北美文学史及经典作品选读

The History of Northern American Literature and Selected Classical Readings

主编 蒙雪梅 张 扬

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The History of Northern American Literature and Selected Classical Readings



内容简介

本书将"历史背景,文学史"和"文选"相结合,全书共分为8章,美国文学部分按照文学史的先后顺序分成7个不同的时期,加拿大文学一章。书中简明介绍了美加文学从起源到20世纪的历史文化背景、文学史特点,选择代表作家和经典作品。每章包括作家生平简介、作品介绍、注释、名词解释、思考题等。本书线索清晰,希望为学生搭建美加文学框架,引导学生阅读原著,感受美加文学的人文精神和丰富的思想内涵,帮助学生开扩国际视野。

本书既可作为我国高等院校使用的课程教材,也可供广大北美文学爱好者阅读。

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(如因印装质量问题影响阅读,我社负责调换)

近年来,我国学者对美国、加拿大文学(美加文学)的介绍和研究日益重视,根据21世纪大学英语发展要求,为适应不同层次学生的发展需求,哈尔滨工业大学开设了大学英语课程——"北美文学选读"。文学是对时代生活的审美表现,能够培养文学阅读、理解与鉴赏能力以及口头与书面表达等语言能力。加强对文学本质的意识,能够提高学生综合人文素质,增强对西方文学及文化的理解,适应新世纪人才培养的需要。

随着各大院校对英美文学的重视,学生和读者对出版的教材——《英美文学史与选读》提出了更高的要求和有益的建议。因此,我们推出了修订版。修订版既保留了原教材的优点,同时适当地修补了部分文学史、作品赏析和课后习题的内容。

本书共包括 8 章: 各章按照文学史的时间顺序化分时期, 简明地介绍各时期的历史背景和文学史特点, 精选了每个时期的主要作家, 并介绍作家在文学史中的地位、人生经历、创作经历和代表作品。人选作品着重其经典性, 力求深入浅出、通俗易懂, 为学生跨进美加文学殿堂提供快捷的通道, 使其在较短的时间内了解美加文学的精华。阅读优秀的美加文学作品, 可以感受到英语音乐性的语调和五光十色的语汇, 回味其"弦外之音"。文学作品是对人生体验的文化表征。阅读文学作品, 是了解西方文化的一条重要途径, 可以接触到支撑表层文化的深层文化, 即西方文化中根本性的思想观点、价值评判、西方社会经常使用的视角, 以及对这些视角的批评。

本书是一本集历史、文本于一体的文学选读教材,为学生搭建了文学学习的框架。希望在培养学生欣赏美加文学的同时,让其领略美加文学的魅力,把握文化的精髓和人文精神的脉动,提高学生的英语认知水平和人文素养。

书中疏漏与不足之处恳请读者批评与指正,以便进一步修订与完善。

编 者 2018年5月

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2. Columbian Disease

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II. Literary Background

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considered to be their relatives. In the same way, oak, maple, pine, cedar, fir, corn, squash, betries and noots were viewed as relatives, too. The Animal People and Plant People participated in the building of a history before and after the arrival of humans.

recited epics, which depict the creation of the truerieum Indians' origin epics are the most or Sky with Mother Earth, Emergence from an Tricksters, Twins, and Dismemberment of a



Giant. In addition, repetition added an aesthetic value and a dramatic effect to the fale for it could help the listener to forestell what could happen to the hero.

American Indian Lengend Literature

I. Historical Background

During the most recent of the Ice Ages, lasting from 30,000 to 10,000 years ago, an undersea ridge between Siberia and Alaska emerged from the sea, known as the Bering Land Bridge. When the melting ice submerged the bridge, about 10,000 years ago, the northeast Asians became isolated as the aboriginal Americans. They spread gradually eastwards along the edge of the Arctic Circle, eventually reaching Greenland. These hardiest of all human settlers survive today as the Eskimo.

1. The First American Farmers

The earliest civilization in America developed in the coastal regions of the Gulf of Mexico during 5000 - 2500 BC. Archaeology provides evidence of these various cultures, but the only ones known about in any great detail were those surviving when the Spaniards arrived—to marvel and destroy. These were the very ancient Maya, and the relatively upstart dominant cultures of the time, the Aztecs and the Incas.

2. Columbian Discovery With boos s am avid

The arrival of Columbus in 1492 was a disaster for the original inhabitants of the American continent. Historians describe the previous American cultures as pre-Columbian culture. And the original people of the continent become known as Indians, simply because Columbus is under the illusion that he has reached the Indies.

II. Literary Background 19968 pm/198

The earliest works of Indian literature were orally transmitted. The Indians created their own oral literature in their struggle with the nature, mainly including folktales, songs, sacred stories, and narrative accounts of gods and heroes. In Native American cultures, poems, "songs" called by more people, were significant in transmission of tribal history, standards of ethical conduct, and religious beliefs. Their literature was collected and published in English and inspired the imagination of later writers.

The early Native American literary legend linked the native people with plants and animals, rivers and rocks, and all things believed significant in local life, which nurtured and explored a spiritual kinship between nature and the native people. Coyote, raven, fox, hawk, turtle, rabbit and other animal characters in the stories are

considered to be their relatives. In the same way, oak, maple, pine, cedar, fir, corn, squash, berries and roots were viewed as relatives, too. The Animal People and Plant People participated in the building of a history before and after the arrival of humans.

Registering historic and geographical features of native societies include informal accounts of personal events and formally recited epics, which depict the creation of the world and other living things. Native American Indians' origin epics are the most distinctive, including Earth Diver, Father Sky with Mother Earth, Emergence from an Underworld, Spider Weaving the World, Tricksters, Twins, and Dismemberment of a Giant. In addition, repetition added an aesthetic value and a dramatic effect to the tale for it could help the listener to foretell what could happen to the hero. American Indian Lengend Literature gnibas Selected Reading

Love song[®]

During the most recent of all. In treasured the cannot bear it at all. In treasured the cannot bear it, I cannot bear it at all. add an invent cannot bear to be where I usually am. In provided subir asserbance as sharp ood She is yonder, she moves near me, she is dancing. I had been a made

ago, the northeast Asiana became isolated as the aborg it and tonnes I They spread

If I may not smell her breath, the fragrance of her.

The satilest civilization in A. A. Song of War and regions of the Gulf of

Mexico during 5000 - 2500 BC. Archaeology pr@ (feelald) of these various cultures, and made guiviving send Old man on high Sun at Lunds award sens vino and tud Spaniants arrived—to marvel and destroy. These w.am dlaHry ancient Mays, and the

That I may be saved from my dream! 2. Columbian Discovery Give me a good day!

The arrival of Columbus in 1492 !sm vytiq original inhabitants of the

Spring Song

betsets enable off about setting after the prairie and to setting off their own oral literature in gnirgs and ni seemen feel the summer in the spring folktales, sough, sauned stories, and narrative accounts of gods and heroes. In Native American

① Love song:选自居住在北美阿拉斯加的阿留申人的诗歌

② Blackfeet: 黑脚族, 历史上的印第安黑脚族以捕猎野牛为生, 生活在现今美国蒙大拿以 及加拿大阿尔伯塔。黑脚族视太阳为生命之神,是他们祈祷的对象。诗歌中对"怜悯"的祈求表 达了对太阳的敬畏和依靠。诗歌中勇士因梦到即将到来的战斗而焦虑,因而祈求神灵的帮助

tribal history, standards of ethical conduct, and religious beliefs. Their literature was

We searching in the day its more designed to more than the search as the

II. Literary Background

For there is hope if to the bethere Chapter 2.

British colonies on the eastern coast of the present-day United States were heavily

Looking for light

On this Earth

The Literature of the Colonial and Puritan America

I. Historical Background

While the New England colonies have often been represent to centerpiece of 1. The Mayflower Voyage

In 1620, the famous "May Flower" left Plymouth and shipped 102 Puritans to Plymouth to seek fortune, to seek a paradise of their own. On 19 November, the Mayflower spotted land. Bradford signed the Mayflower Compact, which made rules on how they would live and treat each other.

Cambridge all gave New England a

embraced hardships, industry and fungality. American Puritans not only favored a

of New Amsterdam by the English in 1664, which was reinal and Jon & Vangelis

1629 with 400 settlers.

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They came to the new continent with the dream that they would build the new land

Actually it is a code of values, a philosophy of life and a point of view in American

stinctive

We searching in the day
We searching in the night
We looking everywhere for land a helping hand
For there is hope if truth be there
How much more will we share
We pilgrims of the sea
Looking for a home—

Shining so bright
Looking for light
On this Earth
On this Earth

2. The original 13 Colonies

The Thirteen Colonies were a group of British colonies on the east coast of North America founded in the 17th and 18th centuries that declared independence in 1776 and formed the United States of America. The non-separatist Puritans constituted a much larger group than the Pilgrims, and they established the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1629 with 400 settlers.

1. The Mayflower Voyage

3. American Puritanism

American Puritans regarded the reformation of the church under Elizabeth as incomplete, and called for further purification and simplicity to church services and the authority of the Bible. They regarded themselves as chosen people of God, who embraced hardships, industry and frugality. American Puritans not only favored a disciplined, hard, somber, ascetic and harsh life and also opposed arts and pleasure who suspected joy and laughter as symptoms of sin. American Puritanism just refers to the spirit and ideal of puritans who settled in the North American continent in the early part of the 17th century because of religious persecutions.

They came to the new continent with the dream that they would build the new land to an Eden on earth. They accepted the doctrine of predestination, original sin and total depravity, and limited atonement through a special infusion of grace from God. With time passing, it became a dominant factor in American life, shaping influences in American thought and American Literature.

Actually it is a code of values, a philosophy of life and a point of view in American

minds, also a two-faceted tradition of religious idealism and level-headed common sense. But in the grim struggle for survival after their arrival in America, they became more and more practical.

II. Literary Background to hutelets is laid of a bentalizable in the wearlest hyphotherises be

American literature is the written or literary works produced in the area of the United States and its preceding colonies. Before the founding of the United States, the British colonies on the eastern coast of the present-day United States were heavily influenced by English literature. However, unique American characteristics and the breadth of its production usually now cause it to be considered a separate path and tradition.

1. Beginning of American Literature

While the New England colonies have often been regarded as the centerpiece of early American literature, the first North American settlements had been founded elsewhere many years earlier. Many towns are older than Boston, such as Saint Augustine, Jamestown, Santa Fe, Albany, and New York.

English was not the only language in which early North American texts were written. The large initial immigration to Boston in the 1630s, the high articulation of Puritan cultural ideals, and the early establishment of a college and a printing press in Cambridge all gave New England a substantial edge. One such event is the conquering of New Amsterdam by the English in 1664, which was renamed New York. The first item printed in Pennsylvania was in German, and was the largest book printed in any of the colonies before the American Revolution.

The printing press was active in many areas, from Cambridge and Boston to New York, Philadelphia, and Annapolis. From 1696 to 1700, only about 250 separate items were issued in all these places combined. However, printing was established in the American colonies before it was allowed in most of England. In England restrictive laws had long confined printing to four locations: London, York, Oxford, and Cambridge. Because of this, the colonies ventured into the modern world earlier than their provincial English counterparts.

and 2. Colonial literature usward to rectable of trothers will provide semilibration

Some of the earliest forms of American literature were pamphlets and writings extolling the benefits of the colonies to both a European and colonist audience. Captain John Smith could be considered the first American author with his works: A True Relation of Virginia (1608) and The General Historie of Virginia, New England, and the

Summer Isles (1624). The market of entire to notified between a cale, abrilling

His reports of exploration were strongly shaped by a New World consciousness. In Jamestown, the first colony, he emerged as the leader, traded with Indians. His description of the new world stimulated colonial investment and lured settlers to the new world, among them the puritans who used his maps and surveys in seeking a New Jerusalem in America he had named "New England." He was once captured by Indians. His tale of capture and salvation has become one of the most potent of all American myths. He is the chief source of what we know about the Virginia Indians before they were conquered and all but destroyed by the White.

The religious disputes that prompted settlement in America were also topics of early writing. A journal written by John Winthrop discussed the religious foundations of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Edward Winslow also recorded a diary of the first years after the Mayflower's arrival. Other religiously influenced writers included Increase Mather and William Bradford, author of the journal published as a History of Plymouth Plantation, 1620 –47.

One of the most significant poets from this period was Anne Bradstreet (1612 – 1672). Her poems in *Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America* (1650) reflected the concorners of women who came to settle in the colonies, and in all her poems, however, she shows her strong belief in God. Some poetry also existed. Michael Wigglesworth wrote a best-selling poem, "The Day of Doom", describing the time of judgment. Nicholas Noyes was also known for his doggerel verse.

3. Characteristics of Colonial Literature

By far the most common form is the writing related to Biblical teachings, or sermons, that the church leaders wrote—the Puritan idealism and the literature served either God or colonial expansion or both.

Basis of American literature is the dream of building an Eden of Garden on earth. Early American literature was mainly optimistic because they believed that God sent them to the new continent to fulfill the sacred task so they would overcome all the difficulties they met at last. Another important form of writing from this period is the histories. These books, like Bradford's *History of Plymouth Plantation*, tell about the Puritans life.

People also wrote many poems, which were hidden and lost because people often considered poetry to be an inferior form of writing and not totally acceptable to Puritan thinking. The influence of Puritanism on American literature roughly are the spirit of

optimism bustles out the pages of many writers, and symbolism as a technique has become a common practice in the writing of many American writers; simplicity had left an incredible imprint on American Writing.

Lots of American writers liked to employ symbolism in their works, typical way of Puritans who thought that all the simple objects existing in the world connoted deep meaning. Symbolism means using symbols in literary works. The symbol means something represents or stands for abstract deep meaning.

Style: simple, fresh and direct, tight and logic structure, precise and compact expression, avoidance of rhetorical decoration, adoption of homely imagery, simplicity of diction. The rhetoric is plain and honest.

Purpose: early American literature tends to be pragmatic and highly theoretical.

Form: diary, autobiography, sermon, letter.

Characteristics of works in colonial period Puritanism is to shape American life and literature as well as minds of Americans. The works is utilitarian, polemical, or didactic. In content, the literature of the colonial settlement served either God or colonial expansion both; their religions subject and imitation of English literature.

Unit 1 Anne Bradstreet (1612 – 1672)

Anne Bradstreet was the most prominent of early English poets of North America and first writer in England's North American colonies to be published. She was the first woman to be recognized as an accomplished New World Poet. Her volume of poetry *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up* in America received considerable favorable attention when it was first published in London in 1650. Bradstreet's work has endured, and she is still considered to be one of the most important early American poets.

Brief Introduction

Anne Bradstreet is the first Puritan figure and notable for her large corpus of poetry, as well as personal writings published posthumously. She speaks to her husband, celebrating their unity and saying that there is no man in the world whose wife loves him more. If there was ever a wife more happy with her husband, the poet asks those women to compare themselves to her. She prizes her husband's love more than gold or the riches of the East. Rivers cannot quench her love and no love but his can

ever satisfy her. There is no way she can ever repay him for his love. She believes they should love each other so much that when they die, their love will live on. As this poem shows, the style of poetry is passionate and unrestrained, full of human feelings, both the documentary characteristics of the American pioneering era, and there is no lack of rich poetry.

meaning. Symbolism coesies using reymbolk in lineary works. The is

Selected Reading

To My Dear and Loving Husband

If ever two were one, then surely we.

If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;

If ever wife was happy in a man,

Compare with me ye women if you can.

I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold,

Or all the riches that the East doth hold.

My love is such that rivers cannot quench,

Nor ought but love from thee give recompense.

Thy love is such I can no way repay;

The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.

Then while we live, in love let's so persever,

That when we live no more we may live ever.

Questions for Discussion

Make an Analysis of "To My Dear and Loving Husband".

as personal writings published postminensly. She speaks to her

Unit 2 Philip Morin Freneau (1752 – 1832)

3rief Introduction

Philip Morin Freneau was an American poet, essayist, and journalist. Remembered as the poet of the American Revolution and the father of American poetry, he was a transitional figure in American literature. He was born in New York and graduated from Princeton University who wrote lots of poems supporting American Revolution and human

梁

liberty. He was the most notable representative of dawning American nationalism in literature. His poems presented Romantic spirits but his form and taste were mainly influenced by Classicism. Most famous poems are *The Wild Honey Suckle* and *The Indian Burying Ground*. Freneau's major significance lies in his transitional role between neoclassicism and romanticism. As a brilliant satirist, he revealed his neoclassical bent by training in those poems that defended the Revolution and Jefferson's policy, or satirized the British and the Federalist. Freneau was at his best in his pre-romantic verses, many critics agree that he was romantic in essential spirit.

Freneau's poetry is also characterized by a profound patriotism and love for American rural scene, different from most of the major men of letters of the period who always set their eyes on the urban development. Literary historians and critics generally hold that American national poetry began with Freneau's verse, thus he has been entitled the "Father of American Poetry".

Brief Introduction

The poem was published in his Poems (1786) and was virtually unread in the time when he was living. Freneau expresses his keen awareness of the liveliness and transience of nature, celebrating the beauty of the frail forest flower, thus showing his deep love for nature. The poem was written in six-line iambic tetrameter stanzas rhymed on ababce pattern, which is said to anticipate the 19th-century romantic use of simple nature imagery. It is considered one of Freneau's finest nature poems. Freneau deals with the themes of loveliness and the transience of life which is called the best American nature poem before Bryant's achievement in this field. The poet discovers the flower in an unfrequented spot and meditates on its beauty. In its retreat no foot shall crush it. Nature arrayed in white, "and sent soft waters murmuring by." It spends its days in repose, sad that Autumn shall destroy it. It was born of "morning suns and evening dews," and when it dies it is the same, thus losing nothing. Even though the poet does not say it, the reader is reminded of the fate of man.

Selected Reading Laid and Minister of the good Lostress and American at the conference

deliber of the skip continued the Wild Honeysuckle was a land to the wild have stated the wild be the

liberty. He was the clost notable representative of the gring American nationalism in

It is considered one of the author's finest nature poems.

Fair flower, that dost so comely grow,

Hid in this silent, dull retreat,

Untouched thy honied blossoms blow, and assess your young, assess

Unseen thy little branches greet:

American virial scene, differ, each delicate foot shall crush thee here, all he period who

No busy hand provoke a tear.

By Nature's self in white arrayed,

She bade thee shun the vulgar eye,

And planted here the guardian shade, shared to rential " all belians

And sent soft waters murmuring by;

Thus quietly thy summer goes, the man of the point of the last of

Thy days declining to repose

Smit with those charms, that must decay, all dud any mood off

I grieve to see your future doom;

They died-nor were those flowers more gay,

The flowers that did in Eden bloom:

Unpitying frosts and Autumn's power

Shall leave no vestige of this flower.

From morning suns and evening dews assemble of love and add div

At first thy little being came; and a subject the state of the state o

If nothing once, you nothing lose,

For when you die you are the same;

The space between is but an hour,

suitova but a saus saucr The frail duration of flower, test blade country a tall best saugur

Questions for Discussion

Analyze and discuss the theme, rhyme scheme and some difficult dictions in "The Wild Honey Suckle".