

ENGLISH LITERATURE

精编英国文学教程

◎ 陈庆生 陈 许 主编

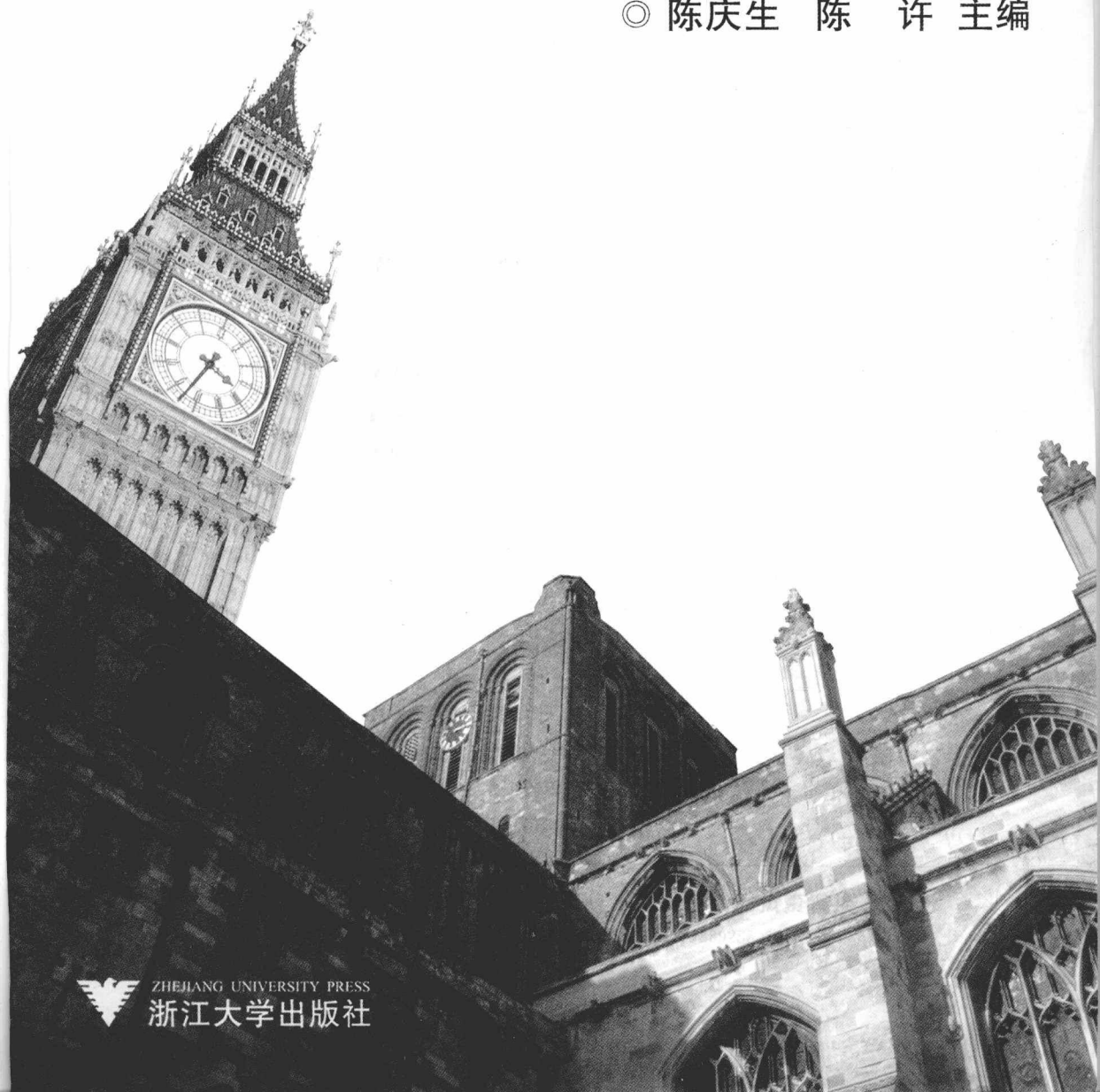


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序

今年夏初，杭州电子科技大学英美文学研究所所长陈许教授、外国语学院副院长高丙梁教授和英美文学教研室陈庆生副教授一行三人来河南高校学习考察，顺访我院，送来他们刚刚编写完成的《精编英国文学教程》和《精编美国文学教程》两书的书稿，恳请我在付梓之前协助审读。我早先知道该院开设的《英美文学导论》是一门广受同行赞誉、深受学生欢迎的课程，2007年被浙江省教育厅评为浙江省普通高校精品课程。因此，我想这是他们给我的一个学习的好机会，让我享受“先睹为快”的幸事，欣然同意。

于是，我利用暑假较仔细地翻阅了这套教材。这次阅读不仅使我重温了英美文学，同时也勾起了我对英美文学教学的种种回忆与遐想。

英美文学教学，特别是英国文学教学在我国有着悠久的历史。根据史料记载，鸦片战争之后，“洋务运动”的兴起和清廷外交事务的加重，迫切需要培养外语人才，从而大大推动了我国外语教育事业的发展。外语开始作为一门独立的学科列入各级学校的教学计划。专门培训外语人才的学校相继成立。1862年创立的京师同文馆首先设立英文馆，尔后又开设法文馆、俄文馆、日文馆等。上海、广州也分别于1883年和1884年成立了类似的外语学校。1898年我国第一所国立的综合性大学——京师大学堂成立，也就是北京大学的前身。1901年同文馆并入该校，改名为京师大学堂译学馆，相当于今日综合性大学中的外语院系，揭开了我国高校外语教育新的一页。英语是该馆的主要语种。

1911年孙中山先生领导的辛亥革命推翻了封建帝制，宣告了中华民国的诞生，至1949年国民党政府退出中国大陆，民国时期也就此结束。在这个时期我国高等教育和外语教学都有一定的发展，据不完全统计，新中国成立前夕，我国共有205所高等学校，其中41所设有英语系或英语专业，专业教学都偏重文学，开设的课程多为英美小说、诗歌、散文、戏剧等，没有开设听、说、读、写、译等训练语言技能的课程，主要通过大量阅读文学作品和写作来提高外语水平和文化修养，深受当时英美高等学校英语系教学思想和方法的影响。

中华人民共和国成立初期,由于受当时国内外形势与国家政策的影响,俄语教学大发展,而英语和其他语种的教学任务大为压缩,教学力量严重削弱。1953年经过院系调整,我国高校只剩下9个英语教学点,学生人数锐减,大批英语教师改行教授俄文或其他专业,甚至转业做其他工作。就以我当时在北京大学西语系为例,英语专业本科四个年级学生人数仅一百多人,而师资力量十分雄厚,可谓群英荟萃,拥有像李赋宁、俞大纲、杨周翰、赵萝蕤、吴兴华、朱光潜等等一大批高水平的知名教授和学者,却苦于没有多少学生可教,没有多少课可开设,造成宝贵的人才资源的极大浪费。

1956年开始中央发觉了这种情况,出台了一系列政策纠正原先政策上的偏颇,英语及其他一些语种得到了较大的发展。到1957年年底全国高校设有英语专业的学校增至23所,招生数量也倍增,教学也逐步走入正规。可惜好景不长。全国范围内开展的“反右运动”、“大跃进运动”、“反右倾运动”、“四清运动”等连绵不绝的政治运动,“左”倾思潮泛滥,严重地阻碍了教学工作的健康发展。所谓批判资产阶级教育路线,批判“西方资本主义腐朽文化”,批判“文学路线”等使英语教学,特别是英美文学教学再次受到严重打击。1966年开始的“文化大革命”,极“左”路线发展到了登峰造极的地步,教育战线和其他战线一样,受到重创。外语教育首当其冲,灾难深重,教学工作基本处于瘫痪状态。这种状况持续了整整十年之久,直至“四人帮”被打倒,“文化大革命”宣告结束,外语教育重获新生。

党的十一届三中全会给高校外语教育带来了复苏的春风。1978年教育部根据当年邓小平同志主持召开的全国科学大会和全国教育工作会议的精神,举行了全国外语教育座谈会。会议对如何恢复和发展外语教育提出了明确的方针和具体的措施。从此开创了我国外语教育的新局面,正如原国务院副总理李岚清在为上海外语教育出版社2008年出版的《改革开放30年中国外语教育发展丛书》写的“序”中说的那样,“……可以说,改革开放30年,是中国外语教育事业大发展的30年。”外语教育的面貌同全国其他战线一样“发生了历史性的变化”。高校英语专业发展的势头更是迅猛。据不完全统计,目前我国英语教学点已经超过1000个,与1953年时硕果仅剩的9个相比,增长了百倍以上,其发展速度真可谓“史无前例”,“世界第一”。英语专业在校学生近60万。2004年英语专业招收新生102388人,排在所有专业的第一位。

在这里我想特别要提出的是,在各类高校英语专业的发展中,理工科院校的英语专业是发展最为迅速的。据我了解在目前1000多个英语专业本科教学点中,有三分之一设在理工类院校。他们利用本校学科的优势,在

教学改革和提高教学质量方面都创造了许多佳绩。杭州电子科技大学的外国语学院就是这样的一个范例。他们的办学历史和教学经验虽然不如一些“老牌”的学校悠久和丰富，但是通过他们的辛勤工作，创造出了令人钦佩的业绩。摆在我面前的这套英美文学教材就是一个明证。

由陈许和陈庆生两位教授主持编写的《精编英国文学教程》和《精编美国文学教程》是该院精品课程的有机组成部分，也是颇有特色的大学本科英语专业的文学教材。诚如他们在书的“前言”中总结归纳的那样，这套教材具有内容全面，脉络清晰；结构合理，重点突出；浅显易懂，易于自学；图文并茂，增添兴趣等鲜明特点。

这里我想强调指出的是，众所周知，英国文学具有较悠久的历史，产生了很多著名的作家，他们的作品浩如烟海，要从中选出最重要的、最具有代表性的作家和作品，又要适合我国高校，特别是理工类院校英语专业学生的实际水平和需要实是一件很不容易做好的工作。但是，这本教材的编写者们做了大量的准备工作，精心设计，精挑细拣，选择了 50 多位作家，90 多篇作品，个个有特色，篇篇是珠玑。他们为这些作家和作品写的介绍、评析和注释也是精心安排，精益求精，正如本书的书名《精编英国文学教程》表明的那样，“精”字当头，名副其实。

我相信这套教材的出版和使用，不仅会给浙江省高校的英美文学的教学有很大的帮助，而且对其他地区的各类院校的英美文学教学也会有所裨益。在此我也向广大爱好英美文学的读者推荐本书。

我在上面用了较多篇幅简要地回忆我国外语教育发展的历史，为的是要告诉人们我们当前外语教学的大好形势来之不易，应十分珍惜。杭州电子科技大学外国语学院同仁们做的工作正是为保持和发展这种局面作出的很好努力，也是对建国 60 周年的最好献礼，可喜可贺！可敬可佩！

是为序。

解放军外国语学院英语教授、博导 姚乃强

2009 年 8 月于洛阳

前 言

21 世纪的特点是政治多极化、经济全球化、文化多元化和信息社会化。在这个瞬息万变、飞速发展的新世纪里，我国的高等教育事业在前十年里加速腾飞，由此带来了英语专业的迅猛发展，使得英语语言文学专业的本科生和硕士生人数每年递增。作为英语专业教学的重要组成部分，英美文学教学所受到的关注程度还不尽如人意。我们编写这本《精编英国文学教程》，希望能够在提高学生的英国文学学习兴趣和鉴赏能力方面尽绵薄之力，给予一定的帮助。

英国文学是世界文学的重要组成部分。在 16 世纪上半叶，英国文学便异军突起；到 16 世纪下半叶，以莎士比亚为代表的一批作家将英国文学的旗帜插上了欧洲文艺复兴运动的顶峰。从此，英国文学一直屹立于世界文学之林。

《精编英国文学教程》是杭州电子科技大学“英美文学导论”校级与省级精品课程建设的重要组成部分。在多年的课程建设中，课程组所有成员认真备课，精心制作出内容丰富、生动形象的教学课件，搜集了大量的教学资料；如英国文学经典影片、文化背景等视频图像，并不断总结、积累和交流教学经验，这些都为本教材的编写打下了良好的基础。它的编写原则充分体现了本学科先进的教学思想，编写过程中紧紧围绕英语人才培训的目标和思路，力求层次分明，条理清晰，章节安排合理，既突出重点、难点，又强调对本课程基础知识的全面理解和掌握。与当前市场上已有的各种版本的教材相比，本教材具有以下主要特色：

1. 内容全面，脉络清晰。全书按照英国文学发展的七个阶段分为七个部分，即：早期和中古文学、16 世纪文学、17 世纪文学、18 世纪文学、浪漫主义文学、维多利亚文学、20 世纪文学。本书涉及了 40 位作家及其代表作品 60 余篇。学生通过课堂学习和课外自学对英国文学有一个比较清晰的认识和理解。

2. 结构合理，重点突出。本书每章由三个部分组成：第一部分内容介绍不同时期的历史、重大事件等相关背景知识；第二部分内容主要包括文学综述、文学史实、文学流派、重要作家简介等知识；第三部分内容为主要作家（附照

片)的生平和主要作品介绍、作品简介和赏析、作品选读、作品注释和思考题。各部分侧重点不同,但相互关联、相互补充,从不同角度帮助学生,使他们了解英国文学有一个全面而深刻地了解和把握。

3. 浅显易懂,易于自学。我们针对中国学生英语水平的状况,以及他们的需求和学习特点,在编写本书时力求文字简洁易懂、语言浅显流畅、论述深入浅出。并在每篇作品后附有较为详细的注释,以便降低学生的学习难度,提高他们的阅读速度和学习效率。

4. 图文并茂,增添兴趣。我国以前出版的英国文学教材,大多数没有提供图片资料,实为欠缺。针对青年学生的兴趣特点,我们为每一位作家配备了相关的图片,并附以文字说明,使得教材生动鲜活,有吸引力,也有助于学生更好的了解作家,理解作品的内涵。

5. 资料详实,观点新颖。本书在编写过程中力求观点客观全面,同时注意吸收多年来国内外有关英国文学的研究成果,努力做到资料详实、评价客观、分析深刻、观点新颖,使之更好地服务于我国高等院校英语专业的教师和学生,以及勤奋好学的英语爱好者。

参加本教材编写工作的有陈庆生、陈许、方璞、黄巍、蓝云春、秦宏、田野、田颖、王银瓶、杨鲁萍、郑玮、周小婷等老师,他们在选材、录入、注释、校对、搜集图片等方面做了大量的工作。全书的构思设计和选材安排都由主编负责。

在《精编英国文学教程》即将付梓之际,我们要衷心感谢解放军外国语学院资深望重的姚乃强教授,他对我们编辑本教材给予了充分肯定,并在百忙之中为本教材作序;我们还要衷心感谢浙江省教育厅、杭州电子科技大学及其教务处和外国语学院领导对本教材编写的大力支持和资助;我们也要衷心感谢浙江大学出版社的编辑,他们为本教材的出版做了大量辛勤的工作。

最后,由于水平所限和成书仓促,疏漏和谬误之处在所难免,敬请专家、学者和读者匡正,以便今后改进。

陈庆生 陈许

2009年8月于杭州电子科技大学

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Part One Early and Medieval English

Literature (449—1485)

I. Historical Background

Early and medieval period covers more than 800 years, beginning with the invasion in large numbers of the three Germanic tribes into Britain during the 5th and 6th centuries. Prior to the invasion, Britain had been a province under the control of the Roman Empire between AD 43 and 410. Towards the end of the 4th century, with the withdrawal of the Roman troops, Britain came under an increasing pressure from continental barbarian attacks on all sides. The invasion of the three tribes of Angles, Saxons and Jutes marked a new era in the history of Britain.

1. The Anglo-Saxon Period (449—1066)

The Anglo-Saxon period begins with the immigration of three Germanic tribes Angles, Saxons and Jutes, who came from the northern part of the European continent. Seemingly independent of each other, they were closely connected in terms of their Germanic cultural heritage. Before their invasion, Britain had been inhabited by the Celts—the native Britons. In their confrontation with the invasion, the native Celts fought bravely for their independence, but they failed to keep away their powerful enemies. Towards the end of the 5th century, the Angles, Saxons and Jutes succeeded in their conquest of Britain. In consequence of their final conquest, the English nation came into being. Their language, the English, also called Old English, became the dominant one in Britain.

When they settled down in the new home, the Anglo, Saxons and Jutes were

heathens, believing in the old mythology of northern Europe. Later in AD 597, a group of missionaries, headed by Saint Augustine, came to Britain from Rome, and within 100 years, the Anglo-Saxons were Christianized. Among them, the first person to be converted into a pious Christian was the King of Kent. The introduction of Christianity into England is a very important event because the religion exerts a very strong influence on the life of the British people and on English literature as well, especially during its early periods.

Soon after their invasion, the Anglo-Saxons set up seven kingdoms gradually in Britain. Wars were constantly fought among themselves. The second half of the 9th century witnessed the new Germanic invasion of the Viking Danes who began their fierce attacks on the Anglo-Saxons. Headed by King Alfred the Great of Wessex (849—899), the English people fought against the Viking invaders and succeeded in repulsing them. In the early 11th century, the Danish invaders again stepped on the British soil. This time they succeeded in their subjugation of the English nation and kept the land under their control for more than two decades.

2. The Medieval Period (1066—1485)

The year of 1066 ushered in a new era in British history. William the Duke of Normandy assembled a fleet of approximately 600 ships and an army of 7,000 men to invade. Under his leadership, the Romans fought hard and won a decisive battle near Hastings. Thus, William declared himself William I, King of England, crowned on December 25, 1066, in Westminster Abbey.

After the Norman Conquest, the Anglo Norman, or Old French, retained a prestigious status for nearly 400 years as the official language and it was used by the royal, the noble and the rich. The native English became the daily speech of the common people. The third language Latin was used in churches and other religious institutions. So it was a funny thing to see that three languages were seen existing in Britain at the same time, each with a different, special function. The native English, though in a humble status, kept its strong vitality. It borrowed from the other two languages a good many of words and terms, which greatly enriched the English language itself. As time elapsed, the English assumed its dominance and replaced French in many functions. In the middle of the 14th century, English became the literary as well as the spoken language in England. By the end of this period, English took its officially dominant role in the educational institutions and

at courts of law.

The Norman Conquest was a crucial turning-point in English history for several reasons. First, it linked Britain more closely with continental European nations by introducing a Norman aristocracy. Secondly, it created one of the most powerful monarchies in Europe and brought about a sophisticated governmental system. Next, it changed the English language and culture. Finally, it had an iconic role in English national identity as the last successful military conquest of Britain.

II. Literary Review

1. The Anglo-Saxon Literature

The literature of this period is, comparatively speaking, rather primitive. With their arrival in Britain, the Anglo-Saxons brought with them their own custom, tradition and culture. So the Anglo-Saxon literature, in its early stage, mainly dealt with the events that were happening far away in their European homeland. The earliest form of their literary works was not written but oral. Interesting events were circulated or passed down from mouth to mouth, and fancy stories were narrated orally or sung to the public. Later, some monks, well-informed and well-educated, took the task of writing down some of the stories.

1.1 Old English Poetry

The Old English poetry in the Anglo-Saxon period can be classified into two types: the pagan and the Christian. The pagan poetry is mostly heroic in the form of oral sagas, dealing with pre-Christian Germanic myth and history. The most important and beautiful works of this group are *The Wanderer*, *Deor*, *The Seafarer*, and *The Wife's Complaint*. An elegiac and melancholy tone is prevailing in all these poems, most likely with a happy past contrasted with a precarious and desolate present.

Much of the Old English Christian poetry is distinct in its simple belief in an unsophisticated Christianity, mainly dealing with the themes from Bible and the lives of the saints. The names of two Christian authors are well known. The first is Caedmon, the earliest known English poet, who is universally hailed as the "Father of English Song". His greatest work, *Paraphrase*, tells the story of Genesis. The second person is Cynewulf, famous for his religious compositions. He is said to have signed four poems *The Christ*, *Elene*, *Juliana*, and *The Fates of the Apostles*.

1.2 Beowulf

Beowulf is a national epic of the Anglo-Saxons with its anonymous authorship and uncertain date, probably composed in the oral form by some English bards in the early 8th century. The story has nothing closely associated with England because the materials for the poem are derived mainly from Scandinavian history, folklore, and mythology.

The whole poem comprises two parts. The first narrates two battles. In the first battle, Hrothgar, the King of the Danes, has built a great hall called Heorot, where Hrothgar and his warriors spend their time singing, eating and drinking. But Grendel, a monster who lives in the swamplands, attacks the hall and kills many of Hrothgar's warriors. Beowulf, a young warrior of the Geats, learns of Hrothgar's trouble, and sails to Denmark, determined to defeat Grendel. Beowulf and his men spend the night in Heorot. After they fall asleep, Grendel enters the hall to resume his attack. Beowulf leaps up and fights heroically with Grendel. Finally, Beowulf tears Grendel's arm from his body and the monster runs back home in the marshes to die.

The second battle relates Beowulf's fight with Grendel's revengeful mother. The next night, Grendel's Mother, a more powerful monster, appears and attacks the hall in revenge for Grendel's death. Beowulf pursues Grendel's Mother to her lair under a lake, where Beowulf and the mother monster engage in a fierce combat. In the end, Beowulf cuts her head off.

In the second part of the epic, Beowulf returns home and eventually becomes a King, loved and respected by his own people. One day, late in Beowulf's old age, one of his slaves steals a golden cup from an unnamed dragon's cave. When the dragon learns that his golden cup has been stolen, it flies in a fury and destroys everything in sight. Beowulf succeeds in killing the dragon. But unfortunately, Beowulf is mortally wounded in the final battle and falls back dead.

The world and the theme that *Beowulf* portrays are a relic of pre-Anglo-Saxon culture. The setting of the story is in Scandinavia, prior to the Anglo-Saxon migration. The work was composed in England, but it presented an interesting though incomplete picture of the life of the upper class and the warriors among the northern Germanic tribes on the Continent and in England.

1.3 Old English Prose

Old English prose dates from the latter part of the Anglo-Saxon period and it is made up of two groups of literary works: religion and history.

The first important and famous English prose writer is Bede (673—735), also called the Venerable Bede, generally considered “the Father of the English learning”. His most important work, and also the first English history book—the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, is fascinating to read even now with its combination of accurate information and immense credulity.

King Alfred the Great of Wessex, (871—899) displayed his heroic deeds in fighting against the Viking invaders. He was also a learned scholar and great educator, working hard to revitalize the indigenous English culture after the Danish invasions. Alfred’s great contributions to the English literature are threefold. First, under his guidance, a lot of Latin books of great educational value were translated into the English vernacular. He himself took the initiative in translating half a dozen of the best informational manuals of history, philosophy, and religion of his time. Secondly, Alfred took charge of the launching of *the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. It is extremely valuable, not only as a record of events from Caesar’s conquest up to 1154, but also as a literary monument showing the development of the English language. Alfred’s third contribution is that he created the first English prose that is clear and familiar.

Another important figure of the Old English prose is Aelfric (955—1025), an English abbot of Eynsham. He wrote voluminous works of homilies, saints’ lives, biblical commentaries, and other genres. The main theme of his literary creation is God’s mercy. He wrote, for example: “The love that loves God is not idle. Instead, it is strong and works great things always. And if love isn’t willing to work, then it isn’t love. God’s love must be seen in the actions of our mouths and minds and bodies. A person must fulfill God’s word with goodness.” (*For Pentecost Sunday*)

2. The Medieval English Literature

In the first part of the Medieval period from 1066 up to the mid-14th century, probably the most important writer was Geoffrey Monmouth (1100—1154), a Welsh monk, whose *Historia Regum Britanniae* (*The History of the Kings of Britain*) is of great value as abundant sources from which many later writers would draw their literary materials. The next writer worth our consideration was Roger Bacon, (1214—1294), an English scholastic philosopher and scientist, who placed considerable emphasis on empiricism, one of the earliest European advocates of the modern scientific method. His important book *Opus Maius* was a