

Univerzita Pardubice  
Fakulta filozofická  
Katedra anglistiky a amerikanistiky

POETIKA MÍSTA: HRABSTVÍ OXFORD V LITERATUŘE

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POETICS OF PLACE: OXFORDSHIRE IN LITERATURE

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### Z á s a d y p r o v y p r a c o v á n í :

Zadání: V úvodu práce bude podána celková charakteristika hrabství Oxford se zvláštním zřetelem na jeho obraz v literatuře. Hlavní část výkladu se soustředí na zhodnocení vybraných textů reprezentativních spisovatelů (básníků, prozaiků, dramatiků) se vztahem k tomuto místu. Závěrem bude podáno celkové shrnutí.

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Na tomto místě bych ráda poděkovala:

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## **Annotation**

The submitted paper deals with the literature in Oxfordshire in Great Britain. It supplies the reader with the descriptions of settlements in Oxfordshire and a detail description of Oxford University. It gives facts about authors who lived in Oxfordshire or who studied there and it also describes publications which were written about these places. Attention is paid to the authors who wrote about student's life at the Oxford University. Specifically the authors are Dorothea L. Sayers, Max Beerbohm, Matthew Arnold, Brandon Thomas and Thomas Hardy. This paper gives a detailed description of their works and analyzes them. The aim of the paper is to describe the above mentioned, analyzed English publications, novels, plays and poems and the aim of the analysis is to prove the writer's relationship to Oxfordshire.

## **Key words**

regionalism, Oxfordshire, Oxford University

## **Název**

Poetika místa: Hrabství Oxford v literatuře

## **Souhrn**

Předkládaná práce se zabývá literaturou v hrabství Oxford ve Velké Británii. Seznamuje čtenáře s popisem měst v hrabství Oxford a detailně popisuje Oxfordskou univerzitu. Předkládá fakta o spisovatelích, kteří zde žili či studovali a popisuje publikace, které byly napsány o tomto kraji. Pozornost je zaměřena hlavně na autory, kteří psali o studentském životě na univerzitě v Oxfordu. Konkrétně se jedná o autory, Dorothea L. Sayersová, Max Beerbohm, Matthew Arnold, Brandon Thomas a Thomas Hardy. Práce předkládá detailní popis děl uvedených autorů a jejich analýzu. Cílem této práce je zmapovat výše uvedené a rozebrat anglická díla, prózu, drama, poezii, výše zmíněných autorů. Cílem analýzy je dokázat autorův vztah k hrabství Oxford.

## **Klíčová slova**

regionalismus, hrabství Oxford, univerzita Oxford

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## **1. Introduction**

Oxfordshire is a county in the South East England region with rich history where is situated the oldest English university. This university is the third oldest surviving and one of the leading in the world. The purpose of this paper is to describe poetics of Oxfordshire. This county was a home for many writers, some of them lived there, some of them studied there or only stayed there for some months. The purpose of this paper is to show how artist could be influenced by place where they live or what they love. It shows the most important places in Oxfordshire within the view of literature, it describes where famous writers lived, studied or died. It also describes books where the Oxfordshire was mentioned.

The paper is divided into 5 chapters. The first chapter is an introduction, the second chapter is an explanation of regionalism, it describes how important is regionalism for an artist and what is a relationship between an artist and a place. .

The third chapter is dedicated to Oxfordshire as a county; there is a brief introduction of Oxfordshire supplied in geographical and historical view. Characteristic of towns belonging to Oxfordshire is supplied with description about its influence to literature. There is a list of artist who lived there, who were educated there or who wrote about that place. This chapter also includes a list of books in which there are the towns mentioned.

Oxford is the biggest and most important city in Oxfordshire and is described in the fourth chapter. There is a brief description about history of Oxford, its cultural heritage and the Oxford University is analyzed in detail. Oxford University Colleges are also described and it gives the reader a list of writers who were educated there. Some of the writers wrote about their college in their work and it is also involved in this chapter.

The last chapter is focused on five authors who wrote about student's life in Oxford, they are writers who studied at Oxford but they are also authors who were not educated there. They are prose-writers, poets and playwrights. But they have something in common; all of them wrote at least one publication about Oxford, their piece of work is about student's environment at Oxford University. The chapter gives brief description about their life and their works are analyzed in detail.

In the conclusion, the data and information obtained are summarized and concluded. The part supplies the reader with the results of the carried out analysis.

## **2. Poetics of place**

For each writers and each artist there are some characters which connect them with the facts of their native country and are very typical for that piece of reality which we call home or native land. Each artist has a home somewhere. Perceives and expresses the personality of their home. Relationship between artist and home is reciprocal, home gives inspiring impulses to artist. On the other side an artist gives a life in their work, gives it and also prospective values and contributes to its tradition. The term home means relationship of individual to bigger social community and it also means a tradition continuity.

Home - it is entirely specific, the nearest part to our hearts and our idea of a larger whole country and the nation. It is a language which we learned and social value which we adopt.

Each person has their own home even though they do not live there at present. They have their own idea of home. Each poets has their own idea and it is their inspiration for their work. The idea of home may not be only one place, one religion or one environment. Sometimes, more homes may be linked and put in one picture. Indeed any particular idea of home does not include only the reality of nature, architectural form of a city or an environment but it contains spiritual tradition of home, knowledge of its history and dream future. Particularly among artists and poets is the home idea combined with intellectual and emotional affinity with a bunch of generations past, with creative spirits, whose successive generations through the ages have created a wave of a certain tradition and incorporates the cultural life of the region or locality in the whole national culture.

Each region due to its natural and social environment is an original artistic creation, and creates its own cultural tradition. Each region determines the character of its nature and geographic location. In Oxfordshire it is river Thames, architecture of university building or Vale of White Horse.

Regional culture, a culture of love to own home, to environment, region, nation does not reject worldliness. And it becomes global just through the act of home, country and society

### **3. Oxfordshire**

Oxford is the most important and best known city in Oxfordshire. This spirited and active city is known for famed university. Millions of tourists come to Oxford every year to visit an admirable university building.

However fortunately the rest of the region is not so overpopulated. Picturesque English countryside is all around the Oxford city – peaceful landscape which is aware of its own appearance, sleek but still adamantly agricultural region. Countryside in Oxfordshire is proud of its history, cultural and social events.

#### **3.1 Geography**

Oxfordshire is a county of Oxford. This shire is situated in South East England region bordering Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Wiltshire and Swindon, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire (see Appendix 1) Oxfordshire is divided into five local government districts: Oxford, Cherwell, Vale of White Horse (after the Uffington White Horse), West Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire.

#### **3.2 History**

Oxford was a quite important Saxon town mainly because of strategic location at the junction of the Cherwell and the Thames (the Thames in these places is called Isis according to the Latin name Tamesis) and was strongly fortified by Alfred the Great in the war against the Danes. However, the Oxford importance dramatically increased after 1167, when Anglo - Normans were expelled from the European Scholastic centre in Sorbonne in Paris. They abandoned sophistication and debauchery of Paris's elite in favor of Augustine's abbey. A lot of students came there and probably due to lack of fun they created there a conflict situation between them and local residents. This conflict resulted in massacre on the St. Scholastic Day in 1355. The King wanted to make a policy in students' activities. He enacted the university to split into smaller units where each unit had its own tradition.

The first colleges which were built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century were Balliol, Mertons and imaginatively named University college. During the next three centuries there were built at least three colleges and others followed at a slower pace. Younger colleges such as Keble was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> century to meet requirements of increasing student's population. Nowadays the university has 15,000 students, who live in 39 colleges. The university was opened for women after opening Lady Margaret college in 1878. However they studied till 1920 for four years without marks. Nowadays the university is opened to all students and nearly a half of them are women.

Oxford is an industrial city. In 1790 Oxford was connected with canal to the industrial Midlands but major industrial boom occurred in 1912 when William Morris started producing cars. Bullnose Morris and Morris Minor were produced in Cowley's factories and their importance overshadowed even the academic reputation of Oxford.

### **3.3 Settlements in Oxfordshire** (see Appendix 2)

Settlements in Oxfordshire are included in this chapter. There are only important towns or villages in Oxfordshire within literature view.

#### **3.3.1 Abingdon**

Abingdon, the elegant town with a marketplace, is situated on the Thames about 10 km to the south from Oxford. By 1536 the town was controlled by an influential Abbey (founded in the 7th century) which was larger than Westminster Abbey. It was destroyed in the subsequent dissolution of the monastery and the original buildings are not preserved; only a few nearby buildings were preserved.

Abingdon is the birthplace of Edward Moore (1712 – 1757). He was a minor dramatist, an author of the comedy *Gil Blas* (1751) and the tragedy *The Gamester* (1753). The town is also a birthplace of the novelist Dorothy Miller Richardson.

John Ruskin also lived there for a few months. Worked as an English writer, poet, scholar and art critic in the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

### **3.3.2 Burford**

Burford is a small town 29 km to the west from Oxford, on the river Windrush in the Costwold hills. This was an important town for John Wilmont who was educated at old local Grammar School before going to Wadham College, Oxford. Compton Mackenzie also stayed in Burford before the First World War and drew a delightful portrait of this town in his novel, *Guy and Pauline* (1915). John Meade Falkner (author of *Moonfleet* 1898 ) was buried in the local churchyard.

When C.E. Montague retired from the *Manchester Guardian*, he came to Burford and lived at Kitt's Quarries, a house which was built by Christopher Kempster, a bricklayer who worked for Sir Christopher Wren on St. Paul's Cathedral. Montague's famous piece was *Right off the Map*; it was an anti-militarist novel which was originally written as a play. He was buried in Burford churchyard.

### **3.3.3 Faringdon**

It is a market town between Swindon and Oxford. In the past this town belonged to Berkshire (until 1974). This town is famous for Henry James Pye, a Poet Laureate from 1790. He had dedicated to writing poetry from the age of 10, when he read *Odyssey* (in Pope's translation). His first poem was published when he was 17. In 1784 he was elected as a member of Parliament for Berkshire. When he retired from Parliament in 1790 he became a police magistrate for Westminster. There is a copy of his supposed self-portrait in the Pye Chapel in the church.

The same house, where Henry James Pye lived, became home for Lord Berners in the 1930s. He was a musician, author, painter and wit. He wrote novels such as *The Camel* (1936), and *Far from the Maddening War* (1941). Two autobiographical books are *First Childhood* (1934) and *Distant Prospect* (1945).

### **3.3.4 Henley on Thames**

Town on the River Thames situated in South Oxfordshire. A Poet Shenstone, Johnson and Boswell were accommodated in Red Lion Hotel in Henley. Bedrooms have names

after these three quests and in the room where Shenstone stayed. There is a replica of his verse.

### 3.3.5 Wantage

A market town in the Vale of White Horse. The King of the West Saxons was born here. He is memorialized by his statue in the market-place. He is important for the history of English literature for revitalization of letters that he effected in the West of England. He translated *Cura Pastoralis* of Pope Gregory and the *Historia adversus Pagonos* of Orosius. Possibly he also wrote a part of *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. It should be a part from Christian Era to the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century in England.

### 3.3.6 Woodstock

Woodstock is a small town 13 kilometers from Oxford. In the Domesday Book it is pictured as a royal forest. The royal forest survives today in a few old oaks in Blenheim Park. Henry II hide here his lover, Rosamond Clifford and Deloney in his *Garland of Good Will* (1631) lists the precautions he took:

" *Most curiously this Bower was built of stone and timber strong,  
An hundred and fifty doores did to that Bower belong,  
And they so cunningly contriv'd with turnings round about,  
That none but with a clew of thread could enter in or out.*" <sup>1</sup>

There were more authors who wrote about Rosamond in Woodstock, Michael Drayton in *England's Heriucall Epistles* (1597) wrote that his heart remains with Rosamond in "Sweet Woodstock" or Alfred Lord Tennyson who wrote about her in *Becket*.

Sir Walter Scott wrote *Woodstock*, a novel which has elements of detective story, set in the Civil War and it is about Cavalier Sir Henry Lee, Ranger of Woodstock Forest, whose daughter loved a Roundhead.

Woodstock was also home for Geoffrey Chaucer. His house is probably on the site of the Gothic house in Park St.

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<sup>1</sup> Eagle, Dorothy, 1992, p.273

### **3.3.7 Oxford**

Oxford is a major center for education, tourism, trade, culture, healthcare and in South East England it has an important role. It is internationally known for its unique heritage and as an education center and for its innovation. Furthermore, it is considered as a symbol of excellence and a source of inspiration for industry and art. Oxford employs almost 100 000 people and annually welcomes more than 7.6 million visitors.

In Oxford there is a wide range of community and cultural influence, which became a part of exciting everyday life of the city. The rich heritage and cultural life were valued by City of Culture status for 2008.

Oxford began its modern history as a border settlement between the kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia. Although there is an evidence of settlement from the early Bronze Age, in the Middle Ages Oxford has gained the importance as a commercial and military town. University colleges were built from the monastery and church complexes and due to trade development there was made a major function in 1122 and the city gained autonomy in 1199.

The settlement was first mentioned as Oxnaforda in the Anglo- Saxon Chronicle in 911. The Christ Church Cathedral was built in the year 1542. And it was granted with a city status. Oxford was often in the centre of key national events and became the royal capital city and also it was the most defended city in England (during civil war from 1642 to 1946). Building the Channel and the railroad provided an opportunity for business development. Oxford developed in the early tourist economy and center of automobile industry.

The pressure of success is still for the city and its community a great challenge. With the number of population of approximately 140,000 and with a high density of population amounting to nearly 30 people per hectare appeared urgent problems such as providing affordably priced housing. The city has the lowest portion of house and apartment in which lives their owners in the Southeast. 33,000 students live here that means the age group between 16-29 years and they representing 32% population, it is more than double of the national average.



In Oxford, there are plenty of tourist attractions, primarily the university. In the city center, among other attractions there is Carfax Tower - the only surviving part of the Church of Saint Martin from the 13 century. Many souvenir shops and other interesting goods for tourists are situated on the Covered Market. In the summer is popular horse-rides on the rivers Cherwell and Thames.

#### **4. Oxford University** (see Appendix 3)

Oxford is an important British university city, a small commercial centre with ancient colleges, which represents the major part in British religious, intellectual and literary life. There were a lot of changes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, its internal life and organization came through many reforms. Principals should not be an Anglican pastors from 1853 anymore and from 1871 examinations from religion were not obligatory. Members of the administrative council could be married from 1877 and at the same time there were the first women college set – Somerville and Lady Margaret. The university began with English literature studies and changed the entire national tradition and its culture.

Reverend John Keble was a leader of the Oxford Movement, a movement of High Church Anglicans. They argued for the restoration of lost Christian traditions of faith and their inclusion into Anglican liturgy and theology. The members were often associated with the Oxford University.

Matthew Arnold (1822-1888) was a researcher on Oriel and became a school inspector. John Keble was his godfather. He wrote two poems, *Gypsy* (1853) and *Thyrsis* (1866) which celebrates Oxford and its surroundings – Illsley Downs, Cumnor Hills and Bagley Wood. Poems celebrate pastoral world with passionate life which is in contrast with modern life. *Culture and Anarchy* (1869) is a book in which Arnold returns to his Oxford again. He said Oxford had many mistakes but he also said, that people in Oxford were raised in beauty and sweetness of this graceful place. Beauty and sweetness are essential signs of human perfection.

Sunlit world of Oxford rivers and meadows provides evocative opening of the famous fairy tale book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865), an author of this book is Lewis Carroll (his real name was C.L.Dodgson). He had been a mathematic teacher at Christ Church College since 1855. This book is more than nostalgia or child literature. It

is a satire of intellectual and political conflicts in Victorian age including Darwin's evolution theory. Possibly due to college atmosphere is this book full of strange rituals, eccentric and passionate characters.

The list of famous poets, who were students at Oxford University, is very long and includes names such as Shelley, Arthur Hugh Clough, Gerard Manley Hopkins, William Morris, Algernon Charles Swinburne, Oscar Wilde, Robert Bridges and Edward Thomas. The list of prose writers includes: J.A. Froude, John Ruskin, Walter Pater and Mark Pattison (see Appendix 4)

University prose fiction had a tradition that can be traced back to Lockhart's book *Reginald Dalton: A Story of English University Life*. Novelists from Benjamin Disraeli to Trollope portrayed in their novels university scene and represented the "Oxbridge" as a social place like Wonderland or like a place of distraction or as a moral training for life. What is also in the book of Frederik Farrar *Julian Home: A Tale of College Life* (1859) or in Thomas Hughes book *Tom Brown at Oxford* (1861). William Cobbett in his book, *Rural Rides*, examines social differences and injustice at Oxford colleges. In Thomas Hardy's book *Jude the Obscure* (1895) Jude Fawley, a poor villager, travels from Wessex to "Christminster" (Oxford) with a hope that he would be accepted at the college. He lives in the area of terraced houses and corny shops (Jericho) and wants to study in "Cardinal College" (Christ Church College) but he is not accepted by school. The rejection is a message to Hardy that his dream was not fulfilled.

Also other unsuccessful people lived in Oxford. Anna Ward published a book *Robert Elsmere* in 1888 which was reviewed by Gladstone. This book was a bestseller in serious novels of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Ms Ward was Matthew Arnold's niece and a wife of Oxford principal. She knew very well relationships in Oxford. The novel is about a religious crisis of a young student Elsmere, about his doubts sequent on rationalism. The skeptics in the book were real Oxford rectors. Till the end of the century the university was increasingly being associated with the ideals of aestheticism and dandyism. Oscar Wilde when he was a college student got himself under influence of Ruskin and Walter Pater and his poem *Ravenna* got a Newdigate Prize in 1878, a prestigious prize for poetry.

Max Beerbohm wrote his Oxford novel *Zuleika Dobson* (1911). It was an aesthetic reproach to previous moral novels. Oxford student's world is changed with a visit of "a new woman". The "new woman" did more than making a mess in Oxford students. Women's colleges became important places for literary education. The years 1910-1915 were young women writers generation. They studied at Somerville College. The generation included for example Dorothy Sayers. Oxford was a source of British poetry and it contributes to development of the British novel. There were people who desire to leave Oxford but there were people who desire to get to Oxford too. There were skeptical rationalists, sporting young gentlemen, defiant aesthetes, old men and young women, those who wished for an old spirit and those who wish for a new one. Oxford could reject Shelley and insult Hardy, but it still represents a significant part in British literature.

## **4.1 University Colleges**

In Oxford University there are 38 colleges and 6 Permanent Private Halls. Every college has its own internal structure and its own activities. The colleges provide social, cultural and recreational activities for their members.

### **4.1.1 All Souls' College**

The College was founded by Henry VI and Henry Chichele in 1438.

T.E. Lawrence lived in this college. He started writing *Seven pillars of Wisdom* (1926) here. The book is about his experience in the Middle East.

Francis Doyle was also a fellow here and then he became a professor of poetry. He wrote many poems about courage and patriotism including his ballad *The Private of the Buffs*.

### **4.1.2 Balliol College**

Balliol College was founded in 1263.

This College refused John Wycliffe as a teacher for refuting the doctrine of transubstantiation.

John Evelyn was a student here and wrote a book about his year in Oxford called *Diary*.

J.A. Symond graduated here and won the Newdigate Prize. A.C Bradley was a student here and became a professor of poetry. He wrote *Shakespearean Tragedy* and *Oxford Lectures*. And he is remembered as a Shakespearian critic.

Hillaire Bellock was a history student at this college. He really loved Balliol that can be illustrated by his poem *To the Balliol Men Still in Africa*. This poem contains lines:

"Balliol made me, Balliol fed me,  
Whatever I had she gave me again;  
And the best of Balliol loved me and led me,  
God be with you, Balliol men."<sup>2</sup>

C.E.Montague graduated at this college and wrote a book *Rough Justice* where are Oxford buildings and streets described.

Logan Pearsall Smith wrote about his memories of Oxford in the autobiography *The Unforgotten Years*.

### **4.1.3 Brasenose College**

Brasenose College was originally called The King's Hall and College of Brasenose. It was founded by Sir Richard Sutton, and the Bishop of Lincoln, William Smyth in 1509.

Barnabe Barnes graduated in Brasenose College and wrote there some of the sonnets, odes and elegies. He published them as *Parthenophil and Parthenope*.

H.H.Milman was undergraduate at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, he won the Newdigate Prize with his poem *Apollo Belvedere*, he also published a drama *Fazio* and a poem *Samor, the Lord of the Bright City*. He was elected Professor of Poetry in 1821.

Walter Pater had long association with Oxford. His first critical study was published in *Westminster Review* and was also included in *Studies of the History of the Renaissance*. That meant good reputation for him. He wrote philosophic romances such as *Imaginary Portraits* or literary criticism *Appreciations*. He is buried in St. Cross churchyard.

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<sup>2</sup> Eagle, Dorothy, 1992, p.208

John Buchan won the Stanhope Prize for Walter Raleigh essay and also the Newdigate Prize for his poem about Pilgrim Fathers. He also wrote his autobiography *Memory Hold-the-Door*. He came to Brasenose College from the Glasgow University.

John Middleton Murry wrote a book *Between Two Worlds* which is a description of his years spent at this college. He met here Joyce Cary, his lifelong friend and he married Katherine Mansfield, a short fiction writer.

#### **4.1.4 Christ Church**

It is one of the largest constituent colleges of the Oxford University Colleges. It was founded by Thomas Wolsey and Cardinal Archbishop of York in 1525.

The college is often called "The House". Richard Edwards studied here and wrote *Palamon and Arcite*. It was written for the Queen Elisabeth to entertain her on her visit in Oxford.

Richard Corbett lived here and he was a Dean of the cathedral and also became a Bishop of Oxford. He was an author of *Certain Elegant Poems*, a verses collection.

Charles Dodgson was a student and a mathematical teacher. His book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was written as a result of the story which he made up for Alice Lindell, the young daughter of the Dean. He used the pseudonym Lewis Carroll.

W.A Auden edited *Oxford Poetry* with Day-Lewis and Charles Plumb. His limited edition of *Poems* was hand printed in Oxford. He moved to US and got an American citizenship. He became a Professor of Poetry in United States (1956-1960) and came back to England in 1972. When he moved back to Oxford he lived in Brew House, a house on the south side of Christ Church.

#### **4.1.5 Corpus Christi College**

It was founded in 1517 as the 12<sup>th</sup> oldest college in Oxford. It is one of the smallest colleges in Oxford.

This college is usually known as Corpus. Boars Hill, a Poet Laureate, wrote there a poem *The Testament of Beauty*. It was published a year before his death.

Bernard Spencer, an undergraduate edited *Oxford Poetry* and many of his early poems were published in *New Verse*.

At this college there also studied Richard Edwards and Thomas Day.

#### **4.1.6 Exeter College**

It is the fourth oldest college of the University. The College was founded in 1314 by Walter de Stapeldon of Devon who was a Bishop of Exeter.

Alfred Noyes published his first collection of poems while an undergraduate. The collection is called *The Loom of Years*.

In *Two Worlds for Memory* he wrote about his surprise when he found his initials added to those of Ford and Morris on the dining hall window, there are written merited members of the college.

Another important students are J. R. R. Tolkien and R. M. Dawkins.

#### **4.1.7 Hertford College**

The college was originally founded as Hart Hall by Elias de Hertford in 1282.

Evelyn Waugh wrote a novel with many scenes in Oxford, *Brideshead Revisited*. In his unfinished autobiography *A Little Learning*, his years here are described.

Many writers studied here including a poet John Donne, a satirist Jonathan Swift or a Bible translator, William Tyndale.

#### **4.1.8 Jesus College**

It is a college with strong Welsh connection which had been founded by Elisabeth I in 1571.

Henry Vaughan was an undergraduate here, he belonged to metaphysical poets ( "*The metaphysical poets were a loose group of British lyric poets of the 17th century, who shared an interest in metaphysical concerns and a common way of investigating them,*

and whose work was characterized by inventiveness of metaphor")<sup>3</sup> His most important book was a collection of religious verse *Silex Scintillans*. Other students were Ellis Wynne, John Morris-Jones, William John Gruffydd, Frederick William Rolfe or Thomas Herbert Parry-Williams.

#### **4.1.9 Lincoln College**

Lincoln College was founded by Richard Fleming in 1427. It is situated in the centre of Oxford. William D'Avenant studied here but left Oxford without any degree. He was a poet and a playwright. His first play was produced in 1629 and was called *The Tragedy of Albovine*. He became a Poet Laureate in 1638.

Mark Pattison, the author of Isaac Casaubon biography, was a Rector at Lincoln College. He was a respectful and stimulating teacher. In Rhoda Broughton's novel *Belinda* there is the main character a Professor Fourth, the figure was probably based on Mark Patisson.

#### **4.1.10 Magdalen College**

The College was founded by William of Waynflete in 1458.

Oskar Wilde was a collegian from 1874-1878. He was a founder of an aesthetic cult, he decorated his room with sunflowers, lilies, peacock feathers or blue china. The members of this aesthetic cult were satirized as those who were "*anxious for the shine in the high aesthetic line*"<sup>4</sup> (Gilbert and Sullivan opera *Patience*). Wilde won the Newdigate Prize with his poem *Ravenna*.

A. D. Godley was a student and also a public orator at the University of Oxford. He wrote many poems about the life at the University. His most important publications are *Verses to Order*, *Lyra Frivola* and *Fifty Poems*.

C.S.Lewis was a fellow at this college and then he became a professor at Cambridge. He wrote here *The Allegory of Love: a Study in Medieval Tradition* and *English Literature*

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<sup>3</sup> SanDiegoAccountantsGuide

<sup>4</sup> Eagle, Dorothy, 1992, p. 212

*in the Sixteenth Century*. He also made stories for children such as *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

The professor of poetry, James Hurdis, wrote a poem here, *The Village Curate*, but it is based on his years at Burwas.

Other writers who studied here were John Foxe, George Wither, Joseph Addison, William Collins, H. J. Pye, R. S. Hawker and Charles Reade.

#### **4.1.11 Merton College**

It was founded in 1264 by Walter de Merton. Anthony Wood was a son of Thomas Wood and was born near the college. He studied at New College School then he was sent to Lord William's School and then he entered Merton College. He was collecting informations about Oxford and published them in *Historia et Antiquitates Universitatis Oxoniensis*.

H. W. Garrod stayed here until his death. He was a professor of poetry and published *Oxford Poems*. Numerous of his lectures were published.

Louis MacNeice described his year at this college in *The Strings are False* which was his unfinished autobiography.

Other writers who studied at this college were Keith Douglas, Edmund Blunden, J.R.R. Tolkien, Richard Steele or George Saintsbury.

#### **4.1.12 New College**

It was established in 1379. This college has the official name College of St. Mary, it was named after Mary, the mother of Jesus.

R. C. Sheriff spent 2 years here and he founded a grant for English literature at the college. He is known for his play *Journey's End* which is about his experiences in the World War I.

Other writers here were Sir Henry Wotton, William Harrison, James Woodforde and Thomas Warton



#### **4.1.13 Oriel College**

Oriel College was founded by King Alfred in 1324. The college is also called King's Hall or King's College.

Thomas Hughes was an undergraduate here, he was a lawyer and a writer. He was born in Uffington in Oxfordshire. He wrote a novel *Tom Brown at Oxford* which is a sequel to the book *Tom Brown's Schooldays*.

Matthew Arnold was a son of the headmaster. He wrote *Poems* a collection of poems where *The Scholar-Gipsy* was included. *The Scholar-Gipsy* is one of the best and most popular poems of Matthew Arnold. It is based on story *The Vanity of Dogmatizing* by Joseph Glanvill. The poem is about a student who broke his studies at Oxford and joined gypsies who taught him their secrets.

#### **4.1.14 Pembroke College**

Pembroke College was established in 1634 and it is named after The Earl of Pembroke.

Samuel Johnson, an English poet, essayist, moralist, literary critic and biographer lived here but because of lack of finance he had to leave. Johnson really loved Oxford and he often returned to this place. Pembroke college still has some of his books, his teapot and desk and there is also his portrait. His works include *The Vanity of Human Wishes*, *The Life of Richard Savage*, *Lives of the Most Eminent English Poets* or *Dictionary of the English Language*.

Other writers at this college were Francis Beaumont, Thomas Lovell Beddoes, R.S. Hawker.

#### **4.1.15 The Queen's College**

The Queen's College was founded in 1341 by Robert de Eglesfield. Thomas Tickell got M.A. degree here. He wrote a poem *Oxford* and he became a professor of poetry.

Edmund Blunden was a poet, a critic of English literature and a prose writer. He described his experiences from the World War I in verse and prose. He became a Professor of Poetry at Oxford.

Other undergraduates here were Henry Wotton, Thomas Middleton, William Wycherley, William Collins.

#### **4.1.16 St. John's College**

St. John's College was established in 1555. James Shirley, an English dramatist, came here from the Merchant Taylor's School but he left soon and went to Cambridge. Abraham Cowley, an English poet, came here from Cambridge during the Civil War.

#### **4.1.17 Somerville College**

Somerville College was founded in 1879 and it is named after Mary Somerville. It was one of the first women's colleges in Oxford. Dorothy L. Sayers was an English crime writer, poet but also a translator, playwright and essayist. She was born in Oxford and studied at this college. She wrote a detective, mystery novel *Gaudy Night* which was set in an imaginary women's college. This novel has two main characters who were educated at Oxford and have the first class degree like she had. In her *Busman's Honeymoon* she also has some scenes from Oxford.

Vera Brittain wrote her own autobiography *Testament of Youth* where she mentioned her years at Oxford University. This book continues with *Testament of Friendship* and *Testament of Experience*.

#### **4.1.18 Trinity College**

It was founded by Sir Thomas Pope in 1555. It was named after The Holy Trinity.

Thomas Warton was a professor of poetry and he studied here, too. During his studies he wrote *The Pleasures of Melancholy*. He wrote poems and sent them into many Oxford periodicals and he also edited the Oxford anthologies, *The Union* and *The Oxford Sasage*.

Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch studied here and became a classic teacher. He edited *The Oxford Book of English Verse* and *The Oxford Book of Ballads*. After that he moved to Cambridge and became a professor of English Literature.

#### **4.1.19 University College**

This college was established in 1249. The full name of this college is The Master and Fellows of the College of the Great Hall of the University of Oxford. It was founded by Alfred the Great.

Edwin Arnold was a student here and won the Newdigate Prize for *Belshazzar's Feast*, this poem was published in his *Poems Narrative and Lyrical*. He spent some time in India and wrote a poem about the Buddha, *The Light of Asia*. When he died, his ashes were given to the local chapel.

#### **4.1.20 Wadham College**

It was founded in 1610 by Dorothy and Nicholas Wadham, they were rich Somerset landowners.

C. Day-Lewis with W.H. Auden edited *Oxford Poetry*. C. Day-Lewis also published his own poems such as *Country Comets*. In *The Buried Day* he described his years here. He also became a Professor of Poetry.

Francis Kilvert graduated here and he returned to Oxford eight years later. When he came back to Oxford he was surprised how this university changed. He wrote about it in his *Diary*:

*"New College extending itself into Holywell, a new and beautiful walk planted with elms from Christ Church to the barges, and a new College, Keble, red brick relieved with white, which disappoints me at present"*<sup>5</sup>

#### **4.1.21 Worcester College**

This college was founded in 1714 and it is named after Sir Thomas Cookes, Worcestershire, this is only college with a lake.

Kenelm Digby spent two years here and then he went to Paris. Richard Lovelace made an M.A. degree here. Thomas de Quincey choose this college because of reduced income. He led an isolated life here. When his brother disappeared he took opium and

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<sup>5</sup> Eagle, Dorothy, 1992, p. 216

wrote about his feelings and dreams. The book is called *Suprisia de Profundis*, it is a collection of short essays in psychological fantasy. It can be termed prose poetry.

## **5. Student's life in works of English writers**

This chapter focuses on selected works of writers who have a relationship with the University of Oxford. Specifically, there is a work that tells stories of student life at the university. Chapter contains the work of poets, playwrights and prose-writers with short authors description.

### **5.1. Dorothy Leigh Sayers (1893-1957)** (see Appendix 5a)

Dorothy Leigh Sayers was an English crime writer but she was also a poet, a playwright an essayist and a translator.

She was born on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1893 in Oxford as the only child of the headmaster Henry Sayers. She studied at Godolphin School and then at Somerville College in Oxford At Somerville she studied modern languages and medieval literature.

Her first novel *Whose Body* was published in 1923. This novel introduced eccentric and elegant Lord Peter Wimsey who is an archetype for the British gentleman detective. He is an admirer of rare books and a war hero. In some stories the main character is a merchant Montague Egg. Her style is sophisticated and her classic education is visible in her works. She vividly captured the atmosphere of British society between the wars (unemployment, class differences, morality).

In her most famous novel, *Murder Must Advertise*, she exploited her knowledge from working in an advertising agency. She translated *Inferno* and *Purgatorio* of Dante's *Divine Comedy*. She also wrote theological plays, essays and lectures for example *Creed or Chaos*.

Her most famous works are: *Whose Body?*, *Murder Must Advertise*, *Unnatural Death*, *The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club*, *Strong Poison*, *The Five Red Herrings* and *The Nine Taylors*.

### **5.1.1 *Gaudy Night* (1935)** (see Appendix 5b)

*Gaudy Night* is a mystery novel which takes place at Oxford university. Harriet Vane comes back to University for a dinner. She is surprisingly warmly welcomed with university teachers and she also meets her old love there. Later she receives a message from Warden of Shrewsbury where he asks her for help. The university is faced to problems with anonymous letters, vandalism and threats which probably comes from someone from the school. Harriet unwillingly agrees to help because in the past she also had problems with this kind of letters. She stays in the school for the following months pretending to make a research on Sheridan Le Fanu and helps a senior scholar with her book.

She tries to narrow down the list of suspected people. Harriet has to examine her ambivalent feelings about marriage and love. She has to reassess her relationship with Wimsey because of new things which she discovered about herself. Wimsey comes to Oxford to help her and Harriete gets new attitude about him mainly because of his nephew who is a student in this college.

Attacks are increasing and the college is full of fear. Many students are almost driven to suicide and there is also a physical assault on Harriet that almost kills her. Wimsey finally reveal a criminal who is one of the college servant, a widow. The widow had a husband who worked at this college but was fired by one of his fellow dons. He was unable to cope with the destruction of his career and committed suicide.

The book finishes with Wimsey proposal of marriage and Harriete accepts it finally.

Q.D. Leavis, an academic critic published his criticism about *Gaudy Night* and *Busman's Honeymoon* (sequel of detective stories) He wrote that

*"Sayers' fiction is 'popular and romantic while pretending to realism.' Leavis argues that Sayers presents academic life as 'sound and sincere because it is scholarly', a place of 'invulnerable standards of taste charging the charmed atmosphere'. But, Leavis says, this is unrealistic: 'If such a world ever existed, and I should be surprised to hear as much, it does no longer, and to give substance to a lie or to perpetrate a dead myth is to do no one any service really.' Leavis suggests that 'people in the academic world who earn their livings by scholarly specialties are not as a general thing wiser, better, finer, decenter or in any way more estimable than those of the same social class outside', but that Sayers is popular among educated readers because 'the accepted*

*pretence is that things are as Miss Sayers relates." Leavis comments that "only best-seller novelists could have such illusions about human nature". "*<sup>6</sup>

Oxford in this novel is pictured as a place which is faced to problems. Harriet is returning here to help teachers and students. It is a place which is close to her heart, she met her love there and is getting to know more facts which help her to fulfill the love. It must be a magical place for Harriet.

## **5.2 Max Beerbohm (1872-1956)** (see Appendix 6a)

Henry Maximilian Beerbohm was an essayist, a parodist and a caricaturist. He was called Max because this was his signature for his drawings.

Beerbohm was a student at Charterhouse Scholl and Merton College in Oxford. He was not an enthusiastic student but he was well known in Oxford social circle. He made articles and caricatures and sent them to London publications. Beerbohm left Oxford without a degree. One year later after he left Oxford he went to America where he worked as a secretary and spent there several months. When he returned back to England he published his first book, *The Works of Max Beerbohm* which was a collection of essays. Then he published *The Happy Hypocrite*, his first fiction. In 1910 he moved to Italy with his wife and lived there for the rest of their lives except for the World War I and World War II duration, for that time they lived in Britain again. He never learned Italian language.

His best known works are *The Happy Hypocrite* (1897), *A Christmas Garland* (1912), *Seven Men* (1919) and his only novel *Zuleika Dobson* (1911)

### **5.2.1 Zuleika Dobson (1911)** (see Appendix 6b)

The full title of this novel is *Zuleika Dobson, or, an Oxford love story*. This is a novel by Max Beerbohm and it is a satire of student life at Oxford.

Zuleika Dobson is a very attractive bewitching young woman. She wants to manage to gain entrance to all-male domain of Oxford University when she visits her grandfather who is a warden of Judas College (Judas College is based on Merton College in Oxford where Beerbohm studied). The Oxford undergraduates fall in love but she can love only

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<sup>6</sup> Absolute astronomy

a man who is impervious to her charms. When she rejects her suitors they commit suicide. In novel there is a line : "*Death cancels all engagements*"<sup>7</sup>

A rich young English aristocrat, the Duke of Dorset, falls in love to Zuleika. He believes he will not commit a suicide because Zuleika pours a water on his head to cancel this curse. But he does it anyway and throws himself in the river.

Zuleika thinks that she could love Noaks, a coward student, because obviously he does not love her. However he also commits suicide by jumping out the window and the reason is that he thinks Katie Batch is not in love to him. Katie Batch is a sister of the Duke of Dorset and tells Zuleika that Duke of Dorset committed suicide because of the respect to traditions not for love to Zuleika.

Zuleika wants to find a man to who she can love so she takes a train to Cambridge. She makes money there as a magicians.

Meanwhile the University's academic staff hardly notice that lots of their students have vanished.

Zuleika Dobson, young woman with supernatural power is a character of magic realism. It is a satire of student's life. Beerbohm was not an enthusiastic student but on the other side he was very popular in social circle and this might be the reason why Zuleika Dobson with this plot was written. Undoubtedly Beerbohm was influenced by the place where he was educated, Oxford.

### **5.3 Matthew Arnold (1822-1888)** (see Appendix 7a)

Matthew Arnold was born on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1822. He was the oldest son of Thomas Arnold who was a rector of Rugby School. He studied at his father's gymnasium then he received a scholarship on Balliol College.

He was a poet, a cultural critic and he also was a school inspectors. He is one of the great Victorian poets. He did not join the Oxford Movement but admired personality of John Henry Newman.

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<sup>7</sup> Maxx Beerbohm, 2006, p. 76

He published his first volume of poems, *The Strayed Reveller*, in 1849. In 1852 Arnold published anonymously his second book of poetry, *Empedocles on Etna, and Other Poems*. Then he published *Poems: A New Edition*. Arnold won a Newdigate Prize with his poem *Cromwell*. He wrote a letter to his mother which says:

"My poems represent, on the whole, the main movement of mind over the last quarter of a century, and thus they will probably have their day as people become conscious to themselves of what that movement of mind is, and interested in the literary productions which reflect it. It might be fairly urged that I have less practical sentiment than Tennyson, and less intellectual vigour and abundance than Browning; yet, because I have perhaps more of a fusion of the two than either of them, and have more regularly applied that fusion to the main line of modern development, I am likely enough to have my turn, as they have had theirs."<sup>8</sup>

In 1857 he became a Professor of Poetry at Oxford University and had this status for ten years. He preferred to have lectures in English rather than in Latin.

His works include: *Poems*; *Poems, Second Series*; *Merope*; *Lectures on Translating Homer*; *Last Words on Translating Homer*; *Essays on Criticism*; *New Poems*; *Literature and Dogma*; *Last Essays on Church and Religion*; *The Church of England*.

### **5.3.1 The Scholar-Gipsy (1853)** (see Appendix 7b)

This poem is often called as the most important poem of Matthew Arnold. It is based on an old legend *The Vanity of Dogmatizing* by Glanvill. The story is about poor student from Oxford who leaves his studies and joins a gipsies band. The reason might be that he is tired of monotonous life. He got familiar with them so much that they revealed many secrets of their trade. After some time he was discovered by two of his former classmates from Oxford. He taught them that gipsies use the traditional way of thinking and they can do wonders only by the power of imagination.

When he learns everything what gipsies can teach him he tells them he wants to leave and teach the whole world their secrets.

The Scholar-Gipsy is written in pastoral mode with the description of beauties of countryside where there is Oxford in distance. The root of Glanvill story is repeated. But Arnold extended this story with a message that the scholar gipsy was occasionally

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<sup>8</sup> About.com



seen around Oxford. He portraits him as a shadow which can be seen even in the Berkshire and Oxfordshire. He claims he saw him once. The reason might be that if anyone dies without completing their work the soul of the person can appears on the Earth in any form.

Anonymous critic says about this poem that

*"It is a critique of the era in which Arnold criticizes the Victorian's distracted immersion into the 'Active Life', where business and work are the most focused absorptions of people's lives. To Arnold, the 'active life' is a distraction from the 'contemplative life', where one should reflect on their inner self through a quest of learning and experiencing the world's natural beauty and wonder to better this ideal 'sweetness and light' and find "the spark of heaven" (one's ultimate meaning in life; their significance). This is the overall message relayed in "The Scholar Gypsy.""*<sup>9</sup>

In this poem Oxford is shown fairly passim. It can not offer anything to students only monotonous life. The most important education according this poem is "school of life". But on the other side in the poem there is a description of beauties of Oxfordshire countryside.

#### **5.4 Brandon Thomas (1850-1914)**

Walter Brandon Thomas was an actor, a song writer and a playwright. He was born in Liverpool in 1850. He worked as a clerk but then he began performing in music halls, he was playing piano and singing his own songs there. He continued acting for many years when he joined the company of Mr. and Mrs. Kendal.

He cooperated on a critical comedy *Camrades* with B.C.Stephenson. In 1885 he travelled in the United States with the Rosina Vokes company. His first huge London success was in *Sweet Lavender* by Arthur Wing Pinero. He wrote several popular song but he was also a playwright, his works are for example *The Color Sergeant*, *The Lodgers*, *A Highland Legacy*, *The Gold Craze*, *Marriage*, *The Swordman's Daughter*.

His most popular work is a comic play *Charley's Aunt* which has a premiere at the Theatre Royal on 29<sup>th</sup> February 1892. Brandon Thomas also had a role there, he played Sir Francis Chesney.

Brandon Thomas died in London and he is buried there.

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<sup>9</sup> Ellite Skills Classics

#### **5.4.1 *Charley's Aunt*** (see Appendix 8)

It is a comic play which was produced in 1892 for the first time and which is still performed.

The one of the main character is Charley Wykeham who is an undergraduate of St. Olde's College, Oxford. He expects a visit of his aunt, Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez. She was born in England and presently living in Brazil where she got married old wealthy man. She supported Charley on the college but Charley has never seen her before.

Charley also invites his girlfriend Amy Spettigue, her friend Kitty Verdun with his boyfriend who is also Charley's friend, Jack Chesney. Charley and Jack decide that they will invite Lord Fancourt Babberley, called Babbs, as well. He is a jolly undergraduate and their friend.

The girls arrive but when they find that aunt has not appear yet, they leave but they promise to come back soon. A surprise visitor is Colonel Sir Francis Chesney, Jack's father who is a soldier and returned from India. He tells Jack that they are in financial crises which means limited funds for next several years. Jack got an idea, if his father married Charley's rich aunt it would help them with their financial situation. So he decides to invite him as well.

They receive a telegram saying that aunt has to come later in several days. Girls are already on their way and boys do not know what to do. Then the idea comes. Babbs will pretend being the aunt, Victorian old lady in a long black-satin dress. He really enjoys his role.

Amy's uncle arrives, Babbs who is playing the aunt tries to get rid of him. Colonel Francis comes but unfortunately he is not attracted by odd-looking women however as a gentleman pretends an interest. When Amy's uncle finds out that this lady is very rich person he becomes an ardent and rival suitor.

But the crisis occurs – Donna Lucia comes accompanied by Ela Delahay, Babbs's lost dream girl, who Donna formally adopted. When they arrives to Jack's room there is only Sir Francis. Donna recognizes him, he is a man to whom she was deeply in love in past. Sir Francis tells her that his son is entertaining Charley's aunt, Donna Lucia. She

decides to pretend being someone else to get know better his nephew and also Sir Francis. Donna meets Babbs who pretends being Donna, she tortures him with lots of questions about her dead husband whom she claims to remember well. There is Ela also and she thinks she recognizes the voice.

Spettigue wants to married Babbs, he thinks he is a rich woman. Babbs agrees if Spettigue will permit the girls to marry the men of their choice. Donna Lucia, meanwhile, has tested Sir Francis who says being willing to give up the rich aunt to live with her. But Charley does not want to win Amy by fraud, he reveals the truth. Donna Lucia also reveals her identity. All the lovers are united.

It s a comic play with a grateful topic – man who is dressed like a woman. This play is still very popular and it is still performed not only in England. Oxford here is not so important it is only mentioned as a school where Charley is educated.

### **5.5 Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)** (see Appendix 9a)

Thomas Hardy was an English novelist, a poet and a short story writer. He was born in Dorsetshire on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1840. He worked in London and Dorsetshire as an architect. He was educated at King's College, London. He won prizes for architecture from the Royal Institute of British Architects. Hardy began his writing career as a novelist when he published *Desperate Remedies* (1871). He became very successful so he left the architecture for writing. His novels *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891) and *Jude the Obscure* (1895) were criticized for being preoccupied with sex and too pessimism. But these novels are considered as a literary classics nowadays. He also published eight collection of poetry including *Wessex Poems* (1898) and *Satires of Circumstance* (1912). His first poetry was published in his fifties and it had significant influence over modern English poetry, especially after Movement (1950s and 1960s) Hardy was cited as a major figure.

His first novel *The Poor Man and the Lady* (1867) was not published because Hardy did not find any publisher so he destroyed the manuscript and only some parts of the novel remained. But he did not give up. He published *Desperate Remedies* (1871) anonymously and *Under the Greenwood Tree* (1872). *A Pair of Blue Eyes* (1873) was

first novel which was published under his own name. He became a celebrity in English literature by 1900s with some of his highly successful novels.

Hardy died on 11 January 1928 and on his deathbed he dictated his final poem to his wife. His funeral was in Westminster Abbey and is buried in the abbey's famous Poet's corner.

After Hardy's death executors of his estate burnt his notebooks and letters. Only twelve records survived. Research into these records provided insight into how Hardy kept track of them and how he used them in his later work. In the year of his death he published *The Early Life of Thomas Hardy, 1841–1891: compiled largely from contemporary notes, letters, diaries, and biographical memoranda, as well as from oral information in conversations extending over many years.*

Thomas Hardy was admired by many authors including Virginia Woolf and D.H.Lawrence.

### **5.5.1 *Jude the Obscure* (1895)**(see Appendix 9b)

*Jude the Obscure* is the last Hardy's novel which began as a magazine serial and has been adapted into two major feature films. It is a story about Jude Fawley who dreams about going to university of Christminster (Christminster is a fictional university town which is based on Oxford). Jude was raised by working-class in poverty and is led to work as a stonemason. He is inspired by Richard Phillotson, a schoolmaster who left Christminster when Jude was a child. However Jude falls in love with Arabella, marries her and cannot leave his home village. However they are not happy in the marriage and Arabella moves to Australia and Jude decides to go to Christminster finally.

Jude meets Sue Bridehead who is his cousin. He really likes her but tries not to fall in love with her. He wants to keep her in Christminster and finds her a job. He arranges for her to work with Phillotson and is very disappointed when he finds out that they got engaged. They get married but Sue is not happy in that relationship and leaves her husband to be with Jude.

Jude and Sue got divorced but Sue does not want to get married again. Jude gets to know soon that he has a son with Arabella in Australia. Jude and Sue decide to raise him in England and also have two more children on their own. Jude is sick and when he recovers he decides to go back to Christminster with his family. They have problem with finding an accommodation because they are not married. Jude has to stay in different room than Sue and their children.

Sue takes a son to look for some other accommodation and he decides that it would be easy for them to live without so many children. The next day Sue is having breakfast with Jude and when she returns to her room she finds that Jude's son has hanged the other two children and himself too. She considers that as a God punishment for the relationship with Jude so he leaves him and starts to live with Phillotson again. Jude dies soon after.

Christminster (Oxford) is one of the most important object in this story. Jude first failure, to get on university, seems to be not so important as the novel progress. But his obsession with Christminster lasts. Christminster is the place where Jude meets Sue for the first time. The tragedy that dominates the book happens in Christminster and there is Jude's final moments and death also. It acts upon Jude, Sue, and their family as a representation of the no available and dangerous things to which Jude aspires.

## 6. Conclusion

In the first part of this paper the reader was informed about the term regionalism. How place where artist lives can influence them. There was also an explanation that home should not be only a place where they live at present but it is a place which is close to the reader's heart. The aim of this paper is to prove the poetics of place in Oxfordshire, the place which was a home for many artists, where many artists were educated or a place which simply artists love. It is no wonder; Oxfordshire is a county with beautiful countryside and rich history which is described in the third chapter.

This paper is focused on writers who lived in Oxfordshire, studied there or wrote about this place. Settlements and books which were written in or about Oxfordshire are described in third chapter with the brief descriptions of the authors. The Oxford University has the biggest influence on writers, because many of famous authors studied there and there was much written about this place. The Oxford University and its colleges are described in detail.

The purpose of this paper is to show how place can influence artist in their work. In last chapter there are 5 works written by different authors with the same topic analyzed. The topic is a student's life at Oxford University. Poems, plays and novels are represented there.

Dorothy Leigh Sayers in her novel *Gaudy Night* pictured Oxford as a place which is close to her heart, it is the place where she met her love and after some time when she returned back to Oxford her love is finally fulfilled. Max Beerbohm in his novel *Zuleika Dobson* showed Oxford in a point of social view, as a place where is easy to fall in love. On the other side Matthew Arnold and his novel *The Scholar-Gipsy* pictured Oxford as a boring place which can offer to people only monotonic life with no adventure. Brandon Thomas was not educated at Oxford and did not described any close feeling to this place. This city is in his work only mentioned as a place where the main character is educated. On the contrary Thomas Hardy who did not study at Oxford either pictured this place as the most important object in his story. It was a dreamed place where the main character wanted to study, place where he met his love, but also a place which was fated with a huge tragedy.

The analysis is the prove of statement which was described at the beginning of paper. Statement, that artists could be connect to their environment and it can influence them in their work. And this is what is called the poetics of place.

## 7. Resumé

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá problematikou regionalismu v literatuře v Oxfordském hrabství. V první části je představen pojem poetika místa. Druhá část představuje hrabství Oxford jak z geografického tak z historického hlediska. Hrabství Oxford je zde rozděleno na města, která se zde nacházejí a detailně rozebrán z literárního hlediska. Dále je podrobně popsáno město Oxford, s velkým důrazem na tamější univerzitu. Poslední kapitola hodnotí vybraná díla z pohledu regionalismu. V závěru práce jsou díla analyzována.

Každé místo má svoji určitou poetiku, může to být místo, kde umělec vyrůstal, místo kde studoval, ale třeba i místo které navštívil pouze jednou. Každé toto místo může člověk svým způsobem vnímat jako domov. Domov ale neznamena nějakou skutečnost, třeba přírodu bez lidí. Je to vždycky skutečnost lidí a jejich děl. Domov je zcela konkrétní a našemu srdci nejbližší část celku, je to rodná země a národní společenství, je to jazyk, kterým mluvíme, ale je to také vědomí hodnot, které uznáváme. Místo umělce inspiruje, ale umělec dává místu ve svých dílech život.

V druhé kapitole této práce je představeno hrabství Oxford, na jedné straně živé studentské město Oxford, na straně druhé klidný anglický venkov. Hrabství Oxford dokáže nabídnout od každého něco. Jeho historie také stojí za zmínku. V minulosti se jednalo a velmi strategické saské město hlavně z důvodu jeho polohy. Důležitost Oxfordu vzrostla když anglo-normané byli vyhnáni z Evropy, počet studentů na univerzitě tehdy dramaticky stoupl. Oxford je také průmyslovým městem, V roce 1790 byl propojen s průmyslovým hrabstvím střední Anglie. William Morris zde způsobil průmyslový boom, když v roce 1912 začala jeho firma vyrábět auta.

Abingdon je rodné město Edwarda Moora a také Dorothy Miller Richardsonové. Žil zde pár měsíců také John Ruskin. Burford bylo významné město pro Johna Wilmonta, který zde studoval a také pro C.E. Montague, který zde žil. Ve Farringdonu zase bydlel Henry James Pye a ve stejném domě o několik let později i Lord Berners. Městečko Woodstock bylo zmíněno již v knize Domesday Book a také o něm byla napsána kniha s názvem Woodstock.



Oxford je nejdůležitější město v celém hrabství, je to hlavní centrum vzdělávání, obchodu, kultury a zdravotní péče v jihovýchodní Anglii. Je také považováno za symbol inspirace jak průmyslu, tak i umění. Jeho dědictví a kulturní život bylo oceněno statusem Město kultury v roce 2008. Poprvé byl Oxford zmíněn již v Aglo-saské kronice v roce 911. Město se často stávalo centrem klíčových národních událostí.

Univerzita v Oxfordu je jedna z nejznámějších univerzit v celé Anglii, která reprezentuje intelektuální a literární život. V roce 1877 zde začaly vznikat první ženské koleje. V té době začala univerzita s výukou anglické literatury a tím změnila národní tradice a její kulturu. Seznam básníků, kteří zde studovali je velmi dlouhý a obsahuje jména jako Shelley, Arthur Hugh Clough, Gerard Manley Hopkins, William Morris, Algernon Charles Swinburne, Oscar Wilde, Robert Bridges and Edward Thomas. Seznam prozaiků obsahuje jména J.A. Froude, John Ruskin, Walter Pater and Mark Pattison.

Univerzita byla rozdělena na 38 kolejí, kde každá kolej má svoji vlastní interní strukturu a svoje vlastní aktivity. Zajišťuje studentům sociální, kulturní a rekreační aktivity. Téměř na každé koleji studovala nějaká známá osobnost. Například na All Soul's College to byl T.E. Lawrence, na koleji Balliol zase John Evelyn nebo J.A. Symond. Brasenose College se může chlubit jmény jako H.H.Milman či Barnabe Barnes.

Na koleji, která se nazývá Christ Church studoval Richard Corbett a také Charles Dodgson, který zde napsal velmi populární knihu – Alenka v říši divů. Exeter College je nejstarší kolejí v Oxfordu a byla domovem pro J. R. R. Tolkiena a Alfreda Noyesa. Hertford College inspirovala Evelyn Waughovou, která použila mnohé z Oxfordských výjevů v jejím díle. Lincoln College zase ovlivnila Rhodu Broughtonovou, která se ve svém díle Belinda při vytváření hlavní postavy inspirovala u oxfordského učitele. Magdallen College se může chlubit jmény jako je Oscar Wilde, A. D. Godley či C.S.Lewis. Merton College byla znázorněna v díle svého studenta Louis MacNeice. Na Oriel College studoval Thomas Hughes a Matthew Arnold. The Queen's College byla domovem pro Edmunda Blundena, který se pak stal profesorem poezie. Somerville college byla první kolej pro ženy, kde studovala například Dorothy L. Sayersová nebo Vera Brittainová. Na University College studoval Edwin Arnold, je zde dokonce i pohřben. Wadham College měla studenty jako C. Day-Lewis či Francis Kilvert.

Spousta úspěšných autorů studovala na Oxfordské univerzitě, velkou většinu z nich život v Oxfordu poznamenal a oni ho zmiňovali ve svých dílech. Některá z jejich děl jsou v poslední kapitole rozebrány. Jedná se konkrétně o díla, která popisovaly studentský život na Oxfordské univerzitě.

Dorothy Leigh Sayersová je autorkou detektivek, ale také básnířka, překladatelka a dramatička. Její novela *Gaudy Night* se odehrává na Oxfordské univerzitě, kam se hlavní hrdinka Herriet vrací, aby pomohla vyřešit záhadu anonymních obtěžujících dopisů. V jejím pátrání ji pomáhá detektiv Wemsey, který byl její láska, když ještě studovala na univerzitě. Spolu vyřeší podivný případ a příběh končí jejich zasnoubením. Oxford je zde znázorněno jako místo, které čelí problémům, ale také jako místo, které Herriet přirostlo k srdci.

Max Beerbohm byl esejista, parodista a karikaturista. V jeho díle *Zuleika Dobson* je hlavní hrdinka znázorněna jako magická žena se schopností okouzlit každého muže, každý muž se do ní okamžitě zamilovává. Naneštěstí zamilovaní muži ve svém zoufalství páchali sebevraždy. Zuleika toužila po lásce, ale mohla se zamilovat pouze do muže, který jí nebude posedlý. Beerbohm vytvořil satiru na studentský život, kde mu hlavní inspirací byla jeho škola, Merton College.

Matthew Arnold, básník a kulturní kritik publikoval báseň *The Scholar-Gipsy*. Báseň, která je založena na neochotě dále studovat na univerzitě a vést nudný a monotónní život. Proto se hlavní představitel vydává do světa, kde se potká se skupinou romů, kteří ho učí o jejich vlastních pravidlech a o tajemství jejich obchodu. V této básni jsou znázorněny přírodní krásy Oxfordu.

Brandon Thomas, herec, písničkář a dramatik napsal drama *Charley's Aunt*. Humoristické drama o studentovi, který očekává návštěvu své bohaté tetičky. Na návštěvu pozval i své kamarády, chce totiž pořádat tetu o svolení vzít si jeho přítelkyni. Tetička má ale zpoždění. Charley řeší tento problém tak, že nechá svého kamaráda, aby se převlékl a předstíral, že je bohatá tetička z Brazílie. Veselý příběh končí šťastně. Oxford je zde zmíněno pouze jako město, kde Charley studuje.

Thomas Hardy byl anglický básník a romanopisec. Napsal román, který byl několikrát zfilmován, *Jude the Obscure*. Jedná se o příběh, kdy mladý muž Jude touží studovat na škole v Christminsteru (místo, které je založené na Oxfordské univerzitě), jeho finanční možnosti mu to ale bohužel nedovolují. Ožení se tedy, jenže v manželství není šťastný a tak přece jenom odchází do Christminsteru, kde potká svoji velkou lásku Sue. Se Sue mají děti, kteří ale tragicky zahynou. Pokládají to jako trest od Boha. Christminster (Oxford) je zde znázorněn jako nejdůležitější část příběhu.

Dorothy Leigh Sayersová popsala Oxford jako místo, který je velmi blízké jejímu srdci, místo, kde poznala svou lásku a když se na místo opět vrací, tak je její láska konečně naplněna. Max Beerbohm ve svém díle ukázal, že Oxford je místo společenského dění, místo kde je lehké se zamilovat. Matthew Arnold popsal Oxford jako nudné místo, kde se nedá zažít žádné dobrodružství, ale přírodní krásy Oxfordu jsou v jeho díle zmíněny. Brandon Thomas, možná proto, že v Oxfordu nestudoval, popsal toto místo bez nějakých zvláštních citů, pouze jako místo, kde hlavní hrdina studuje. Na druhou stranu ani Thomas Hardy zde nestudoval a v jeho díle je Oxford zachyceno jako nejdůležitější část celého příběhu. Vysněné místo hlavního hrdiny, místo, kde se zamiluje, ale také místo, kde dojde k té velké tragédii.

Analýza dokazuje to, co bylo řečeno již na začátku této práce, to že umělci můžou být úzce spjati se svým okolím a může je zásadně ovlivnit v jejich práci. A to je to co nazýváme poetikou místa.

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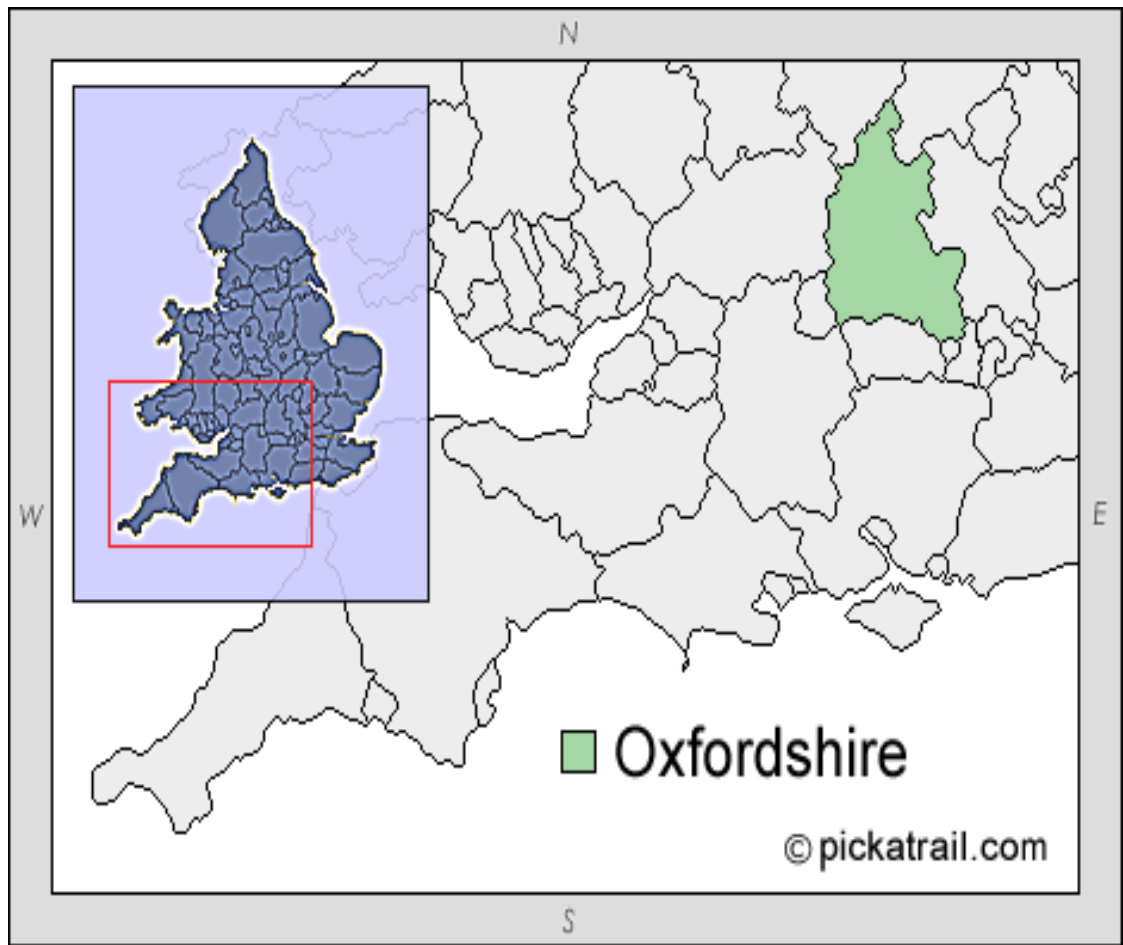
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## **9. Appendices**



Appendix 1

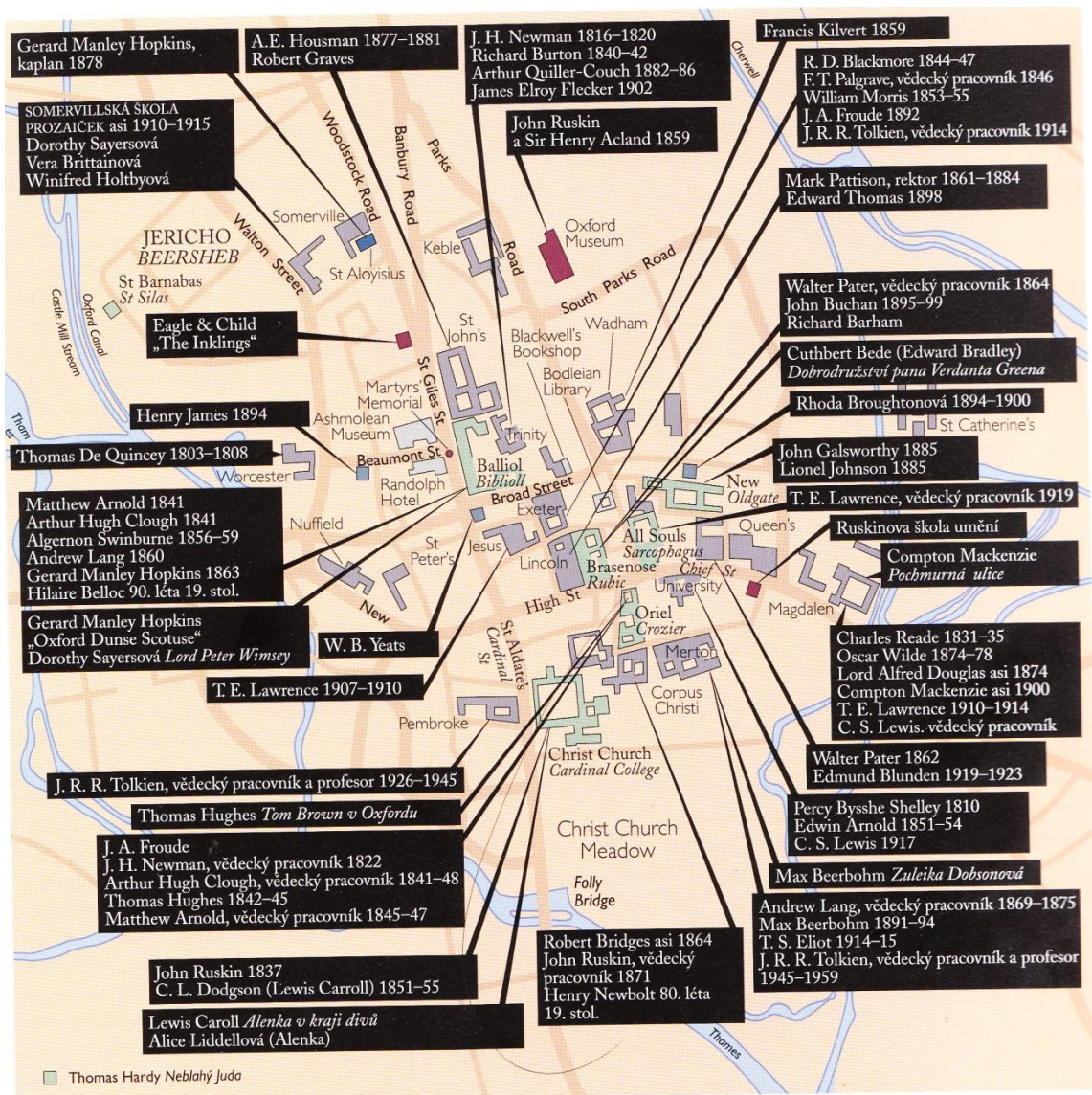




Appendix 2



Appendix 3

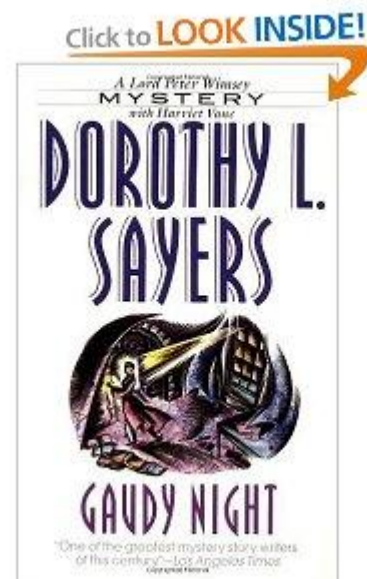


Appendix 4

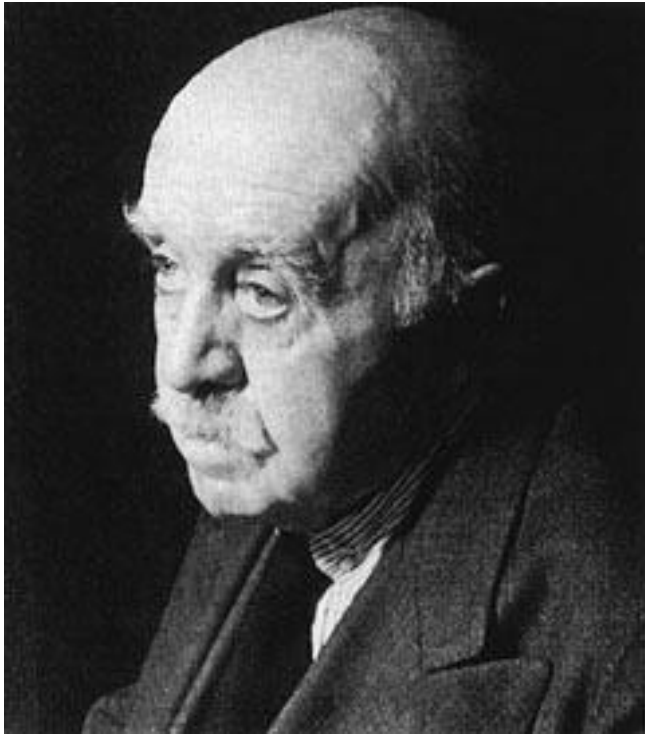




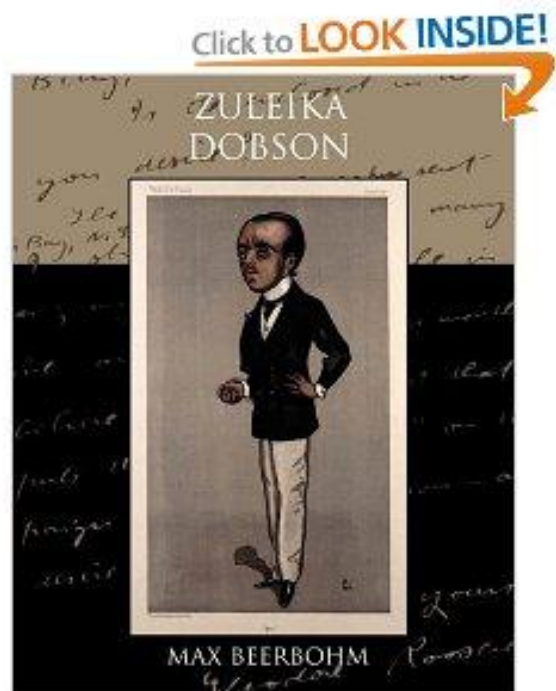
Appendix 5a



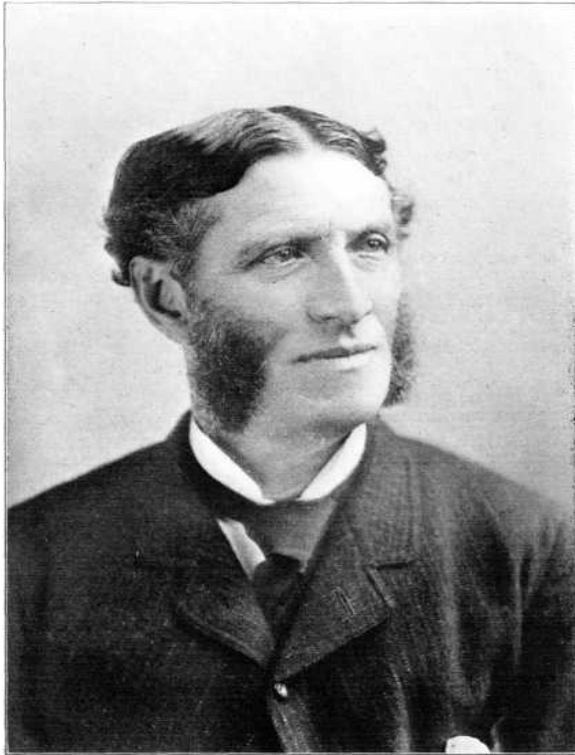
Appendix 5b



Appendix 6a



Appendix 6b



Appendix 7a

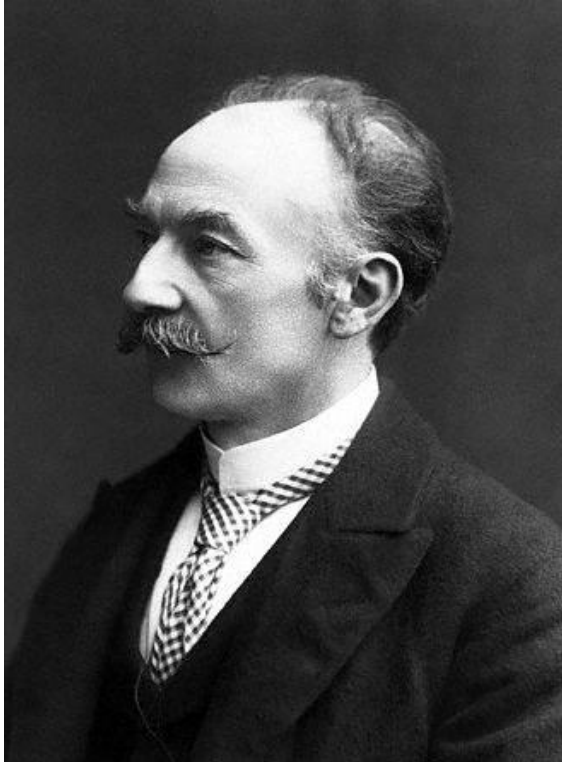
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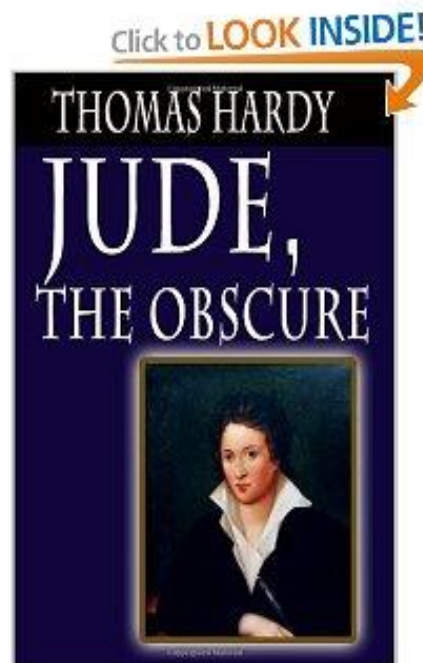
Appendix 7b



Appendix 8



Appendix 9a



Appendix 9b



