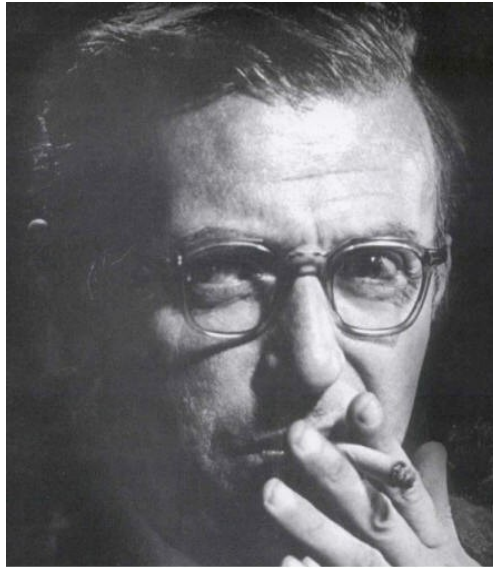
Elie Wiesel (born 1928) is a writer, Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor.



He is the author of 57 books, the best known of which is "Night" , a work based on his experiences as a prisoner in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps . In 1943 Wiesel and his father were sent to the attached work camp Buna, a subcamp of Auschwitz III Monowitz. He managed to remain with his father for over eight months as they were forced to work under appalling conditions and shuffled between three concentration camps in the closing days of the war. In "Night" he said : "I wanted to show the end, the finality of the event. Everything came to an end - man, history, literature, religion, God. There

was nothing left. And yet we begin again with night."

"La Nausée" (Nausea) is an epistolary novel by the existentialist philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre .



It is widely considered one of the canonical works of existentialism. Sartre was awarded (but declined) the Nobel Prize for literature in 1964. They recognized him "for his work which, rich in ideas and filled with the spirit of freedom and the quest for truth, has exerted a far-reaching influence on our age."

Albert Camus (1913 -1960) was a French Algerian author, philosopher, and journalist who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1957.



He was a key philosopher of the 20th-century and his most famous work is the novel "L'Étranger" (The Stranger). Its theme and outlook are often cited as examples of existentialism, though Camus did not consider himself an existentialist; in fact, its content explores various different philosophical schools of thought, including (most prominently and specifically) absurdism, as well as determinism, nihilism, naturalism, and stoicism .The title character is Meursault, a French man (characterised by being largely emotionally detached, innately passive, and anomic) who seemingly irrationally kills an Arab man whom he recognizes in French Algiers.

The story is divided into Parts One and Two: Meursault's first-person narrative view before and after the murder.

Other works of Albert Camus : "La Peste" (The Plague) , "La Mort heureuse" (A Happy Death) , "La Chute" (The Fall) , "Le premier homme" (The First Man) . Sartre and Camus become guides of the young generation .

Anne Frank (1929 – 1945) is one of the most renowned and most discussed Jewish victims of the Holocaust.



Acknowledged for the quality of her writing, her diary has become one of the world's most widely read books, and has been the basis for several plays and films . The Frank family moved from Germany to Amsterdam in 1933, the same year as the Nazis gained power in Germany. By the beginning of 1940 they were trapped in Amsterdam due to the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. As persecutions of the Jewish population increased in July 1942 , the family went into hiding in the hidden rooms of her father Otto Frank's office building. After two years, the group was betrayed and transported to concentration camps. Anne Frank and her sister, Margot, were eventually transferred to the Bergen-

Belsen concentration camp where they both died of typhus in March 1945.

8.The contemporary epoch

THE POETRY IN THE CENTURY XX

The poets in the century XX celebrate the modern world and the imagination . They invent a new language , using words , sonorities and images . Thus , they give birth to surprising appearances , countenances , semblances in their works . Contrary to their predecessors , the poets in the century XX consider that any subject could be poetic one . Thus , they are interested in the reality of the modern world , but in the traditional themes , too , as the feelings or the nature .

They invent a new poetic language to express these : they play games with the words , create surprising images and give the poems novel forms .

Guillaume Apollinaire (1880 -1918) lives in the epoch of aircraft , underground , radio and cinema .



His first collection of poems "Alcools" (1913) begins with the verse : "At last , you have enough of this world ." The poet needs novelty and marvels at the modern inventions , which are like tales become reality . He also speaks about his childhood , his love , his happiness and his unhappiness , his friends and his travels through Europe . This joining between old and new things gives the style of his writing . Apollinaire doesn't use the punctuation , uses puns ("pun" is a form of word play which exploits the ambiguity of a statement, allowing it to be understood in multiple ways for an intended humorous or rhetorical effect. These ambiguities can arise from the intentional use and abuse of homophonic,

homographic, metonymic, or metaphorical language.) and writes verses of unequal lengths ; he makes calligrams (a "calligram" is a poem, phrase, or word in which the typeface, calligraphy or handwriting is arranged in a way that creates a visual image. The image created by the words expresses visually what the word , or words, say. In a poem, it manifests visually the theme presented by the text of the poem. Guillaume Apollinaire was a famous calligram writer and author of a book of poems called Calligrammes. His poem written in the form of the Eiffel Tower is an example of a calligram.) and collages ("collage" is a term which derives from the French "coller" meaning "glue". It is a work of formal art, primarily in the visual arts, made from an assemblage of different forms, thus creating a new whole. A collage may include newspaper clippings, ribbons, bits of colored or hand-made papers, portions of other artwork, photographs, a piece of moss or even a dead mole and other found objects, glued to a piece of paper or canvas. The origins of collage can be traced back hundreds of years, but this technique made a dramatic reappearance in the early 20th century as an art form of novelty.)

The innovations and the musicality in his poems rouse the admiration of his contemporary ones and of successors , especially of the surrealist ones . They consider him as the father of the modern poetry .

Blaise Cendrars (1887 -1961) was born in Switzerland .



He very much traveled through the world . When he was 17 years old , he was in Russia . The sojourn in Russia inspired him and he wrote the long poem "The Prose of the Transsiberian and of the Little Jehanne of France" ("La Prose du Transsibérien et la petite Jehanne de France") in which he described his world journey. Here he tells about a travel by train . The story is half real and half imaginary . The poet accompanies a Russian jeweller , who is not very honest .

Then he will meet very elegant women , professional players with doubtful and fishy faces , will cross regions haunted by war . He looks at landscapes , sceneries and thinks of all the places in the world which he visited . At the same time he asks himself questions about his life :

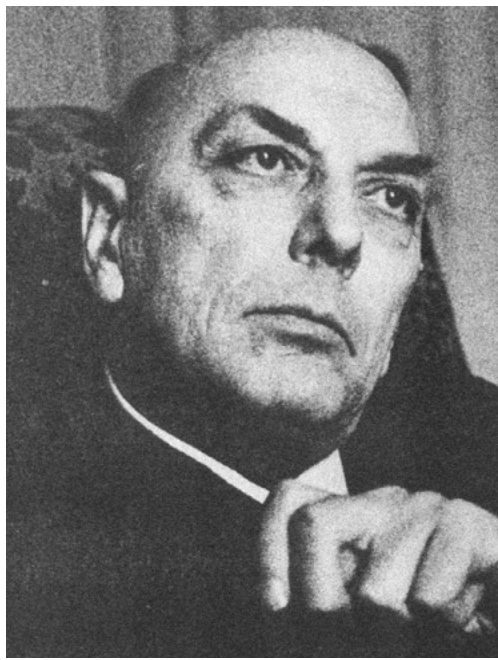
"Formerly I was an adolescent ...

And so stupid poet that

I didn't know to go until the end ."

The rhythm of the poems is as the travel : the poet accelerates or slows down , changes the direction or stops .

Henri Michaux (1899 -1984) explores his wishes , dreams , disquiets , anxieties and imagination .



In 1930-1931 Henri Michaux visited Japan, China and India. The result of this trip is the book *A Barbarian in Asia*. Oriental culture became one of his biggest influences (the philosophy of Buddhism and the Oriental calligraphy later became the principal subject of many of his poems and inspired many of his drawings.)

He also traveled to Africa and to the American continent, where he visited Ecuador and published the book *Ecuador*. His travels across the Americas finished in Brazil in 1939, and he stayed there for two years.

Michaux is best known for his stories about Plume - "a peaceful man" - perhaps the most unenterprising hero in the history of literature, and his many misfortunes. All his writing is strange and original. As his translator put it in *Darkness Moves*, the most comprehensive Michaux anthology in English, his poems are "messages from his inner space." That space may be transformed by drugs as in *Miserable Miracle* or by terrifying vision, as in "Space of the

Shadows" (in Darkness Moves) but the "messages" from it are always as clear and concrete as possible.

His inner world , his soul , seem to be richer and more surprising than the external reality . Therefore , he uses the poetic language in order to free himself from the real world and to invent his own universe . In "Plume" (1938) Michaux creates an insipid and dull character , who is an invariable victim of the people and of the events . Plume has problems because of the authorities , his wife tyrannizes him and the universe is hostile for him . When he is in the restaurant , the waiter serves him a goose "filled with larvas of fly" and salad which "was washed with vaseline" . Plume , being always in discrepancy to the reality , represents , in fact , the fear of living . Michaux is best known for his esoteric books written in a highly accessible style, and his body of work includes poetry, travelogues, and art criticism. Michaux travelled widely, tried his hand at several careers, and experimented with drugs, the latter resulting in two of his most intriguing works, "Miserable Miracle" and "The Major Ordeals of the Mind and the Countless Minor Ones".

Jacques Prevert (1900 -1977) is a poet in love with freedom .



He refuses any convention . He defends all the people who are suffering and have troubles , but he fights against the tyrannical , stupid and conformist ones . His poems are also non conformist . He plays with the words , with the images and makes trivial speech to explode . Prévert participated actively in the surrealist movement and was a member of the Rue du Château group along with Raymond Queneau and Marcel Duchamp . Prévert's poems were published in his books "Paroles" (Words) (1946), "Histoires" (Stories) (1963), "Spectacle" (1951), "La Pluie et le beau temps" (Rain and Good Weather) (1955), "Favras" (1971) and "Choses et autres" (Things and Others) (1973). His poems are often about life in Paris and life after the Second World War.

Giuseppe Ungaretti (1888 -1970) was an Italian modernist poet, journalist, essayist, critic and academic.

A leading representative of the experimental trend known as ermetismo, he was one of the most prominent contributors to 20th century Italian literature.

Influenced by symbolism, he was briefly aligned with futurism. Like many futurists, he took an irredentist position during World War I . During the interwar period, Ungaretti was a collaborator of Benito Mussolini .



His works : "The Buried Port", "The War", "The Joy of Shipwrecks", "The Joy", "Translations", "Scattered Poems" , "The Pain", "The Promised Land", "A Shout and Landscapes", "The Old Man's Notebook", "The Life of a Man".

THE THEATRE IN THE CENTURY XX

Authors as Jarry and Pirandello , then Brecht , Beckett and Ionesco give birth to the vanguard theatre . They depict the absurdity of the contemporary world or the necessity of the political engagement . The works which belong to the vanguard theatre differ from the current ones . The authors try hard to bring out to light the absurdity of the world , to display the difficulties of communication among the people and to transmit a political message . In distinction to the realist theatre , "Ubu Roi" (King Ubu) brings on the stage unreal and funny characters , with gestures of puppets , in an imaginary Poland . They play , performed in 1896 in Paris , brought about an immense scandal . For the audience at that time , everything was shocking , beginning with the first word which Ubu said : "Shit !" . Ubu is a stout , dirty , unscrupulous man . His wife urges him to kill the king and to take his place , to enjoy with all the wealth and "very often to eat sausages" . Although Ubu is a very coward man , he becomes a tyrant when takes the power .

Alfred Jarry (1873 -1907) gave the play its ultimate form , even if it had been written by his mates in the secondary school . In the play we find the violence of the adolescents towards the adults . The play is one of the precursors to the Theatre of the Absurd and the greater surrealist art movement of the early

twentieth century. It is the first of three stylised burlesques in which Jarry satirises power, greed and their evil practices - in particular the propensity of the complacent bourgeois to abuse the authority engendered by success.



Other his works : plays - "Caesar Antichrist" , "Ubu cocu" (Ubu Cuckolded) , "Ubu enchaîné" (Ubu Bound) ; novels – "Le Surmâle" (The Supermale) , "Messaline" (Messalina) , "Gestes et opinions du docteur Faustroll, pataphysicien" (Exploits and Opinions of Dr. Faustroll, pataphysician) , "Les Jours et les nuits" (Days and Nights) .

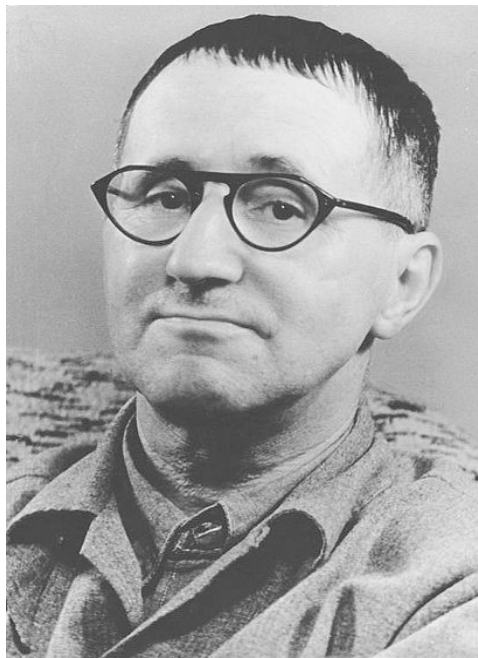
The Italian Luigi Pirandello (1867 -1936) asks himself questions about the relations between reality and illusion , between madness and normality .



In "Sei Personaggi in Cerca d'Autore" (Six Characters in Search of an Author) (1922) a meeting takes place , among real persons and imaginary beings . Normally such a meeting is impossible . On the stage the actors and the

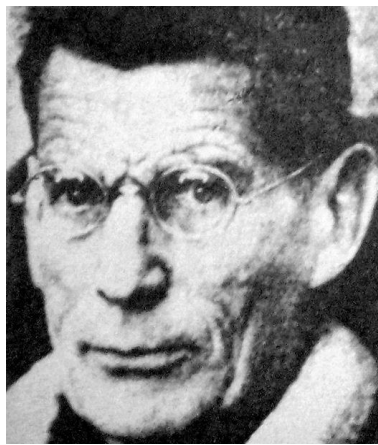
actresses rehearse a play . At that moment six characters come : they are the imaginary characters in the play . The author had not ended the story . The actors belong to the reality ; the six characters belong to the fiction . The play depicts a "theatre in theatre" . The play is a satirical tragicomedy . It was first performed in 1921 at the Teatro Valle in Rome, to a very mixed reception, with shouts from the audience of "Manicomio!" ("Madhouse!"). Subsequently the play enjoyed a much better reception. This improved reception was helped in 1925 when, with the third edition of the play, Pirandello provided a foreword clarifying the structure and ideas contained in the play . Other his woks : "L'Esclusa" (The Excluded Woman) , "Il Turno" (The Turn) , "Il Fu Mattia Pascal" (The Late Mattia Pascal) , "Uno, Nessuno e Centomila" (One, No one and One Hundred Thousand) , "Enrico IV" (Henry IV) , "L'Uomo dal Fiore in Bocca" (The Man With The Flower In His Mouth) .

Bertolt Brecht (1898 -1956) runs from Germany because of Hitler , in 1933 , and will live in East Berlin until 1948 .



In his plays he wants to demonstrate that there is not fatality and the people experience misfortunes because of historical or social reasons . He hopes that the spectators to think over and to ponder , and , in this way , to learn to fight in the life . "Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder" (Mother Courage and Her Children) (1941) is the story of a woman caught in the anxieties and worries because of the Thirty Years' War of 1618–1648 . It is one of nine plays that Brecht wrote in an attempt to counter the rise of Fascism and Nazism , written largely in response to the invasion of Poland (1939) by the German armies of Adolf Hitler . Following Brecht's own principles for political drama, the play is not set in

modern times but during the Thirty Years' War of 1618–1648. It follows the fortunes of Anna Fierling, nicknamed "Mother Courage", a wily canteen woman with the Swedish Army who is determined to make her living from the war. Over the course of the play, she loses all three of her children, Swiss Cheese, Eilif, and Katrin, to the same war from which she sought to profit. Other works of Bertolt Brecht : "Die Rundköpfe und die Spitzköpfe" (Round Heads and Pointed Heads) , "Die Horatier und die Kuriatier" (The Horatians and the Curiatians) , "Furcht und Elend des Dritten Reiches" (Fear and Misery of the Third Reich) , "Die Gewehre der Frau Carrar" (Señora Carrar's Rifles) , "Leben des Galilei" (Life of Galileo) , "Das Verhör des Lukullus" (The Trial of Lucullus) , "Die Gesichte der Simone Machard" (The Visions of Simone Machard) . The absurd theatre has the role to baffle , to confound the spectators , and to oblige them to look in other manner at the daily aspects , and to listen in other manner to the trivial sentences of the daily conversations . The reality has not more sense . The language becomes absurd and makes the communication impossible . The Irishman Samuel Beckett (1906 -1989) settles himself in Paris in 1938 .

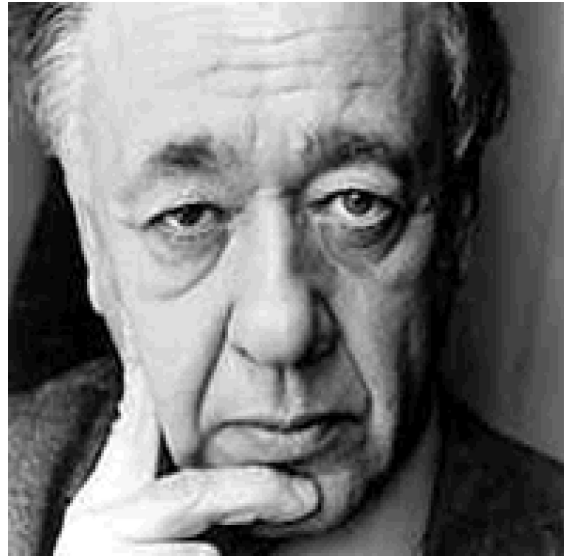


In "Waiting for Godot" two tramps are waiting for Godot . They didn't ever meet Godot . The two tramps have a talk . Godot will never come , but the waiting is , for the two tramps , a pretext to remain together . In "Happy Days" , Winnie is buried until the waist and has round her all sorts of familiar objects . She speaks about everything , but about nothing . At the end of the day she is sinking more and more , soon only her head is outside : she can not use her hands ; she only have the words .

Other works of Samel Beckett : "Play" , "Come and Go" , "Breath" , "Not I" , "That Time" , "Footfalls" , "A Piece of Monologue" , "Rockaby" , "Ohio Impromptu" , "Catastrophe" , "What Where" .

Eugen Ionesco (1909 -1994) was born in Romania , but lives and writes in France . Learning English language from a handbook , he is astonished about the absurdity of the sentences . He will draw his inspiration from the handbook

and will write the amazing dialogues in "La Cantatrice Chauve" (The Bald Soprano) (1950) . Thus , Mrs Smith says : "We ate very well this evening , because we are living in the neighbourhood of London and because our name is Smith" .



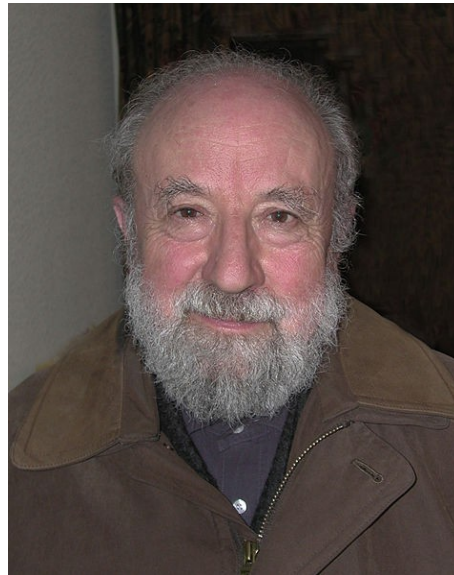
Other works of Eugen Ionesco : "La Leçon" (The Lesson) , "Les Chaises" (The Chairs) , "Victimes du devoir" (Victims of Duty) , "Amédée ou comment s'en débarrasser" (Amédée, or How to Get Rid of It) , "Jacques ou la soumission" (Jack, or The Submission) , "Le Nouveau Locataire" (The New Tenant) , "Tueur sans gages" (The Killer) , "Rhinoceros" (Rhinocéros) , "Le Roi se meurt" (Exit the King) , "La Soif et la faim" (Hunger and Thirst) .

Much time the theatre was amusement, entertainment , pastime and fun only for rich ones . But some authors and men of theatre want that all the people to come to the theatre . In '30 years , the poet Jacques Prevert organizes a company which plays for the workers in a factory . In 1951 , Jean Vilar , the founder of the Festival of Avignon , leads the Popular National Theatre to Paris . It is a public theatre , and the State subsidizes it . The seats in this theatre are cheaper than in the private theatres . More than five millions spectators were at Popular National Theatre from 1951 until 1963 .

THE NOVEL IN THE CENTURY XX

After the world war II , the novelists explore new tracks of investigations . They give less importance for the "instructive message" in the work , but more importance and attention for the modalities to tell . After 1945 , some writers mobilize themselves for the defence of the great political ideals - for example , the independence of the colonized countries , the war in Indochina , then the war in Algeria , and other ones want to renew even the art of writing . They muse

and ponder over the writers who metamorphosed the novel in the first half of the century XX , and have preoccupations with the language and the composition of the narration . In '50 years a group of French novelists promote "the New Novel". They are : Michel Butor , Claude Simon , Alain Robbe - Grillet , Nathalie Sarraute and Marguerite Duras . Although very different from each other , these authors have also common points of view : they refuse the interference of novel with politics and forbid the writing in the traditional manner . In "La modification" (translated into English as "Second Thoughts") (1957) by Michel Butor (born in 1926) , the main character has not name (the author says him : "You").



He meets in the train his beloved woman . The background of the novel is the travel by train and the unique subject of the novel are the intimate thoughts of the character . The initial story is only a pretext . Finally , the character writes a book , just the book which we read . It reveals how a novel is born . Other works of Michel Butor : "Passage de Milan" , "L'emploi du temps" , "Degrés" .

As a rule , we don't write as we speak .

But for Raymond Queneau (1903 -1976) the oral language and the manner to speak renew the modality of writing of the novel .

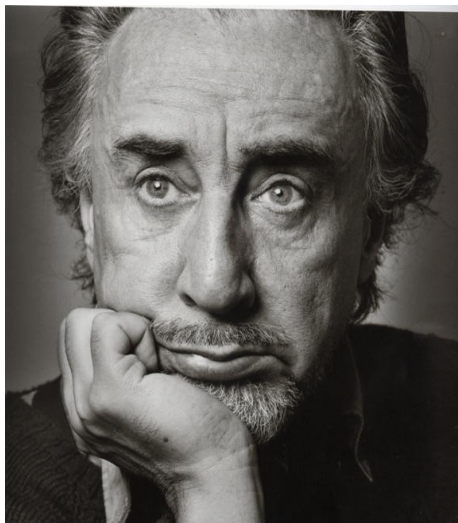
The first sentence in "Zazie dans le métro" (Zazie in the Metro) (1959) gives the tone for the whole novel . In order to tell the story of Zazie , Queneau doesn't hesitate to modify the orthography , to use the slang and to make plays on words . Zazie is a little girl . She comes from province to Paris , to visit his uncle , Gabriel . She has an only wish : to travel by underground . But it is strike at underground . She is disappointed and finds preoccupations , as to notice and to examine the strange existence of the adults . Gabriel tries to amuse her and to entertain her . They go together to visit Paris , especially Invalides

Dome , where there is the ash of the Napoleon Bonaparte . Zazie says : "Napoleon is a poltroon" ("poltroon" - an ignoble or total coward; a dastard; a mean-spirited wretch) . But , until the end of her sojourn , she will learn many things about the life and will leave with the feeling that she grew up .



Other works of Raymond Queneau : novels - "Un Rude hiver" (A Hard Winter) , "Loin de Rueil" (The Skin of Dreams) , "On est toujours trop bon avec les femmes" (We Always Treat Women Too Well) , "Le Dimanche de la vie" (The Sunday of Life) , "Les Fleurs bleues" (The Blue Flowers) , "Le Vol d'Icare" (The Flight of Icarus) ; poetry - "Cent Mille Millions de Poèmes" (Hundred Thousand Billion Poems) , "Battre la campagne" (Beating the Bushes) , "Courir les rues" (Pounding the Pavements) .

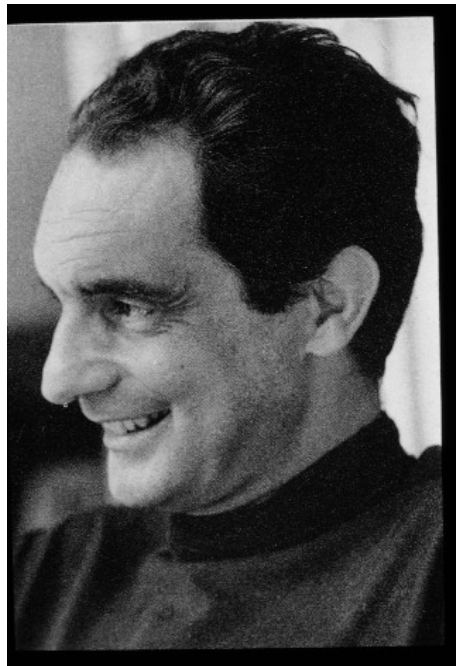
Romain Gary (1914 - 1980) has the same will to combine the oral language with



the privacy of the writing as other authors .

Under the pseudonym of Emile Ajar , he publishes "La vie devant soi" (The Life Before Us) (1975) . Using an inventive and amusing language , he tells about the friendship between two inhabitants in Paris , an Arabian boy , Momo , and an old Jewish woman , Madam Rosa . Other works of Romain Gary : "Les racines du ciel" (The Roots of Heaven) , "La Promesse de l'aube" (Promise at Dawn) , "Chien blanc" (White Dog) , "Les enchanteurs" (The Enchanters) , "Au-delà de cette limite votre ticket n'est plus valable" (Your Ticket Is No Longer Valid) .

The Italian Italo Calvino (1923 - 1985) loves the narration .



In most cases , he gives his novels a moral and philosophical purport . In "Il barone rampante" (The Baron in the Trees) (1957) the plot of the novel happens at the end of the century XVIII . The character , the baron Como , is a boy . He is 12 years old and doesn't more bear the severity of his father and the tyranny of his sister . He decides to climb up a tree . In spite of the request of his family , he refuses to come down and spends the rest of his life in the trees and never will reach the land . He will build a house , will hunt , will fish and will read very much . He falls in love with Violeta , his malicious neighbour and has correspondence by letters with writers (Rousseau , Voltaire) , even organizes a sumptuous reception when Napoleon Bonaparte comes . Through these narrations Calvino gives the reader a lesson full of humour and fancy , about the life and the wisdom .

Other works of Italo Calvino : "Il cavaliere inesistente" (The Nonexistent Knight) , "I nostri antenati" (Our Ancestors) , "Marcovaldo ovvero le stagioni in città" (Marcovaldo or the Seasons in the City) , "Il castello dei destini incrociati" (The Castle of Crossed Destinies) , "Le città invisibili" (Invisible Cities) , "Sotto il sole

giaguaro" (Under the Jaguar Sun) .

J.M.G. Le Clezio (born in 1940) brings on the stage of his novels children and adolescents .



They are disorientated , disconcerted and perplexed . They find the sense of the life scouring the world . At the beginning of the novel "Le Chercheur d'or" (1985) , Alexis has a happy life near his sister , Laura , and his parents , in the Mauritius Isle . But the bankruptcy of his father changes their life . The family is ruined . Alexis decides to go to the neighbouring island and to seek after the treasure of the pirates . During the search for the treasure , Alexis falls in love with Ouma , then takes part in the war in 1914 , then comes back to his country . His mother dies . Ouma disappears . Alexis didn't ever find out the treasure of the pirates , but he found a much more precious treasure : the love , the beauty of the world and the knowledge of himself .

Other works of J.M.G. Le Clezio : "Le Procès-Verbal" (The Interrogation) , "Le Livre des fuites" (The Book of Flights: An Adventure Story) , "Le déluge" (The Flood) , "Terra Amata" (Terra Amata) , 'La Guerre" (War) , "Désert" (Desert) , "Étoile errante" (Wandering Star) .

Georges Perec (1936, Paris – 1982) was a French novelist, filmmaker and essayist . Many of his novels and essays abound with experimental word play, lists and attempts at classification, and they are usually tinged with melancholy. "La Vie mode d'emploi" (Life A User's Manual) is Georges Perec's most famous novel, published in 1978 . Its title page describes it as "novels", in the plural, the reasons for which become apparent on reading. Some critics have cited the work as an example of postmodern fiction . "La Disparition" (A Void) - its plot follows a group of individuals hunting a missing companion, Anton Vowl. It is in part a parody of noir and horror fiction, with many stylistic tricks, gags, plot twists, and a grim conclusion.

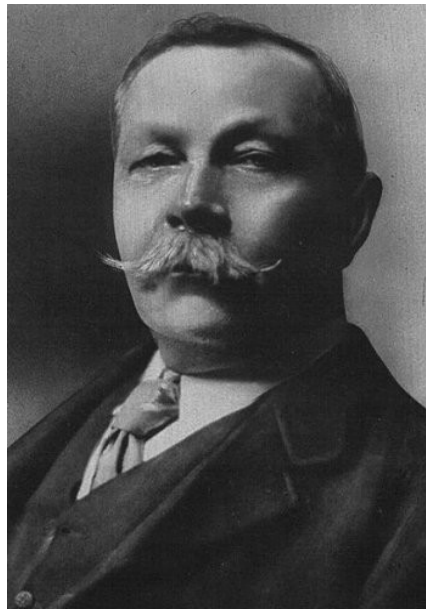


In many parts it implicitly talks about its own lipogrammatic limitation; 'Vowl' highlights its unusual orthography. Individuals within A Void do work out what's missing but find discussion of it hazardous, as according to its author's constraint no word containing it may occur, and any who try risk fatal injury. Philip Howard, writing a lipogrammatic appraisal of "A Void" in a major British journal, said "This is a story chock-full of plots and sub-plots, of loops within loops, of trails in pursuit of trails, all of which allow its author an opportunity to display his customary virtuosity as an avant-gardist magician, acrobat and clown."

THE DETECTIVE NOVEL

A crime , a detective , an investigation : this is the detective novel . A crime happened . Who did kill ? Why ? Signs , testimonies , wrong tracks : initially , the detective novel has the aspect of an investigation led by a professional or amateur detective - in order to discover the murderer . It is a type of narration which starts from the crime and goes back , to its reasons . The reader and the policeman must have equal chances to discover the key of the mystery . Among the stories of Edgar Allan Poe we find three short stories which are precursory works of the detective novel . In "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" , the detective , Dupin , makes an investigation about the mysterious death of two women in their home . The crime was committed in a closed room . Seemingly , nobody could come in the room .Through the force of the deduction ,interpreting the signs , Dupin finds out the murderer : an orang -outang . (Dupin puts an advertisement in the newspaper asking if anyone has lost an "Ourang-Outang". The ad is answered by a sailor who comes to Dupin at his home. The sailor offers a reward for the orangutan's return; Dupin asks for all the information the sailor has about the murders in the Rue Morgue. The sailor reveals that he had been keeping a captive orangutan obtained while ashore in Borneo. The animal escaped with the sailor's shaving straight razor. When he pursued the orangutan, it escaped by scaling a wall and climbing up a lightning rod, entering the apartment in the Rue Morgue through a window. Once in the room, the surprised Madame L'Espanaye could not defend herself as the orangutan

attempted to shave her in imitation of the sailor's daily routine. The bloody deed incited it to fury and it squeezed the daughter's throat until she died. The orangutan then became aware of its master's whip, which it feared, and it attempted to hide the body by stuffing it into the chimney. The sailor, aware of the "murder", panicked and fled, allowing the orangutan to escape. The prefect of police, upon hearing this story, mentions that people should mind their own business. Dupin responds that G – is "too cunning to be profound.") The famous detective Sherlock Holmes appears first time in 1887 in "A Study in Scarlet" of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 -1930) .



Sherlock Holmes is a strong personality . His inseparable friend is doctor Watson , a mild and somehow naive man . Sherlock Holmes scientifically leads the investigations : with the magnifying glass in hand , he attentively examines the signs , even the most unimportant ones , and pursues , sometimes , strange tracks . His exceptional intelligence helps him to clear the mystery .

Other works of Arthur Conan Doyle : Holmes books - "The Sign of Four" , "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" , "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes" , "The Hound of the Baskervilles" , "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" , "The Valley of Fear" , "His Last Bow" , "The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes" ; other works - "Tales of Terror & Mystery" , "Memories and Adventures" , "The Black Doctor and Other Tales of Terror and Mystery" , "The Dealings of Captain Sharkey" , "The Man from Archangel and Other Tales of Adventure" , "The History of Spiritualism" , "The Maracot Deep" , "The Edge of the Unknown" , "How it Happened" .

Some of the best detective novels belong to an woman , Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976) . The detective in her novels is the Belgian policeman Hercule Poirot . In her 70 novels we find the most improbable situations . The author diverts the

attention of the reader . The end of the story is surprising .



In "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" , the criminal is just the teller ; in "Crooked House" , the criminal is a girl ; in "Murder on the Orient Express" , all the characters are guilty , and in "Ten Little Niggers" all the characters are victims . Other works of Agatha Christie : "Murder on the Orient Express" , "Death on the Nile" , "The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side" , "Evil Under the Sun" , "Ordeal by Innocence" , "Towards Zero" , "The Clocks" , "A Caribbean Mystery" , "At Bertram's Hotel" , "Third Girl" , "Endless Night" , "By the Pricking of My Thumbs" , "Hallowe'en Party" , "Passenger to Frankfurt" , "Nemesis" , "Elephants Can Remember".

The character of Belgian writer , Georges Simenon (1903 - 1989) is the commissary Maigret , and appears in 1930 in "Pietr-le-Letton" (The Strange Case of Peter the Lett) .



Some of his trademark features are his pipes, his mixed approach to detecting (at times relying on pure intuition, at times on method), and his fondness for alcohol. Often during an investigation, he will step into a small cafe or bar for a drink and possibly a light lunch. His drink of choice is beer or cider, though he has also been known to drink pastis as well as wine at dinner or when it is the only thing available. This is not to say that he is a drunk, as it is a matter of personal pride that he can hold his liquor, and would be deeply embarrassed if he allowed himself to get intoxicated. Maigret often wears a heavy overcoat, even when traveling to the Riviera — a fact which leads people unfamiliar with him to mark him instantly as a policeman. His method to investigate relies on intuition. He tries always to understand the other one, either (s)he is the victim, or (s)he is the criminal. Georges Simenon depicts the towns and their gloom, the harbours and their fog, the streets under the rain, but also the psychology of the inhabitants: common people, not guilty ones, but never innocent ones. The novels of Simenon have not outright morals, but are full of humanism. Other works of Georges Simenon: "Le Chien jaune" (The Yellow Dog), "Un Crime en Hollande" (A Crime in Holland), "L'Inspecteur Cadavre" (Inspector Cadaver), "Maigret se fâche" (Maigret in Retirement), "La Première enquête de Maigret, 1913" (Maigret's First Case), "Le Revolver de Maigret" (Maigret's Revolver), "Maigret a peur" (Maigret Afraid), "Maigret se trompe" (Maigret's Mistake), "Maigret à l'école" (Maigret Goes to School), "Maigret se défend" (Maigret on the Defensive), "La Patience de Maigret" (The Patience of Maigret), "Maigret hésite" (Maigret Hesitates), "La Folle de Maigret" (Maigret and the Madwoman).

Dashiell Hammett (1894 –1961) was an American author of hard-boiled detective novels and short stories.



Among the enduring characters he created are Sam Spade ("The Maltese Falcon"), Nick and Nora Charles ("The Thin Man"), and the Continental Op ("Red Harvest" and "The Dain Curse"). In addition to the significant influence his

novels and stories had on film, Hammett "is now widely regarded as one of the finest mystery writers of all time" and was called, in his obituary in The New York Times, "the dean of the... 'hard-boiled' school of detective fiction". "The Maltese Falcon" concerns a San Francisco private detective's dealings with three unscrupulous adventurers who compete to obtain a fabulous jewel- encrusted statuette of a falcon.



Into the offices of the Spade & Archer detective agency sweeps a Miss Wonderly , who offers a large retainer to Sam and his partner Miles Archer if they'll protect her from someone named Floyd Thursby. The detectives believe neither Miss Wonderly nor her story, but they believe her money. Since Archer saw her first, he takes the case -- and later that evening he is shot to death, as is the mysterious Thursby. Miss Wonderly's real name turns out to be Brigid O'Shaughnessey, and, as the story continues, Sam is also introduced to the effeminate Joel Cairo and the fat, erudite Kasper Gutman . It turns out that Brigid, Cairo and Gutman are all international scoundrels, all involved in the search for a foot-high, jewel-encrusted statuette in the shape of a falcon. Though both Cairo and Gutman offer Spade small fortunes to find the "black bird," they are obviously willing to commit mayhem and murder towards that goal : Gutman, for example , drugs Spade and allows his "gunsel" Wilmer to kick and beat the unconscious detective.

Raymond Chandler (1888 –1959) was an Anglo-American novelist and screenwriter who had an immense stylistic influence upon the modern private detective story, especially in the style of the writing and the attitudes now characteristic of the genre. His protagonist, Philip Marlowe, is, along with

Dashiell Hammett's Sam Spade, considered synonymous with "private detective" .



"The Big Sleep" (1939) is a hardboiled crime novel by Raymond Chandler, the first in his acclaimed series about detective Philip Marlowe. The story is noted for its complexity, with many characters double-crossing each other and many secrets being exposed throughout the narrative.

The title is a euphemism for death; it refers to a rumination in the book about "sleeping the big sleep", and is not descriptive of the plot.

Daniel Pennac (born 1944) is a French writer.



He received the Prix Renaudot in 2007 for his essay "Chagrin d'école". His writing style can be humorous and imaginative like in "La Saga Malaussène", but he can also write "Comme un roman", a pedagogic essay. "La fée carabine" (The Fairy Gunmother) is a comic novel by Daniel Pennac . The novel is set in the modern Parisian quarter of Belleville. It starts with the dramatic death of a policeman, shot by a "grannie" he was trying to help, and witnessed by at least four others who conveniently forget all details of what they see. The inspector Van Thian goes undercover as a Vietnamese old woman to investigate. Three other investigations follow: one into the attempted murder of a young

woman, another into the serial killings of small old women in the district, and a third into drug trafficking by old men. Benjamin Malaussène, professional scapegoat, quickly becomes suspect number one of all four investigations, owing to the numerous children of his prolific mother he lives with, the various old men with obsolete talents that he shelters, and his repeated abortive romantic affairs. Like all novels in the Malaussène saga, the setting is anything but conventional, the streets of Paris brimming with immigrants in open celebration of their diversity, the situations rarely Gaulic yet authentically Parisian.

Maurice Leblanc (1864 – 1941)



was a French novelist and writer of short stories, known primarily as the creator of the fictional gentleman thief and detective Arsène Lupin, often described as a French counterpart to Arthur Conan Doyle's creation Sherlock Holmes.

Fantômas is a fictional character created by French writers Marcel Allain (1885–1969) and Pierre Souvestre (1874–1914). One of the most popular characters in the history of French crime fiction, Fantômas was created in 1911 and appeared in a total of 32 volumes written by the two collaborators, then a subsequent 11 volumes written by Allain alone after Souvestre's death. The character was also the basis of various film, television, and comic book adaptations. In the history of crime fiction, he represents a transition from Gothic novel villains of the 1800s to modern-day serial killers.

THE SCIENCE FICTION LITERATURE

Time travels , spacecrafts and planetary explorations , robots , extraterrestrial beings , mutants , flying saucers , apocalypse - these are the subject matter of the science fiction novels and short stories . The industry , the new technology

and the science in the century XIX incited the imagination of the writers . The narratives of anticipation are modern tales and yarns . Some events in the century XX gave an impetus to the writers of science fiction literature : many scientific discoveries , findings and inventions , the extraordinary scientific work of Albert Einstein , the two world wars , the explosions of the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki , the dispatch of artificial satellites and human beings to the interplanetary space . The imagination anticipates the new features of the technical and scientific progress .

Jules Verne (1828 -1905) publishes in 1864 the novel "A Journey to the Centre of the Earth".



The story begins on Sunday 24 May 1863, in the Lidenbrock house in Hamburg, with Professor Lidenbrock rushing home to peruse his latest purchase, an original runic manuscript of an Icelandic saga written by Snorri Sturluson . Lidenbrock translates the note, which is revealed to be a medieval note written by the (fictional) Icelandic alchemist Arne Saknussemm : "Descend, bold traveler, into the crater of Snæfellsjökull, which the shadow of Scartaris touches (lit: tastes) before the Kalends of July, and you will attain the centre of the earth; which I have done. Arne Saknussemm" . According to Saknussemm's message, the passage to the centre of the Earth is through the one crater that is touched by the shadow of a nearby mountain peak at noon . After descending into this crater, the three travelers set off into the bowels of the Earth, encountering many strange phenomena and great dangers, including a chamber filled with combustible gas, and steep-sided wells around the "path". After taking a wrong turn, they run out of water and Axel almost dies, but Hans taps into a neighboring subterranean river. Lidenbrock and Axel name the resulting stream the "Hansbach" in his honor and the three are saved. This underground world is lit by electrically charged gas at the ceiling, and is filled with a very deep

subterranean ocean, surrounded by a rocky coastline covered in petrified trees and giant mushrooms. The travelers build a raft out of trees and set sail. The Professor names this sea as the Lidenbrock Sea. Whilst on the water, they see several prehistoric creatures such as a giant Ichthyosaurus, which fights with a Plesiosaurus and wins. The travelers continue to explore the coastline, and find a passageway marked by Saknussemm as the way ahead. After spending hours being swept along at lightning speeds by the water, the raft ends up inside a large volcanic chimney filling with water and magma. Terrified, the three are rushed upwards, through stifling heat, and are ejected onto the surface from a side-vent of a volcano. When they regain consciousness, they discover that they have been ejected from the active volcano on the Isle of Stromboli.

Jules Verne has a lot of themes for his readers : the underwater life and the submarine , the aeronautics , the helicopter and the air- balloon , the new findings and discoveries about the geography , the botany , the zoology , even a travel to the moon . In his novels we find many fantastic things , oddities , quaintnesses , singularities , strangenesses and whimsies of the nature and a lot of suspense . Many his books are novels of anticipation : "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" (Vingt mille lieues sous les mers) , "From the Earth to the Moon" (De la Terre à la Lune) , "Around the Moon" (Autour de la lune) . Jules Verne foresaw some inventions : the atomic bomb , the rocket , the satellite ...

Other works of Jules Verne : "Five Weeks in a Balloon" (Cinq Semaines en ballon) , "The Adventures of Captain Hatteras" (Voyages et aventures du capitaine Hatteras) , "In Search of the Castaways" (Les Enfants du capitaine Grant) , "A Floating City" (Une ville flottante) , "The Adventures of Three Englishmen and Three Russians in South Africa" (Aventures de trois Russes et de trois Anglais) , "The Fur Country" (Le Pays des fourrures) , "Around the World in Eighty Days" (Le Tour du Monde en quatre-vingts jours) , "The Mysterious Island" (L'Île mystérieuse) , "The Survivors of the Chancellor" (Le Chancellor) , "Michael Strogoff" (Michel Strogoff) , "Off on a Comet" (Hector Servadac) , "The Child of the Cavern" (Les Indes noires) , "Dick Sand, A Captain at Fifteen" (Un capitaine de quinze ans) , "The Begum's Millions" (Les Cinq Cents Millions de la Bégum) , "Tribulations of a Chinaman in China" (Les Tribulations d'un chinois en Chine) , "The Steam House" (La Maison à vapeur) , "The Vanished Diamond" (L'Étoile du sud) , "The Archipelago on Fire" (L'Archipel en feu) , "Robur the Conqueror" (Robur-le-Conquérant) , "Two Years' Vacation" (Deux Ans de vacances) , "Captain Antifer" (Mirifiques Aventures de Maître Antifer) , "Propeller Island" (L'Île à hélice) , "The Will of an Eccentric" (Le Testament d'un excentrique) , "The Sea Serpent" (Les Histoires de Jean-Marie Cabidoulin) , "Invasion of the Sea" (L'Invasion de la mer) .

Herbert George Wells (1866 - 1946) suggests time travels . "The Time Machine" is a science fiction novella , published in 1895 for the first time . This story is

generally credited with the popularisation of the concept of "time travel" using a vehicle that allows an operator to travel purposefully and selectively. The term "time machine", coined by Wells, is now universally used to refer to such a vehicle.



Wells introduces an early example of the Dying Earth subgenre as well. (The "Dying Earth" subgenre is a sub-category of science fantasy which takes place either at the end of life on Earth or the End of Time, when the laws of the universe themselves fail. More generally, the Dying Earth sub-genre encompasses science fiction works set in the far distant future in a milieu of stasis or decline.) . "The War of the Worlds" (1898) describes the experiences of an unnamed narrator who travels through the suburbs of London as the Earth is invaded by Martians. It is one of the earliest stories that details a conflict between mankind and an alien race. The War of the Worlds is split into two parts, Book one: "The Coming of the Martians", and Book two: "The Earth under the Martians". The novel is narrated by a writer of philosophical articles who throughout the narrative struggles to reunite with his wife, while witnessing the Martians rampaging through the southern English counties .

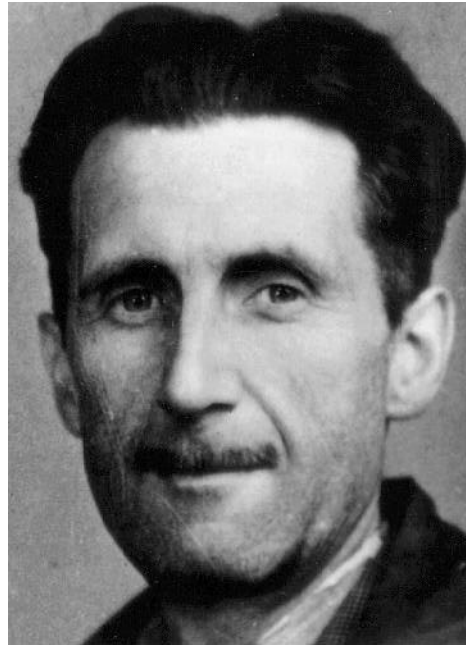
Other works of Herbert George Wells : "The Invisible Man" , "The Island of Doctor Moreau" , "The First Men in the Moon" , "The Shape of Things to Come" . After the explosions of the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and in Nagasaki , a frequent plot in science fiction literature is the atomic destruction of the Earth . At the same time with the plot of the atomic destruction of the Earth , the writers introduce the matter of the mutant . The mutant is a monstrous and portentous creature . The concept of a mutant is a common trope in comic books and science fiction. The new phenotypes that appear in fictional mutations generally go far beyond what is typically seen in biological mutants, and often result in the mutated life form exhibiting superhuman abilities or qualities. It is a descendant of the human being , but is full of hatred against whole humanity and human nature . Another frequent subject matter of the novel is the contact

among the human beings on the Earth and extraterrestrial civilizations .
"Extraterrestrials" are life forms — especially intelligent life forms— that are of extraterrestrial origin and are often also referred to collectively as aliens. This usage is anthropocentric; the term is used to refer to hypothetical non-human civilizations from or on other planets, even in the context of their own native habitats."A Martian Odyssey" is a science fiction short story by Stanley Weinbaum originally published in the July 1934 : the "extraterrestrials" are friendly and kindly and very clever . They don't resemble with human being on the Earth . In 1940 it appears the notion "Galactic Empire" . This means that the terrestrials gradually colonized the planetary systems and established commercial , cultural , informing , even military relations . The novels of Isaac Asimov (1920 - 1992) depict such galactic empires .



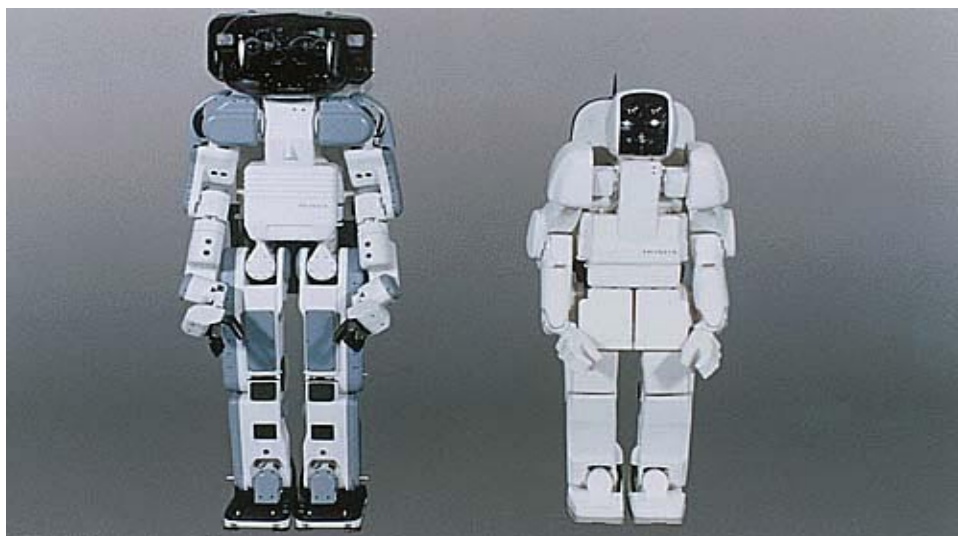
George Orwell (1903 -1950) considers that the science fiction literature must talk about human being , about the fears , the apprehensions , the hopes , the expectations , the strivings of the human being . In the novel "1984" he depicts (in 1949 !) a totalitarian universe , under the domination of an only party . The Big Brother controls the party and all the people . In this totalitarian universe , the people must forget their past , their history . Three slogans must lead the society : "The war is peace . The freedom is slavery . The ignorance is power ."
This totalitarian system considers the love is a political infringement . But an woman and a man revolt against this totalitarian system.The individual is always

subordinated to the masses, and it is in part this philosophy which allows the Party to manipulate and control humanity.



In the Ministry of Truth (Minitrue), protagonist Winston Smith is a civil servant responsible for perpetuating the Party's propaganda by revising historical records to render the Party omniscient and always correct, yet his meagre existence disillusioned him to the point of seeking rebellion against Big Brother, eventually leading to his arrest, torture, and conversion.

The word robot was introduced to the public by Czech writer Karel Čapek in his play "R.U.R." (Rossum's Universal Robots), published in 1920.



The play begins in a factory that makes artificial people called robots, but they

are closer to the modern ideas of androids, creatures who can be mistaken for humans. They can plainly think for themselves, though they seem happy to serve. At issue is whether the robots are being exploited and the consequences of their treatment. Karel Čapek himself did not coin the word.



He wrote a short letter in reference to an etymology in the Oxford English Dictionary in which he named his brother, the painter and writer Josef Čapek, as its actual originator .

"I, Robot" is a collection of nine science fiction short stories by Isaac Asimov.



He was a Russian Jewish novelist, short story writer, essayist, historian, professor of biochemistry, textbook writer, humorist . His genres : science fiction (hard SF), popular science, mystery fiction, essays, literary criticism . His notable works : The "Foundation Series", the "Robot Series", "Nightfall", "The

Intelligent Man's Guide to Science", "I, Robot", "Planets for Man" .

The stories are woven together as Dr. Susan Calvin tells them to a reporter (the narrator) in the 21st century. Though the stories can be read separately, they share a theme of the interaction of humans, robots and morality, and when combined they tell a larger story of Asimov's fictional history of robotics. "Robot Series" is a series of short stories and novels by Isaac Asimov featuring positronic robots. Most of Asimov's robot short stories are set in the first age of positronic robotics and space exploration. The unique feature of Asimov's robots are the Three Laws of Robotics, hardwired in a robot's positronic brain, which all robots in his fiction must obey, and which ensure that the robot does not turn against its creators. The stories were not initially conceived as a set, but rather all feature his positronic robots - indeed, there are some inconsistencies among them, especially between the short stories and the novels. They all, however, share a theme of the interaction of humans, robots, and morality. Some of the short stories found in "The Complete Robot" and other anthologies appear not to be set in the same universe as the Foundation Universe. "Victory Unintentional" has positronic robots obeying the Three Laws, but also a non-human civilization on Jupiter. "Let's Get Together" features humanoid robots, but from a different future, and with nothing to prevent a robot from intentionally killing humans.

IN THE LITERATURE OF THE WORLD

In Africa , Asia , South America the writers react against the Westerner model and defend their languages , traditions , national cultures and visions about the future . The general rule is the diversity . The people , the countries have various histories and memories . The themes of the writers in Africa , Asia and South America are : the rejection of the Westerner model , the exaltation of the historic past and the meditation about the future .

Taha Hussein (1889 -1973) in "The Days" tells his childhood , in the family of peasants in Egypt . When he is three years old , because of the disease , blinds . His parents have not money . A witchdoctor (quack cure) , in keeping with the tradition , will take care of the child . He will fight for his life , will turn to good account his memory and his intelligence . He will criticize the superstitions , the religious and social prejudices and biases . He will become one of the thinkers of the renaissance of the Arabian world . Taha Hussein will have an important political and social role : in 1950 , when he is the minister of Education , fights for free education of the children and of the women .

Additionally, he was an advocate against the confinement of education to the rich people only. In this respect, he says, "science is such as water and air, the right of every human being". Consequently, on his hands, the education became free and the Egyptians has taken the advantage of free education. He has also transformed many of the Quranic schools to primary schools, and was credited

with establishing a number of Egyptian universities, and convert a number of high schools to colleges such as the Graduate School of Medicine, and Agriculture, and others.



Taha Hussein held the position of chief editor of a number of newspapers, and has written numerous articles, in addition to membership in several scientific academies, whether inside or outside Egypt. Taha Hussein was one of the most influential 20th century Egyptian writers and intellectuals, and a figurehead for the modernist movement in the Arab World.

Naguib Mahfouz (born in 1911) is also an Egyptian writer .



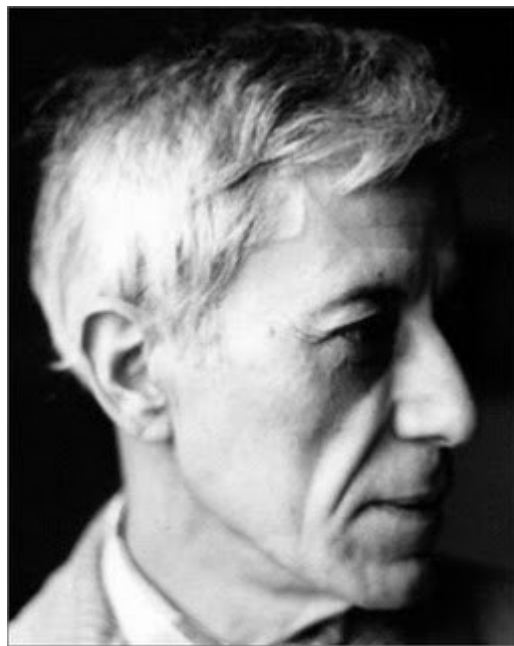
First his works depict the traditional Egyptian society , which extracts its legitimacy of patriotic aspirations from the glory of the Pharaohs . After 1945 he depicts the daily life in the Egyptian society . He won the 1988 Nobel Prize for Literature. He is regarded as one of the first contemporary writers of Arabic literature, along with Tawfiq el- Hakim, to explore themes of existentialism. He published over 50 novels, over 350 short stories, dozens of movie scripts and five plays over a 70-year career. His "Cairo Trilogy" consists of three novels : "Palace Walk" (1956) ; "Palace of Desire" (1957) ; "Sugar Street" (1957) . The books' titles are taken from actual streets in Cairo, the city of Mahfouz's childhood and youth . The trilogy follows the life of the Cairene patriarch Al-Sayyid Ahmad Abd al-Jawad and his family across three generations, from 1919 – the Egyptian Revolution against the British colonizers – to the end of the Second World War in 1944. The three novels represent the three phases of the Cairene socio-political life, a panorama of Egypt, through the life of Abd al-Jawad and his children and grandchildren.

Amadou Hampâté Bâ (1901 -1991) from Mali says : "En Afrique, quand un vieillard meurt, c'est une bibliothèque qui brûle." (In Africa, when an old man dies, it's a library burning) - 1960 at l'UNESCO.



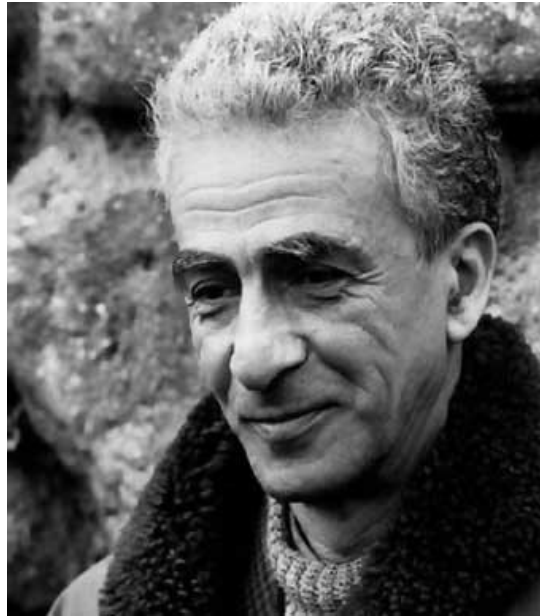
Amadou Hampâté Bâ was born to an aristocratic Fula family in Bandiagara, the largest city in Dogon territory and the capital of the precolonial Masina Empire. He was a pupil in the muslim school , then in the French school . He gathered a lot of stories of musician - poets in Africa ; his wish was this oral culture of musician - poets not to be lost . "The people of Black race, as they are not peoples [with a tradition of written literature], have developed the art of speech in a most special manner. While it is not written, their literature is not less

beautiful. How many poems, epics, historic and chivalrous narratives, didactic tales, myths and legends of egregious [literary style] have so been transmitted through centuries, carried by the prodigious memory of the men with an [oral tradition's], passionately in love with beautiful language and almost all poets." During the colonization he was a translator and diplomat ; he was an intermediary between his country and foreign countries and observed the relations between two civilizations : African and Westerner . His notable works : "Vie en enseignement de Tierno Bokar, le sage de Bandiagara" (The Life and Education of Tierno Bokar, the Sage of Bandiagara) , "L'étrange destin du Wangrin" (The Strange Destiny of Wangrin) , "L'Éclat de la grande étoile" (The Brightness of the Great Star) , "Njeddo Dewal, mère de la calamité" (Njeddo Dewal, Mother of Calamity) , "Amkoullel, l'enfant peul" (Amkoullel, the Fula Child) , "Oui mon commandant!" (Yes, My Commander !) . Mohammed Dib (1920–2003) was an Algerian author who wrote over 30 novels, as well as numerous short stories, poems, and children's literature in the French language.



He is probably Algeria's most prolific and well-known writer. His work covers the breadth of 20th century Algerian history, focusing on Algeria's fight for independence . In his work, Dib was concerned with bringing the authentic experience of Algerian life to a wider, particularly French - speaking, world. The Algerian revolution (1954–1962) profoundly shaped his thinking, and made him eager to bring to the world's attention Algeria's struggle for independence. An advocate of political equality, he believed that "the things that make us different always remain secondary." Ironically, he has received many awards from the French literary establishment.

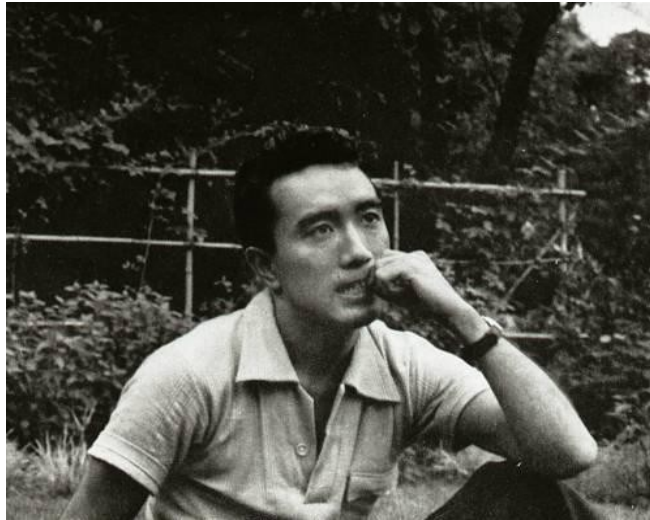
Kateb Yacine (1929 - 1989) was an Algerian writer notable for his novels and plays, both in French and Algerian Arabic dialect, and his advocacy of the Algerian Berber cause.



Kateb Yacine's masterpiece, published in Paris in 1956, is the pre-eminent and most influential Maghrebian novel. It was the first Maghrebian work to take into account not only the unique realities of the North African colonial experience, but also the experimental tradition established by such writers as Joyce, Faulkner, and the French authors of the Nouveau Roman. Most of the action of the novel takes place in eastern Algeria in the decade before the War of Independence. It describes the adventures of four young Algerian men - Rachid, Lakhdar, Mustapha, and Mourad - in a series of subplots and adventures, including imprisonment, murder, kif smoking, and voyages to the ancestral Nadhor and to Mecca, often with or in search of Nedjma, an ethereal object of desire and fantasy whose origins are ambiguous: she was conceived in a cave by an abducted French woman and one of the men who violated her, who include the main character Rachid's father and Si Mokhtar, an important character in the story. The plot is so complex and rich that it defies brief summary. In any event, "Nedjma"'s success lies in its powerful writing, its fragmented Postmodern structure which was new to Maghrebian discourse, and its several possible readings, authorizing, for example, interpretation of Nedjma (nedjma means 'star' in Arabic) as symbolic of the rising star of Algerian nationalism.

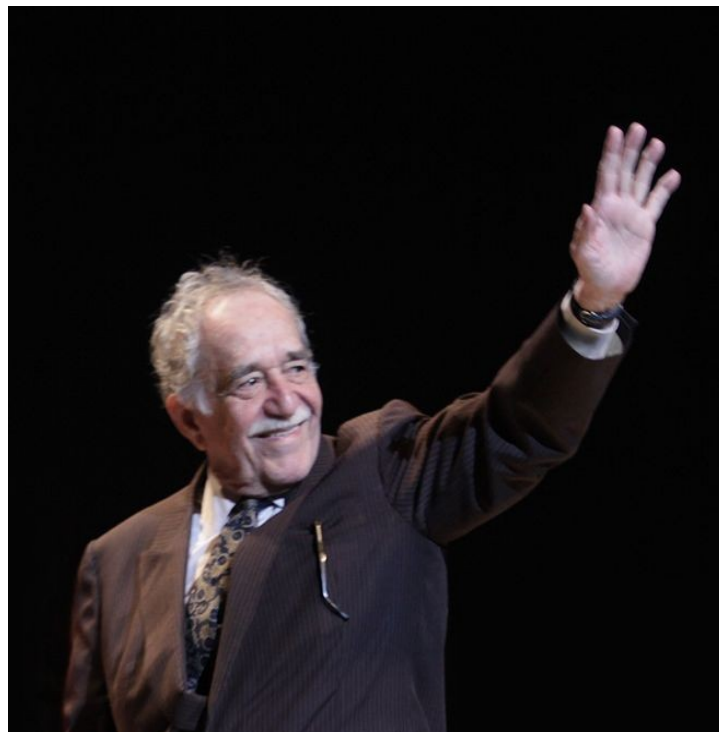
Yukio Mishima (1925 –1970) is a Japanese author, poet and playwright, also remembered for his ritual suicide by seppuku. Mishima espoused a very individual brand of nationalism towards the end of his life. He was hated by leftists, in particular for his outspoken and anachronistic commitment to bushidō

(the code of the samurai) and by mainstream nationalists for his contention, in "A Defense of Culture" , that Hirohito should have abdicated and taken responsibility for the war dead.



His notable works : "Silk and Insight" , "Acts of Worship" , "Patriotism" , "Death in Midsummer and other stories" , "Sun and Steel" , "The Sea of Fertility" tetralogy: 1. "Spring Snow" , 2. "Runaway Horses" , 3. "The Temple of Dawn" , 4. "The Decay of the Angel" .

Gabriel García Márquez (born in 1927) is a Colombian novelist, short-story writer, screenwriter and journalist.



García Márquez, affectionately known as Gabo throughout Latin America, is considered one of the most significant authors of the 20th century. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982. He pursued a self-directed education that resulted in his leaving law school for a career in journalism. From early on, he showed no inhibitions in his criticism of Colombian and foreign politics. He started as a journalist, and has written many acclaimed non-fiction works and short stories, but is best-known for his novels, such as "One Hundred Years of Solitude" (1967) and "Love in the Time of Cholera" (1985). His works have achieved significant critical acclaim and widespread commercial success, most notably for popularizing a literary style labeled as magical realism, which uses magical elements and events in otherwise ordinary and realistic situations. Some of his works are set in a fictional village called Macondo, and most of them express the theme of solitude.

"One Hundred Years of Solitude" (1967) is the story of seven generations of the Buendía Family in the town of Macondo. The founding patriarch of Macondo, José Arcadio Buendía, and Úrsula, his wife (and first cousin), leave Riohacha, Colombia, to find a better life and a new home. One night of their emigration journey, whilst camping on a riverbank, José Arcadio Buendía dreams of "Macondo", a city of mirrors that reflected the world in and about it.

Upon awakening, he decides to found Macondo at the river side; after days of wandering the jungle, José Arcadio Buendía's founding of Macondo is utopic. Founding patriarch José Arcadio Buendía believes Macondo to be surrounded by water, and from that island, he invents the world according to his perceptions. Soon after its foundation, Macondo becomes a town frequented by unusual and extraordinary events that involve the generations of the Buendía family, who are unable or unwilling to escape their periodic (mostly) self-inflicted misfortunes. Ultimately, a hurricane destroys Macondo, the city of mirrors; just the cyclical turmoil inherent to Macondo. At story's end, a Buendía man deciphers an encrypted cipher that generations of Buendía family men had failed to decipher. The secret message informed the recipient of every fortune and misfortune lived by the Buendía Family generations. Notable works of Gabriel Garcia Marquez : "In Evil Hour" , "One Hundred Years of Solitude" , "The Autumn of the Patriarch" , "Love in the Time of Cholera" , "The General in His Labyrinth" , "Of Love and Other Demons" .

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