



History of English Literature

By Ms. Caroline Gammon, Ms. Cosy Back, Ms. Isthar D. Adler, Subhash Chandra

Jnanada Prakashan, 2010. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. First edition. Let us refer to literature written in the English language, including literature composed in English by writers not necessarily from England. Joseph Conrad was Polish, Robert Burns was Scottish, James Joyce was Irish, Dylan Thomas was Welsh, Edgar Allan Poe was American, Salman Rushdie is Indian, V.S. Naipaul was born in Trinidad, Vladimir Nabokov was Russian. In other words, English literature is as diverse as the varieties and dialects of English spoken around the world. In academia, the term often labels departments and programmes practising English studies in secondary and tertiary educational systems. Despite the variety of authors of English literature, the works of William Shakespeare remain paramount throughout the English-speaking world. This Unit (Module) primarily deals with literature from Britain written in English. The first works in English, written in Old English, appeared in the early Middle Ages (the oldest surviving text is *Cædmon's Hymn*). The oral tradition was very strong in early British culture and most literary works were written to be performed. Epic poems were thus very popular and many, including *Beowulf*, have survived to the present day in the rich corpus of Anglo-Saxon literature that closely resemble...



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