

**THOMAS HARDY'S
MAJOR NOVELS**

An Annotated Bibliography

JULIE SHERRICK

Magill Bibliographies

Thomas Hardy's Major Novels

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Julie Sherrick

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To Randy, Alicia, and Allison

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Foreword

One interesting feature of Thomas Hardy's Dorchester house, Max Gate, is the shutter sash of solid planking that he could raise part way from its slot under his dining room window. Hardy designed this sash in order to screen his private life from peering sightseers out on the lawn without losing altogether the light from the sky above. Hardy's interest in windows must have stemmed from his childhood home, where the farm workers' pay-window was a feature of the ground floor office and his own bedroom window, tucked beneath the thatched eaves, looked towards the Admiral Hardy Monument high on a hill across the county. His architectural training and practice would have furthered his practical knowledge of windows, and his imagination led him to less technical interpretations.

As a permeable layer between the private and the public, windows were important to Hardy, in life and in fiction. In so many of Hardy's novels the views into and out of windows lead to pivotal events: Eustacia's glimpsing Mrs. Yeobright rapping at the cottage door in search of Clym; Susan and Elizabeth-Jane's spotting Michael Henchard presiding in the King's Arms banqueting hall; Sue Bridehead's leaping from the bedroom window to escape her husband Phillotson.

A century after his novels were published, readers and writers continue to broach new windows into Hardy's private life and his public writings. Hardy's Dorset homes and the supposed locations of his tales are regularly visited by the public he both courted and rebuffed. Hardy's fiction is enjoying a renaissance of popular and critical interest, with film and television adaptations spurring wider audiences to read and respond to *The Return of the Native* and *Jude the Obscure*. Recent critical trends have sparked extensive reevaluation of Hardy's characters, narrators, and historical and social contexts.

This scholarly and critical activity has yielded thousands of articles, books, notes, theses, and casebooks about Hardy. In 1928, the year of

Hardy's death, the Modern Language Association's annual bibliography listed four publications about Hardy. In 1995, that bibliography's list had grown to nearly fifty items related to Hardy. Sifting through this proliferation of scholarship and criticism is a daunting task for general readers and Hardy students.

The present volume, compiled by an English literature teacher of many years' experience, is an invaluable guide to the most helpful books and articles about Hardy's six most widely read novels. This bibliography is designed for general readers, secondary-level students and teachers, and college- and university-level students and teachers who require some direction in locating and assessing secondary criticism of Hardy's novels. Like Hardy's real and fictional windows, *Thomas Hardy's Major Novels: An Annotated Bibliography* frames and organizes a varied topography, in this case the principal accessible texts of modern Hardy scholarship and criticism.

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A view of High Street in Dorchester.

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Chapter I

A Topical Guide to Subjects and Themes

The following bibliography is an assembly of selected secondary sources that reflect trends in criticism within the last thirty years. The materials in the bibliography have been organized in such a way as to provide readers with access to information relating to various aspects of Hardy's six major novels. The materials that have been collected have been grouped into five distinct categories. Although some selections contain information that could perhaps place them within several subsections of a given chapter, in general, each work was placed within the category that was most clearly addressed by its overall premise or purpose. To those interested in discussions that address the major themes that run throughout the body of Hardy's works, the subsections titled "Salient Features" and "Character Analysis" are of special interest. (Chapter 2 provides annotations of large works that specifically address themes as well.)

Although a variety of themes have been identified and/or associated with Hardy's works, several major threads appear to run throughout the major fiction. Frequently addressed by critics is the theme of Time. In his article "Aspects of Time in *Far from the Madding Crowd*," Michael Goss discusses how Time, in both the universal and practical senses, affects the lives of the principal characters. Atkinson's article titled "The Inevitable Movement Onward—Some Aspects of *The Return of the Native*," discusses the sequence of events presented in the novel and argues that in Hardy's original conception of the novel, he did not attempt to create unity in terms of the timing of the incidents described. Time or timing is also viewed as being a significant feature in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. Fussell explains how the lives of Michael Henchard, Susan, Lucetta, Elizabeth-Jane, and Donald Farfrae are influenced by the timing of particular events as well as the changing

nature of the society in which they live. In addition, articles by Jane Adamson, Janet Freeman, Frank Giordano, and Forest Pyle address the importance of time in either the novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* or the novel *Jude the Obscure*.

Another important theme frequently addressed by critics is that of sight. E. M. Nollen discusses how the various perceptions of the characters Gabriel Oak, Farmer Boldwood, and Frank Troy (*Far from the Madding Crowd*) shape their actions as well as their respective relationships with Bathsheba Everdene. Other articles of interest relating to *Far from the Madding Crowd* are Peter Casagrande's "A New View of Bathsheba Everdene" and Judith Bryant Wittenberg's "Angles of Vision and Questions of Gender in *Far from the Madding Crowd*." Lennart A. Bjork's article titled "Visible Essences as Thematic Structure in Hardy's *Return of the Native*" provides readers with insight into the influence of perceptions upon Clym Yeobright and Eustacia Vye. "Vision and Viewpoint in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*" by Robert Kiely focuses on Elizabeth-Jane's unique position as the observer within the novel. Finally, in "Ways of Looking at Tess," by Janet Freeman, Freeman describes how characters like Angel Clare and Alec d'Urberville fail to understand Tess because they are unable to truly recognize who she is.

The theme of the importance of education is perhaps most clearly seen in the novel *Jude the Obscure* (as noted in Patricia Alden's article relating to the genesis of this particular novel). However, the article by Simon Trezise titled "Ways of Learning in *The Return of the Native*" is also an interesting and informative study relating to the theme of education and/or the influence of learning. Finally, the article "Writing and Memory in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*" by Earl Ingersoll reveals the significance of learning relating to the development of Michael Henchard. Discussions of the theme of education also appear in various articles addressing Grace Melbury's growth as an individual in *The Woodlanders*.

The importance of the love/marriage relationship is addressed in a number of articles that focus on several of the major novels beginning with Lionel Adey's article titled "Styles of Love in *Far from the Madding Crowd*," continuing with J. T. McCullen's "Henchard's Sale of Susan in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*," and concluding with Frank Giordano's "Secularization and Ethical Authority in *Jude the Obscure*."

The themes of heredity and/or the importance of family have been noted by numerous critics as well. In Anne Z. Mickelson's "The Family

Trap in *The Return of the Native*," she describes the significance of the relationship between Clym Yeobright and his mother. In "The Lure of Pedigree in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*," William Greenslade identifies and describes Tess's and Angel's views on the importance of heredity, and in Cushla Beckingham's "The Importance of Family in Hardy's Fictional World," Beckingham includes information on the significance of heredity in Hardy's novels as well as his poems. In addition, in several studies relating to the nature of the novel *Jude the Obscure*, Jude's beliefs about the influence of his family's past upon his own life are discussed.

Finally, there are a number of full-length studies that specifically address the themes present in the body of Hardy's major fiction. Examples of such works are J. Hillis Miller's *Thomas Hardy: Distance and Desire*, Marjorie Garson's *Hardy's Fables of Integrity*, Virginia Hyman's *Ethical Perspective in the Novels of Thomas Hardy*, Ian Gregor's *The Great Web*, and Joseph Warren Beach's *The Technique of Thomas Hardy*. Also, it should be noted that two works by Michael Millgate, *Thomas Hardy: His Career as a Novelist* and *Thomas Hardy: A Biography*, provide readers with excellent information relating to a variety of aspects of Hardy's works. In the chapters directed to discussions of particular works, evidence focusing on the presence of particular themes within the various novels is often discussed.

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