Student’s Name

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Course

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The Renaissance Era of Literature

The Renaissance replaced gradually the Medieval Ages in the 14th century. It took its roots mainly in Italy and spread all over Europe. The Renaissance literature refers to all the others phenomena of this revival cultural movement. The Antique literature and Humanism inspired the philosophers and thinkers of those times. Though, the English Renaissance began in the 15th century, it thrived more intensely there.

Italian representatives enriched the literature generally in such genres as sonnet, poem and novel correspondingly the immortal poem of Dante *The Divine Comedy*, Petrarch’s *Canzoniere* and Boccaccio’s *Decameron*. (Hopkins and Steggle, 34)

Later on the English representatives were developing these genres: W. Shakespeare, the master of sonnet, Ph. Sidney, the Renaissance theoretician and writer, H. Surrey, T. Wyatt, E. Spencer and others. The authors of novels, romances, treatises and pamphlets were the already mentioned Ph. Sidney *An Apology for Poetry*, J. Lyly, R. Greene and, certainly, Geoffrey Chaucer with *The Canterbury Tales*. One more genre appeared in terms of prose. The name of the genre echoed the same title of *Utopia* by Thomas More. (Drabble, 56)

It is impossible to omit drama’s point here. W. Shakespeare is famous not only for his sonnets but also for his historical chronicles and for the innovations in drama. The works of Shakespeare embraced the tragedies, for instance, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet* and comedies, for instance, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Merchant of Venice* etc. Furthermore, the popular dramatist was Ben Johnson with his *Every Man in His Humour* and *Every Man out of His Humour*.

All in all, the Renaissance era of literature brought alterations into genre system and, moreover, made a foundation for the development of literary languages, namely English and Italian, as opposed to the vernacular. It was the powerful impulse for the literature to prosper.

Works Cited

Drabble, Margaret. *The Oxford Companion to English literature*.6th ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2006. Print.

Hopkins, Lisa and Steggle, Matthew. *Renaissance Literature and Culture.* New York, NY: Continuum, 2006. Web.