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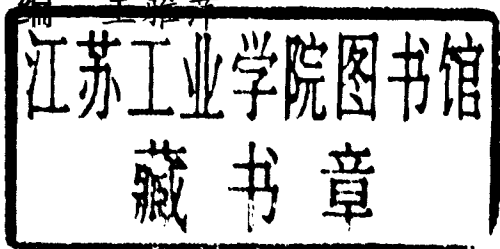
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出版说明

为满足全国高等院校外语专业本科学生学习的需要，本社联合全国重点院校的骨干教师特编写了这套“外国文学选读系列教材”。

本套教材包括英、美、法、德、韩、日、西、意，以及阿拉伯世界文学作品中的名篇佳作，作家与作品分别按出生年月和发表时间的先后编排。结构安排次序为：背景知识；作者简介；作品题解；选文；注释；思考题。题解力求简明，注释力求准确详尽，以减少读者在理解上的困难。

本套教材主要面向本科层次的学生，适合用作高等院校各类语言专业的教材，可与“文学史”配合使用，也可单独使用。对于相关专业的教师、进入本科阶段的自学者以及文学爱好者，本套教材亦不失为优秀的参考读物。

对外经济贸易大学出版社

2008年6月

前 言

“美国文学选读”是我国高等院校英语专业高年级教学大纲中所要求的必修课程之一。本书是笔者根据多年教授该课程的教学实践和授课讲义，同时借鉴参考国内外多种同类教材，并结合目前本课程授课时数的实际情况，反复筛选、精心编纂而成。

同英国文学相比，美国文学的历史不长，即便加上其印第安民族的早期土著文学，亦仅有三百多余年的光景。因此，从狭义上讲，美国文学曾经是“舶来品”或曰“殖民地文学”。然而，随着时光的推移，尤其是到独立战争结束之时，美国文学开始在世界文学的大格局中已崭露头角，异军突起，逐渐对近现代乃至当代文学产生巨大的影响。它又以其独特的北美风格和海纳百川的民族特点，以及引领文学思潮的时代性，成为世界文学中最重要的组成部分之一，也最终演变为“真正的文学”。在美国文学发展的历史进程中，涌现出许多蜚声文坛的大作家。从早期的华盛顿·欧文，直到当代的索尔·贝娄（一译索尔·贝洛），可谓是名家辈出，佳作迭现。

考虑到美国文学鲜明的多元性，笔者在浩如烟海的名家典籍之中精选了近二十位具有代表性的小说家和诗人及其代表作，试图以此作为学习，以至研究美国文学的入门蓝本之一，尽管笔者清楚地明白该书对更深层次地了解掌握美国文学发展的全景式过程依然远远不够，而仅仅是为广大学习者提供一个初级平台。

在本书的体例设计上，本着将历史与作品融为一体的原则，文史结合，双管齐下，简明扼要，重点突出。每个章节均由时代背景、作家生平、选文、注释及思考题等部分构成。也许这样的编排方式可使学习者更容易掌握要点，提纲携领，感悟作品中的真谛，从而逐步培养对美国文学的兴趣，开拓视野，陶冶情操，提高修

养，为日后进行更广阔深远的专门研究打下一个良好的基础。

方笑君

2008年8月

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Unit One The Early American Literature

(1620 – 1770)

Chapter I The Seventeenth Century Literature

Puritanism in American Literature

American literature may be among the youngest national literatures in the world. Although the continent of North America was discovered about 500 years ago, its real history, if calculating roughly from the end of the Independence War (October 1781), is only about two hundred and twenty years. Within such a short period, American literature swiftly developed, well matured, began to receive international recognition, and has exercised a marked effect upon world literature. In fact, American writers have brought out some of the world's best literature.

The first settlers in America were the Asians known as the ancestors of American Indians or Native Americans. The discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, however, led to the rush of European immigrants into this fascinating and strange continent and brought the rise of the New World. The English settlement in America emerged especially after the arrival of the ship "Mayflower" in 1620. The early settlers were so-called

Separatists or Puritans, who managed to escape to the New World to avoid the religious persecution of the Church of England. They at first wished to reform or “purify” their religious beliefs and practices. To them religion should be a matter of personal faith rather than of ritual.

The 17th century American Puritans included two parts: one part of them were the creators of the Plymouth Colony, called “Separatists.” They were so suppressed by the Church of England that they sought escape. Those Separatists first went into exile to Holland, then were aboard “Mayflower” in 1620 and settled down in Plymouth, America, therefore, as an infant was born. They considered that the Church of England had become hopeless and advocated to separate from it since general reform would be useless. The other part was the Englishmen in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Though they came later than those of Plymouth Colony, they were richer and better-educated. They devoted themselves to the reform of the Church of England and meant to clear away the rituals of the Roman Catholic Church in it. In reality, only this part of them were true Puritans. They accepted the doctrine of original sin and total depravity, and predestination, and limited atonement through a special infusion of grace from God.

The main doctrine of Calvinism Puritans believed in was first shown in “total depravity.” They believed in the “original sin” in which Adam the first man God created sinned and which led to the conclusion that “in Adam’s fall, we sinned all.” They considered that man was born sinful, was a sinner and could not redeem his original sinfulness. Moreover, they could not save themselves. Secondly, Puritans underscored that man would be chosen by God unconditionally. They thought that God occupied a dominant position. He could save a part of people willfully, made them rise to the Heaven after death, and could also destroy some other part of people wantonly, made them fall into the hell after death. Therefore,

determinism took firm root in their minds. They believed in man's destiny, everything of man was disposed in the hands of God, only God knew who were "chosen people" after they died. Man himself was predestined and could not master his own destiny. They thought that God willfully granted people the favor that man could neither strive to gain, nor refuse to accept. The obtaining of the God's special kindness or God's providence for him meant his "rebirth" or "being sainted." In this sense, they strived to be saints while they were still alive. Man did not know whether they could be God's "chosen people", but should live a saint-like life at ordinary times according to God's will. The Holy Bible was the guidebook to man's behaviors.

In New England where Puritanism was popular, one's life was only the course of moral training and that of his struggle between God and devils. People had an austere and rigid way of life governed by the church. Therefore, clergymen were the dominant authorities. Puritans tended to suspect joy and laughter as symptoms of sin; they did not dance, did not go to theatre, but sang chant in church and listened to the music. However, they allowed drinking, smoking and putting on beautiful clothes. Puritanism encouraged people to struggle in their careers. If one's business was booming, it proved that he had gained God's providence.

In such a cultural background, the purpose of the literary creation could only be "pragmatic". Over the years Puritans built a way of life that was in harmony with their somber religion, one that stressed hard work, thrift, piet, and sobriety. In people's daily life, religious activities were a matter of first importance and all others should serve the religion. Their lives were disciplined and hard.

It was Puritanism that was most influential in the intellectual and economic life of the settlers. The early American literature started at the

beginning of the 17th century, marked by that those headed by William Bradford on board the ship "Mayflower" reached to the new continent and set up the colony of Plymouth. The first of American literature was not written by an American, but by John Smith, a British captain, who thus became the first American writer. *A True Relation of Such Occurrences and Accidents of Note as Hath Happened in Virginia* was a long report recording what he saw and heard in the New World, which he sent back to England and was printed in 1608 without his knowledge.

The literature of this period, which is also called "Colonial Literature", is characterized by that most of the writers were born in Britain. Some were explorers, some immigrants, some colonialists. As their circumstances were hard and their life was difficult, the newcomers were very busy. Relying mainly on physical labor, they were not professional writers and did not mean to create a national literature, only the life of the New World was inspiring and encouraging them to write. Secondly, the time when American literature was born was just the period when the Modern English developed and took shape. The early American literary works, therefore, was not so difficult to understand as the early English literary works. Certainly, it had some distinctions from present day English, particularly in the spelling and pronunciation of some words such as the article "ye" and the suffix "eth" in "maketh, holdth". The English of this period had long and loose sentences and a lot of conversions such as verbs used as nouns, adjectives as adverbs, and in many cases "double negation" was used. Thirdly, the principal ideology trend of this period was Puritanism besides the ideological influence of the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church, etc. Moreover, in early Puritan writer's works, English literary traditions were faithfully imitated and transplanted. The American poets of the 17th century adapted the style of established European poets. In addition, in the categories of the

literary works, there were “travel”, “diary”, and “poem”, etc. , among which the poetry and prose gained most achievements in this period. The important literary figures were the first American writer John Smith, the first American woman poet Anne Bradstreet, Cotton Mather, Jonathan Edwards, and Edward Taylor.

Chapter II The Eighteenth Century Literature

Enlightenment in American Literature

The eighteenth century American history witnessed two great revolutions: one was the American Revolution which led eventually to the independence of the nation and the other was Enlightenment, an intellectual movement whose rationalistic spirit inspired American men of letters and brought them into a new horizon beyond the limitation of prevailing Puritanism. The two revolutions produced a number of outstanding political and literary figures, such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, and Thomas Jefferson, whose literary talent enabled them to be political leaders with more dynamic, and even made literature become part of the revolutions.

Enlightenment as an intellectual revolution originated in the European continent, and then its impact found expression in America through the efforts of such progressive and patriotic thinkers as Franklin. At the initial period the spread of ideas of the Enlightenment was largely due to journalism. The American reading public at the time displayed great interest in the works of English scientists, philosophers and writers such as Newton and Swift. The writers of the French Enlightenment, particularly Voltaire, were widely read in America. With an unshakable