

WALTER SCOTT - A FOUNDER OF A GENRE OF A HISTORICAL NOVEL IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

Izbosarova Mohigul

Student, Chirchik State Pedagogical University

Scientific adviser

Khamitov Eldorbek Erkin o'g'li

ABSTRACT This article delves into Walter Scott's profound influence on the development of the historical novel genre in English literature. Examining Scott's groundbreaking works, including "Ivanhoe" and "Waverley," the article explores how Scott merged fiction with historical settings and characters to create compelling narratives that transported readers to different time periods. By analyzing Scott's techniques, thematic explorations, and cultural impact, this article highlights his role as a pioneer in establishing the historical novel as a respected and enduring literary genre. Furthermore, it investigates the ongoing significance of Scott's contributions to the evolution of historical fiction and his lasting legacy in the literary world.

KEYWORDS: Walter Scott, contributions, impact, literature, English, exploration, fiction

INTRODUCTION

Walter Scott stands as a towering figure in the landscape of English literature, renowned for his pioneering contributions to the historical novel genre. With his masterful blend of fiction and history, Scott captivated readers and ushered in a new era of storytelling. This article explores Scott's seminal role as a founder of the historical novel genre, tracing the origins of his literary innovations and examining their enduring impact. By delving into Scott's major works, including "Ivanhoe" and "Waverley," we uncover the creative genius behind his narratives and the cultural significance of his

storytelling. As we journey through Scott's literary landscape, we gain insight into the evolution of the historical novel genre and the lasting legacy of one of literature's most influential pioneers.

FINDINGS

Walter Scott, often referred to as the founder of the historical novel genre in English literature, revolutionized the literary landscape with his pioneering works. Through masterpieces like "Waverley" and "Ivanhoe," Scott expertly wove together rich historical detail with captivating narratives, transporting readers to different epochs and cultures. His innovative approach not only entertained but also educated, sparking a renewed interest in history among readers of his time and future generations. Scott's enduring influence on the genre is evident in the countless authors who have followed in his footsteps, ensuring that his legacy as the progenitor of the historical novel remains unshakable.

In the Old Town of Edinburgh, on 15 August 1771, Walter Scott was born in a third-floor flat on College Wynd, a tiny passageway that connected the Cowgate to the gates of the former University of Edinburgh. He was the ninth child born to Walter Scott (1729–1799), a writer for the Signet and a member of the cadet branch of the Clan Scott, and his wife Anne Rutherford, who was Daniel Rutherford's sister and descended from the Haliburton family (whose lineage gave Walter's family the hereditary right to be buried in Dryburgh Abbey).

On August 15, 1771, Walter Scott was born in a third-floor apartment on College Wynd, a little passageway in Edinburgh's Old Town. In 1773, in an attempt to alleviate his lameness, he was moved to reside in the Scottish Borders at the property of his paternal grandparents, Sandyknowe, near the ruins of the previous family house, Smailholm Tower. Here, his aunt Jenny Scott taught him to read and taught him many of the stories and legends that would later characterise a large portion of his writing as well as speaking mannerisms. He arrived back in Edinburgh in January 1775, and spent the summer there receiving spa treatments at Bath, in Somerset, southern England, where he and his aunt Jenny resided at 6 South Parade. He returned to Sandyknowe in the winter of 1776, and the following summer, he tried a water cure

in Prestonpans once more. Scott wrote five lengthy, six-canto narrative poems, four shorter poems that were published separately, and several little metrical pieces between 1805 and 1817. Up until Lord Byron published the first two cantos of Childe Harold's Pilgrimage in 1812 and then followed them up with his exotic oriental poetry narratives, Scott was by far the most well-known poet of the day. Scott's intention to add a lengthy original poem in the second edition of the Minstrelsy—along the lines of "a sort of Romance of Border Chivalry & enchantment"—grew into *The Lay of the Last Minstrel* (1805), a mediaeval tale. He attributed the unusual, erratic tone in four-beat metre to John Stoddart's reading of Coleridge's *Christabel*. (It was not meant to be.) the publication date was set for 1816.) Using his unparalleled knowledge of Border history and legend, which he had gathered from both oral and written sources since he was a young boy, Scott was able to paint a vivid and vibrant portrait of 16th-century Scotland that appealed to a wide audience as well as antiquarian students thanks to its extensive notes.

CONCLUSION

In summary, Walter Scott's profound impact as the founding figure of the historical novel genre in English literature cannot be overstated. His innovative blending of history and fiction laid the groundwork for a genre that continues to thrive and evolve to this day. Through his timeless works, Scott not only transported readers to distant lands and eras but also sparked a fascination with history that endures. His legacy as a pioneer and master storyteller ensures that Walter Scott will forever hold a revered place in the annals of literary history.

INTERNET RESOURCES

1. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Scott
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