

*Lesson XII:
Australian Literature*



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- | Aust Lit: Ab. Oral Lit (before 1788)
 - | English Written Lit soon after 1788
 - | Compassing: indigenous, white, & not always about Aust.
 - | Early works:
 - | Aborigines' relating to the Dreamtime
 - | White Aust.n.s' relating to adventurous stories about life in the bush, giving valuable insights into the penal colonies & also recording the vernacular language of the common people (esp. Furphy), thus inventing Aust.

Poetry: significant role genre

- | Lyrics:
 - | Adam Lindsay Gordon & Christopher Brennan, classical allusions (the domain of “high” culture)
- | Ballads:
 - | Henry Lawson & Banjo Paterson, portraying the bush life which shaped the Aust’n psyche, & thus ‘self-image’

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- | Gordon: poet laureate (celebrating the royal families & the important days in Britain), the only Australian with a monument in Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey
 - | Brennan: more philosophical, individual, universal
 - | Lawson & Paterson: folk (bush) ballads, local color, image of Aust

Role of Aust'n writings: Self-Identity

- | The bush: alive but alienating, threatening, a nightmare with a blazing sun, life unknown to city dwellers
- | Being an Aust'n : struggling for a female place, optimistic interpretation of the bush, new identities (postwar, questioning established identity)

Scandals: the identity of writers

- | Lack of modernist poetry
- | Highly tendentious account of the subject-matter
- | False identity
- | Not really Aust'n, not live in Aust

New Trend

- | Coming of age occurring in 1973 marked by Patrick White who was awarded the Noble Prize
- | James Clavell & Nevil Shute portraying east culture in western viewpoint
- | Contemporary Aboriginal Writing: Sally Morgan's My Place & Jack Davis' No Sugar

Others

- | Science Fiction & Fantasy: Simon Brown, Isobelle, Carmody, etc
- | Crime: Kerry Greenwood, Shane Maloney, Peter Temple, etc
- | History: Watkin Tench, Charles Bean, Manning Clark, Geoffrey Blainey
- | Literary Journals: Meanjin, Overland, Southerly, Westerly, etc

Lesson XIII: Nationalism and the Arts



Literature

- | The early colonial period, Aust'n literature seen through the inherited English eyes & through English literary conventions, as to achieve the status of lit., Aust'n writings should conform to the expectation of the English reader & for the English reader
- | In the 1880s, Aust'n literature in abundance, seeing Aust'an life through Aust'n eyes & writings for Aust'an audience
- | In the 1890s, Aust'n literature as a means to articulate Aust'n identity by emphasizing the bush life (Lawson & Paterson), employing Aust'n vernacular in the works (Furphy & Dennis), & centering on Aust'an ethics
- | Folk lit. like ballads orally circulated among working people in the bush by minstrels
- | The Bulletin, a weekly journal, established in Sydney in 1880 under a strongly nationalist, radical, & republican J. F. Archibald & A.G. Stephens had important role to accommodate such writings
- | The Bulletin, the most influential & trumpeting nationalism & anti-Imperialism, known as the "bushman's Bible"

Paintings



- | During & since the 1890s, not only literature, but visual arts also emerged as a device to trumpet the sense of nationalism pioneered by Frederick McCubbin, Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton, & Charles Conder
- | These painters are known as the artists of the Heidelberg School, who established a distinctively Aust'n painting tradition which emphasizing outback life