Bibliography

I. Selected Bibliography of Victorian Historicism and Medievalist Writings


   Political uses of history.


Discusses Hallam and Macaulay; Thirlwall, Grote and Arnold; Carlyle and Froude; the Oxford School; Gardiner, Lecky, Seeley and Creighton; and Acton and Maitland. Also contains specialized studies, such as "The Jews and the Christian Church," and "Catholic Historiography."


Contains an account of nineteenth-century socialist views of human nature.


Discusses Arnold, Carlyle, Macaulay, and Froude.


An overview – includes sections on the Renaissance, Victorian Britain, memory, relics, creative anachronism, etc.


Contains an extensive bibliography, with sections on "Archival Sources and Unpublished Manuscripts"; "The Arthurian Tradition and the Victorian Era"; "Victorian Art"; and "Individual Artists."


Very thorough. Scott's neo-medievalism influenced a whole generation of Victorian writers.


Religious medievalism; anti-medievalism; Kenelm Digby; Catholics and anti-Catholics; medieval ecclesiastical architecture; Ruskin and medieval art.


Considers the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.


II. Late Eighteenth Century and Nineteenth-Century Works on Historiography and on Medieval and Early Renaissance History


Historian of Catholicism, who believed English political institutions had preserved much of the spirit of essential Catholicism.


Also published other works of medieval borough history, 1901-1904.


His accounts of the early Renaissance popes are not as unsympathetic as earlier Protestant histories had been.


Anglican viewpoint.


This contains an opening description of Anglo-Saxon England, the settlement of the Norsemen in France, and a study of the Danish kings. According to Gooch, "Worshipping political liberty, [Freeman] believed that he found it among the Teutonic nations and above all in his own country."


A defense of the English Reformation. Froude admired Henry VIII and disliked Elizabeth I.


Green was a militant radical and pioneer of a populist approach to history. The hero of his history is the British people, and his account includes criticism of English treatment of Ireland, Scotland, India, America, and France. According to Gooch: "His work possesses the living interest of a biography and the dramatic unity of an epic." Green died at age 46.


Emphasis on government and law. Relatively more ample treatment of France, Italy, and Spain, more meagre treatment of Germany and Eastern Europe.


One of first works on modern England, from a right-wing Whig view; he believed in the existence of an English "constitution" (that is, the right of Parliament to limit the Crown), but remained distrustful of public opinion.


One of first British "Germanists," who believed that "The Englishman has inherited the noblest portion of his being from the Anglo-Saxons. In spite of every influence, we bear a marvellous resemblance to our forefathers." He collected Anglo-Saxon documents, and dominated English historical scholarship for a generation.


Reviewed critically by George Eliot.


Famous Whig polemicist; as a historian, according to C. P. Gooch, he is best on English history of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He attacked Hallam's near-Tory views, and eulogized the character and policy of Cromwell in a way which prepared for Carlyle.


Analyzes assumptions and mental processes behind laws.


Indifferent to doctrinal controversy, Milman presented a detached view of Catholicism.


Gives a "Romanist" view of British law and history.


Also wrote other histories of Freemasonry.


Source of arguments for proponents of British imperial power, though ambivalent about the value of expansion. "Bigness is not necessarily greatness. If by remaining in the second rank of magnitude we can hold the first rank morally and intellectually, let us sacrifice mere material magnitude" (16).


Conservative medieval historian of the "Oxford School."


III. A Few Works the Victorians Would Have Read to Understand the Medieval and Early Renaissance Legendary and Literary Past


Translations from the Norske Folkeventyr collected by Peter Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe.


192. Guest, Lady Charlotte, ed. The Mabinogion: from the Llyfr Coch o Hergest, and other Ancient Welsh


206. Skeat, W.W., ed. The Bruce; or, the Book of the most excellent and noble prince, Robert de Broyss, King of Scots. London: Early English Text Society, 1870.


211. -------. The Romans of Partenay, or of Lusignan, otherwise known as the tale of Melusine. London: Early English Text Society, 1866.


IV. Victorian Prose Historicists


Contains chapters on European economic development from a Marxist perspective.


Pater's Renaissance includes twelfth century French romances.


239. ------. Contrasts: or, A Parallel between the Noble Edifices of the Middle Ages and Corresponding Buildings of the Present Day; Shewing the Present Decay of Taste. Accompanied by Appropriate Text. London: n.p., 1836.


Includes "The Nature of Gothic," set-piece of Victorian medievalism. Also, portions of Modern
Painters, London: Smith Elder & Co., 1843, are historical criticism.


V. Some Examples of Nineteenth-Century Historical Fiction Set in the Middle Ages and Early Renaissance


Mary Tudor's marriage.


The fall of Edward Seymore, first Duke of Somerset (The Protector), 1506-1552.


Causes of and reaction to the Gunpowder Plot, circa 1605.


Deals with the witchcraft trials in Lancaster in 1612.


The story of Lady Jane Grey's reign and execution, 1537-1554.

Romance involving the stories of Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Cardinal Wolsey, the Earl of Surrey and others.


Henry Beaufort and the Hussites in Bohemia.


Presents the Wycliffe Movement in England and the Hussite Wars in Bohemia.


Rome at the time of Domitian and Nero, circa A.D. 67-96.


Life revolving around a tin mine in Dartmoor, circa 1572.


Domestic conditions and the struggle between England and France during the reign of Charles VII, circa 1450.


Henry I’s attempt to subjugate the Welsh, circa 1100-1135.


A romance of adventure set in the Rhine area of Germany, circa 1275, wherein, with many perils along the way, a countess is wooed and won by an emperor in disguise.


The struggles of the citizens of Bruges, Ghent, and Antwerp, led by Philip von Antevelde, against Louis III, Count of Flanders, circa 1381-81.


An historical tale of the reign of James I.


A tale about the Arab conquest of Egypt in the seventh century.


The warlike adventures and amours of an Amazonian princess in north Germany in the time of Pope Sixtus IV, circa 1470-80.


The life of Edward the Atheling (1017-57).


Thirteenth-century Welsh fight for independence.


Peasant's Revolt of 1381.


Romance of Omar Khayyám, circa 1050.


Tells of a saintly life in the time of Savonarola, fifteenth century Italy.


The experiences of a young Roman exile in the camp of Atilla the Hun (ruler of the Huns 434-453).


Clash between Christianity and paganism in fifth century Egypt.


An account of the hard conditions of the Irish under English oppression, circa 1577-82.

Tale of British invasion in 1599.


The Norman invasion, the Battle of Hastings, and the fall of the last Saxon king.


Edward IV (1442-1483) and Warwick the King Maker (Richard Neville) are central characters.


Written as the diary of More's daughter Margaret, this pictures the saint as a family man.


Vivid account of the woman who supposedly destroyed the reigning ducal house of Pomerania [Poland] by black magic. No precise date is given, but these events would have to have occurred between the twelfth and sixteenth centuries, after which the ducal political structure changed in Poland.


Peasants' Revolt of 1381.


Set in third-century Germany.


Set in fourth-century Germany.


The savage persecution of Christians by the Emperor Decius (201-251).

291. O'Byrne, M. L. *Art M'Morrough O'Cavanagh, Prince of Leinster*. Dublin: M.H. Gill & Son, 1885.

Romance set in late fourteenth-century Ireland, with bitter portrayal of the English laws which suppressed Irish culture and proscribed intermarriage between the Irish and English.

292. ---. *The Court of Rath Croghan, Or, Dead But Not Forgotten*. Dublin: M. H. Gill and Son, 1887.
Set in twelfth-century Ireland.

293. ------. *The Pale and the Septs: An Irish Romance of the Sixteenth Century*. Dublin: M. H. Gill and Son, 1885.

A story of rebellious Ireland under English domination in mid-century.


The reign of Edward I (1272-1307).


A travelogue of Western Europe in the fifteenth century, with the father of Erasmus as hero.


Contains *The Betrothed*, which chronicles a border war in the time of Henry II, and *The Talisman*, a vigorous romance of the Third Crusade (1189-1192), set in Palestine.


An adventure tale set in mid-fourteenth-century Spain: the Black Prince of Spain allies himself with
Pedro the Cruel, King of Castile, to defeat Pedro's brother Enrique at the Battle of Navarrete.

VI. Criticism


VII. Victorian Historicism Poetry and Drama


"The Church of Brou" (1853) celebrates the tomb of Philibert II of Savoy, (d. 1504), and his wife Marguerite d'Autriche (1480-1530). In "Stanzas From the Grande Chartreuse" (1855), the poet visits the Grande Chartreuse, a monastery founded by St. Bruno in 1084, where he debates the nature of right action and the role of faith in the world. "Tristan and Iseult" (1852), Arnold's most famous medieval poem, is a set-piece on the destructive effects of passion. In "Saint Brandon" (1860), while on a seven year voyage to "the land of the saints," Brandon (circa 484-578, the Benedictine Abbott of Clonfert, Galway) experiences a vision of Christ's betrayer, Judas, with whom he converses regarding God's mercy and the possibility of redemption for all.


In the title poem, Saint Columba orders the death of the monk Oran in punishment for his liaison with Mona, daughter of a converted Pictish chieftain. Before burial St. Oran rises from his grave to deny the existence of an afterlife and affirm the value of earthly love.


Browning's monologues are often set in fifteenth and sixteenth-century Italy.


In "The Last Crusade," a departing soldier looks on the Holy Land, and implores God to assure him that the Crusades have not been fought in vain. "The Lay of the Minstrel's Heart" is a lyric on lost love set in a medieval context.


The ending of the epic poem "King Arthur" explains how Arthur's line, despite no known male heir, has influenced the destiny of modern England. According to Bulwer-Lytton, this poem came from the "best powers of my maturer years [and is] the worthiest contribution that my abilities enable me to offer the literature of my country."


"The Merciful Knight," with epigraph: "For a Picture by Burne-Jones," expresses the sentiments of a knight who kneels before the cross to seek forgiveness for his own transgressions and those of his foe.


"The King's Old Hall" comments on the transient nature of life and kingly magnificence.

"The Ordeal" (circa 1893) portrays the tragic results of a false charge of adultery in a medieval setting. "Serenade (1250 A.D.)" (1895) is a love lyric with medieval touches, and "A Ballad of Tannhäuser" (1896) a love ballad. "A Ballad of Lancelot" (1898) presents Lancelot's interior struggle between good and evil.


"Woman's Wit," set in 1138, recounts the legend of the Duchess of Wittenberg's rescue of her condemned husband. "A Woman's Faith," set during the Crusades, tells how the daughter of Baldwin IV of Jerusalem rejects the preferred throne in order to remain faithful to her husband.


Epic in four books set in the tenth century. The narrator Fergant recounts the struggles of his friend Mano, a chivalric Norman knight who struggled to gain Norman support for an Italian campaign waged by his liege. With its complicated plot, sudden reversals, and moments of horror and pathos, Mano won G. M. Hopkins's commendation as one of the best poems of the century.


"How Lisa Loved the King" is a chivalrous romance which recounts a woman's obedience to her benefactor.


In "The Lost Pyx: A Mediaeval Legend," at the behest of a mysterious voice, a priest carries the Pyx (sacrament) in a storm to shrive a dying man near a medieval stone pillar called Cross-and-Hand. Although he loses the Pyx, he regains it through a miracle.


"Duns Scotus' Oxford" expresses Hopkins' kinship with the eleventh century philosopher.


Contains "Robin Hood's Goodnight," a short love poem; "The Rowing Song of King Atli," love ballad of
the Norse hero; and "The Last Viking," a sea-faring song of exploration and destiny.


"The High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire, 1571" is a ballad which recounts the loss of a loved one in an unexpected flood-tide.


In "Sir Richard's Song (A.D. 1066)," a Norman invader celebrates his new land after the Battle of Hastings. "A Tree Song" (A.D. 1200) praises the rustic, natural charms of Britain. "The Roman Centurion's Song (A.D. 300)" is a dramatic monologue in which a soldier who has served all his life in Britain, and whose family is buried there, regrets that he has been ordered back to Rome. "Dane-Geld (A.D. 980-1016)" contains an exhortation to courage and heroism. "Norman and Saxon (A.D. 1100)" celebrates the resilience and moral uprightness of the Saxon.


"To Tintoretto In Venice" celebrates the courage of Tintoretto's powerful use of light and shade.


346. -------. *The Life and Death of Jason.* London: Bell & Daldy, 1867.


348. -------. *Sigurd the Volsung.* London: Ellis & White, 1877.


In "A Knight-Errant," a knight defends his "mistress" Truth against Ignorance, Prejudice, Custom, and Opinion.


Especially note "Monna Innominata," a response to the Petrarchan tradition.


In "Oisin" the speaker mourns the death of the third century Gaelic warrior-bard Ossian. "Dante in Exile" reflects on the injustices and bitternesses of the past.


"Heather Ale, A Galloway Legend" narrates Pict resistance to invasion.


Includes "The Hill of Venus."


Translation of medieval Latin students' songs.


Includes "Lancelot and Guenevere."


Includes "Lady Clare."


In "Orison-Tryst," the lover celebrates his lady according to courtly tradition.


In "The Little Brethren," after praying on the Eve of St. John, Saint Brendan falls asleep in the woods. The Queen of the Faery Kingdom appears to him and pleads for access to Life Everlasting. After questioning her, Brendan concludes that fairies do not possess souls, and cannot be saved. The poem ends with the sound of the weeping Faery Kingdom.


Portraits include one of "Joan of Arc."


Includes "The Wandering of Oisin" (1889), "Cuchulain's Fight by the Sea," and other Irish Renaissance lyrics based on Gaelic folklore. According to Yeats, these combine "much that is medieval with much that is ancient."