

OF LITERATURE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

from
Chaucer to 1940

VOLUME I

Compiled and Edited by
ROBIN MYERS

for the National Book League

The definition of literature includes not only the great poets, dramatists and novelists, but also such writers as might be considered to form part of the literary history of their time, together with select examples of such semi-literary genres as the detective story and the romantic novel. Certain non-literary writers, too, scientists, historians, economists, lawyers and statesmen, who have much influenced the thought of their day, or who have written excellently, have an undoubted place in literary history.

*A Dictionary of
Literature in the English Language*

From Chaucer to 1940

VOLUME 1

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for the NATIONAL BOOK LEAGUE*



THE QUEEN'S AWARD
TO INDUSTRY 1966

PERGAMON PRESS

OXFORD • LONDON • EDINBURGH • NEW YORK

TORONTO • SYDNEY • PARIS • BRAUNSCHWEIG

Pergamon Press Ltd., Headington Hill Hall, Oxford
4 & 5 Fitzroy Square, London W. 1

Pergamon Press (Scotland) Ltd., 2 & 3 Teviot Place, Edinburgh 1

Pergamon Press Inc., Maxwell House, Fairview Park, Elmsford, New York 10523

Pergamon of Canada Ltd., 207 Queen's Quay West, Toronto 1

Pergamon Press (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., 19a Boundary Street,
Rushcutters Bay, N.S.W. 2011, Australia

Pergamon Press S.A.R.L., 24 rue des Écoles, Paris 5^e

Vieweg & Sohn GmbH, Burgplatz 1, Braunschweig

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First edition 1970

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 68-18529

PRINTED IN GERMANY

08 012079 2

Preface

THE aim of the present work is to provide in a single volume, bibliographical and biographical details of some 3500 authors who have used English as their medium throughout the world over a period of 600 years, together with reference to other bibliographical studies. I thought to begin with Chaucer, Gower and their contemporaries as being the first to use a language that we can recognise as English; although a handful of thirteenth century writers are also included. There are several reasons for choosing to end with those authors who began to publish before 1940. First, there was the difficulty of evaluating contemporary literature, working without the aid of definitive histories, and it was thought better to wait until the period could be seen in perspective. Moreover, to have included all the important writers throughout the world who have begun writing in English in the last 28 years would have too greatly enlarged the scope of the work I had in mind. But the main consideration was that, after that date, adequate national bibliographies exist to which librarians and scholars can have easy access. The date 1940 is arbitrary, as must be any one date, and the user will find examples of authors included because their first book was published in 1939 while others miss inclusion by one year.

The work was originally submitted to the publishers in February 1966 and this was intended to be the latest publication date given of works by living authors. However, revision in proof during 1967 allowed me to bring a certain number of British authors up to date at that point. But it was decided not to delay publication by making a thorough-going search for recently published work by living, or for new editions of the older authors. More could have been achieved had time permitted, on this and other aspects, but above all it was necessary to bring the work to a close before much became out of date.

The definition of literature is a wide one. It includes not only the great poets, dramatists and novelists, but also such writers as might be considered to form part of the literary history of their time, together with select examples of such semi-literary genres as the detective story and the romantic novel, too numerous and too ephemeral to be fully documented in a work of this nature. Certain non-literary writers, too, scientists, historians, economists, lawyers and statesmen, who have much influenced the thought of their day, or who have written excellently, have an undoubted place in literary history and are included in the dictionary. The user will find a selection of these peripheral literary figures who are often the very ones that the librarian finds most in demand.

A distinction has been made, where feasible, between an author's literary and non-

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literary or technical writings. The latter, if of sufficient importance, are generally mentioned in the biographical notes but without details of publication. I have attempted consistency to this principle, but each case has had to be individually considered in defining what is literary and what is not. Translations, editions, works in languages other than English, unpublished plays and the like, are dealt with in the same way, namely placed in the biographical notes; except insofar as certain celebrated editions, such as Johnson's edition of Shakespeare, or translations, such as Florio's Montaigne, are treated as creative writing in English. Important editors and translators who only produced editions or translations were to have been given a biographical entry without appending a list of works. But it has not been found possible to abide by this principle throughout. Major periodicals and newspapers, certain literary groups and movements and literary prizes referred to in the biographical notes are to be found as separate entries.

I have employed an alphabetical arrangement. The last name on the title page is the one which an author will be found under, even though this may give rise to incorrect forms where the writer's last name is not a surname in the European sense. Pseudonyms are generally cross-referenced to the author's real name, although in certain cases the entry will be found under pseudonym where this is better known. The biographical notes which precede each list of works relate the circumstances of the author's life without attempting critical assessment.

Each entry consists of full name and title, dates, biographical note and a list of bibliographical sources used in compilation or suggested for further study, arranged alphabetically under the author of the bibliography. Then follows a list of the first editions of separately published literary works in chronological order. Most of the lists are arranged under the head of collected or complete works, both the first and one or more later standard editions, where such exist, being itemised, followed by separately published works, where possible sub-divided into categories such as novels, plays, poems, published correspondence. Chronology is observed within each sub-section.

Piracies, including the "bad" quartos of Shakespeare, spurious and supposititious works, selections, unpublished plays, manuscripts, single broadsheets, works of which only one copy is known, and work published only in periodical form, are for the most part omitted. In the case of those nineteenth-century novels first published in parts or serially in a magazine, both the serial date and that of first issue in book form are given. In the case of plays, such as those by W.S. Gilbert, which were not published at the same time or in the same order as they were first performed, order and date of publication is given. And finally, in the case of those few authors who lived before the age of printing and where the supposed order of composition is very different from that of first printing, once again it has been decided to conform to the rule of first publication date. Bibliographers who have spent a lifetime of study on one particular author know how difficult it is to be conclusive about the identity and date of a first edition. In dealing with controversies I have checked entries with the aid of catalogues of the major national libraries, first and foremost the *British Museum General Catalogue*, the *Library*

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of *Congress Catalog*, and single-author bibliographies before completing the editing of an entry. In common with other compilers of bibliographies I have favourite reference books and short cuts to information, and on this point I must record my personal gratitude to the teams of scholars who laboured over long years to compile *The Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature*, without whose work my task would have been infinitely more difficult.

The publishers invited extensive revision in proof and this afforded opportunities to include fresh suggestions. In a work of this character, by the nature of the selection process involved, the more was offered the more controversy inevitably arose regarding what to include or exclude, how much biographical detail was appropriate, and whether some later editions were important enough to justify abandoning the general rule of listing only first editions of single works. A case in point was Sir J.G. Frazer's *Golden Bough*, whose first two-volume edition is dwarfed in importance by the later, 13 volume edition. There was, moreover, some conflict between what would be useful to working librarians and what to scholars and teachers of literature.

The observance of strict consistency of approach throughout presented increasing problems. The instance of Daniel Defoe may be cited as an author whose works are so numerous, and are so well listed in *The Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature* and other works of reference as to justify the inclusion here of a limited number of titles. In contrast the writings of the detective novelist John Dickson Carr have been given detailed treatment since they are of great interest to librarians whose need for comprehensive lists of titles cannot be met elsewhere. Uniformity of approach has thus been relinquished in special circumstances.

Library of the National Book League

ROBIN MYERS

Addendum

The editor invites suggestions for the inclusion or exclusion of certain authors, titles and editions in the hope of incorporating these in a possible future edition, for which purpose the publishers are binding some interleaved copies which can be obtained from them.

An index volume of the sixty thousand titles found under author in the present work is to be published within the next few months. This should be of the utmost value to librarians and students and we believe it is a unique feature in a work of this kind.

Acknowledgements

THE editor is indebted to many for help and advice in compiling the following work and is particularly grateful to the following for their assistance:

Mr. Walter Allen; Mr. Robert Armstrong; Sardar S. Balasubramanian; Miss Judith Baskin; Professor Edmund Blunden; Mr. Dan Davin; Professor Brian Elliott; Mr. K. B. Gardner; Mr. D. B. Gibson; Mr. Ian Goonetilleke; Professor Douglas Grant; Mr. C. A. Gunawardena; Mr. K. E. Ingram; Professor K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar; Professor Eldred Jones; Miss Anne Laycock; Professor E. F. C. Ludowyk; Mr. David Overton; Mr. T. G. Rosenthal; Mr. Andrew Salkey; Sardar Khushwant Singh; Professor A. J. M. Smith; Miss R. South; Miss Thorn; Mr. J. C. Trewin; Mr. D. H. Varley; Mr. K. D. C. Vernon; Mr. Susanaga Weeraperuma; Miss G. M. Wiles; Mr. Ian Willison; Miss Margaret Yu.

Special thanks go to Mr. J. E. Morpurgo, Director-General of the National Book League, and to Miss Margaret Lindesay Clarke, without whose constant help and encouragement this work would not have been completed, let alone undertaken, and to Mr. Douglas Hamer and Mr. W. B. Stevenson who have undertaken the correction of large sections of the text in proof.

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Symbols and abbreviations

* First published in.

† Pseudonym or pen name.

[] Square brackets are used where date does not appear on the title page but is established.

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E.B.: Encyclopaedia Britannica.

E.E.T.S.: Early English text society.

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A

ABBAS, KHWAJA AHMAD (1914–)

Indian journalist, writer and film producer, born at Panipat; also writes in Urdu.

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ABBEY THEATRE, DUBLIN

The home, since 1902, of the Irish National Theatre Company, created by W. B. Yeats, with A. C. Horniman and Lady Gregory (qq.v.); inspired by the Gaelic movement, Yeats founded an Irish Literary Society in London and Dublin, from which grew the Irish National Theatre (1899).

ABERCROMBIE, LASCELLES (1881–1938)

English poet, dramatist and critic; after a scientific training, he wrote leaders for a Liverpool newspaper; lecturer in poetry, Liverpool University; Professor of English Literature at Leeds and later at London University; among other academic awards and honours, he received degrees at Cambridge, Manchester and Belfast.

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ACKLAND, RODNEY (1908–)

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ACTON, HAROLD (MARIO MITCHELL)
 (1904—)

Novelist, poet and historian.

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ACTON, Sir JOHN EMERICH EDWARD DALBERG, 1st Baron Acton (1834–1902)
 English historian; born in Naples of a Shropshire Catholic family; educated Paris and Munich; Whig M.P. for Carlisle; a friend of Gladstone; contributed much to the *North British Review*; Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge (1895). Planned *The Cambridge Modern History* and wrote the first chapter of it.

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ADAM, GRAEME MERCER (1839–1912)
 Canadian publisher and writer, born in Scotland; went to Toronto (1858) as a bookseller; founded the *British American Review* (1865–7); started the publishing house of Adam, Stevenson and Co.; edited the *Canada Bookseller* (1872) and Rose-Belford's *Canadian Monthly* (1878–82).

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ADAMIC, LOUIS (1899–1951)
 American writer and journalist, born in Yugoslavia; destined for the priesthood, he ran away to the U.S. at 14; worked on a Slovenian paper there; served in the First World War; took labouring, factory and reporting jobs (1920–8); began his career as a writer on publication of an article in the *American Mercury*; won a Guggenheim Scholarship and revisited Yugoslavia; on his return awarded a Rockefeller grant to study immigrants in America.

ACTON, HAROLD

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ADAMS, ANDY (1859-1953)

American author of cowboy stories; as a youth, a cowboy in Texas, and during the mining boom went to Colorado.

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ADAMS, ARTHUR HENRY (†JAMES JAMES) (1872-1936)

New Zealand born novelist; studied for the law before becoming a journalist in Australia on the *Sydney Bulletin*; war correspondent in China (1905) during the Boxer rebellion; went to London, then back to Australia, and divided his time between Sydney and New Zealand.

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ADAMS, CHARLES FRANCIS (1835-1915)

American historian and economist, grandson and great-grandson of the presidents of the United