



高等院校英语本科教材

A SHORT HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

NEW REVISED EDITION

英国文学简史

新修订本

刘炳善 编著

河南人民出版社

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Compiled by

LIU BINGSHAN

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《英国文学简史》新修订本出版说明

《英国文学简史》原为河南大学外语系英语专业自编教材，1979年冬教育部邀请21所高校教师开会审稿，决定在有关院校试用，1981年7月由上海外语教育出版社出版，至今已满10年。现为适应我国英语教学发展需要，经国家教委有关部门批示同意，编著者在个人原稿的基础上进行了全面的修改增订，由河南人民出版社出版。在此次修订中，保持并发挥本书原有的特色，即“观点马列主义，内容简明扼要，语言浅显易懂，形式图文并茂”，根据近年来国外的新资料和研究成果，对全书进行了认真复核，对重要篇章均作了改写或增补，并新添不少章节，补收原来遗漏的许多重要作家，全书布局也有所调整，插图相应由103幅增加到126幅。新修订版较之旧版内容更为充实丰富，形式更为生动活泼，希望能为我国高校的英语教学和社会自学英语者继续做出贡献。

《英国文学简史》(新修订本)已经国家教委高等学校外语专业指导委员会批准用作大学英语本科教材。

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1992年6月1日

PREFACE TO THE NEW REVISED EDITION

This "Short History of English Literature" is a book for beginners who know little about English literature but who want to get some rudimentary knowledge about its history. The question which I have been considering during compilation and revision is how to make my book useful and easily accessible to Chinese students. Such a purpose determines the way in which the book is made. I have tried to gather together, within the scope of such a short work, those materials which I deem necessary for beginners and rewrite them in simple English for easier understanding. In doing so, I have followed the examples of popularizers of literary history like John Macy and Lafcadio Hearn and our forerunners in this field, the late Professors Fan Cunzhong and Chen Jia of Nanjing University.

This textbook was originally compiled for the students of English in the provincial universities and normal colleges in our country. Efforts have been made to apply the basic views of Marxism, mainly those of historical materialism, in tracing the historical development of English literature. Each literary period is introduced first by a brief comment on its social, political and ideological conditions, and by a summary of the prevailing literary trends and schools of the time, but emphasis is laid on the description of the lives and careers of the great and major writers, especially on the analysis of their representative works, whereas the less important authors and those writers whose works are out of the reach of our students for the time being are merely mentioned in passing or even omitted altogether. So the book is far from all-embracing. I call it "short history" because it is short of many things which appear in those profound works on English literature written by learned scholars.

But the making of this little book has taken me several years, during which I have thrown into it a few drops of my heart-blood. The study of lit-

erature is a labour of love. A book devoted to literature should be vivid in content and attractive in form. For this reason, I have included a number of stories and anecdotes about writers and poets as well as some quotations from their writings. For illustrations I have chosen pictorial materials from various sources and invited 6 artists (mostly teachers and students of the Art Department of Henan University) to reproduce them in black and white drawings. All this, I hope, may help to raise the students' interest in English writers and their works.

Acknowledgements should be made to the teachers of 21 universities and colleges, who attended a meeting of 1979 to discuss the first manuscript of the present work, to Professors Suo Tianzhang (of Fudan University), Zhang Mingxu and Shirley Wood (both of Henan University), who have given kind suggestions concerning former revisions, and especially to Professor Lu Peixuan (of Shanghai Foreign Languages Institute) who had kindly made revisions on the third manuscript of my book before it was published by Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press in July 1981.

The present revised and enlarged edition has been prepared on the basis of my own manuscripts of the book, because I want to retain and enhance its distinguishing features, i.e. Marxist in view, concise in content, simple in language, and attractive in form, which, during the past 13 years, have made this book (from its trial edition in 1980) well received by the young learners of our country. To keep pace with the development of our English teaching and meet the needs of our students today, an all-round revision has been made by checking up the book in the light of recent information, making changes in the arrangement of parts and chapters, correcting certain irrelevant wordings in the previous text, rewriting or amplifying some chapters on great and major writers, and providing supplementary chapters or sections for several authors who were left out in the former edition but now appear important enough to be included in this work. In keeping with the enlargement of content, the number of illustrations has also increased from 103 to 126. The time limit is still fixed on the eve of the Second World War.

A list of references expresses my acknowledgements to all the works on English history and literature which I have consulted in the compilation and revision of this book.

I am also indebted to the users of my "Short History" from all cor-

ners of the country, who have assisted me with their kind suggestions regarding the correction of some misprints and minor errors in the previous edition of the book.

In conclusion, I repeat that this textbook is compiled for beginners. If only our students need it, like it, and find it useful as a stepping-stone in their study of English literature, I would think my time and labour has not been spent in vain.

Kaifeng
January 1992

The Compiler

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