



Early Victorian Novelists

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"Early Victorian Novelists" is composed of critical essays written by Lord David Cecil, a well-read critic who also wrote a number of other books of critical essays. The essays discuss Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray, Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte, Mrs. Gaskell, Anthony Trollope, and George Eliot. Cecil makes a few comparisons between these writers and some of the modern British writers of his time, such as Virginia Woolf and Aldous Huxley, and notes differences in novel-writing then and now.

Early Victorian Novelists Details

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Jeffrey says

Cecil seems to have nothing really positive to say about six of the seven novelists - Dickens, Thackeray, Trollope, Charlotte Bronte, Gaskell and Eliot under discussion except they are all lacking real greatness - only Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights escapes the fire and is seen as the most remarkable and inventive novel of the period (Don't get me wrong - I love Wuthering Heights but it's not the only book from this period that I find remarkable!)but I am more interested in wondering of the issue isn't the context - he's writing in the 30s and perhaps wants to see the Victorians more critically as a result?

Ellen says

Lord David Cecil's very readable style makes it easy to read his critiques of five of the Victorian era's most popular novelists, including Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray, Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte, Mrs. Elizabeth Gaskell, Anthony Trollope, and George Eliot. Although the reader may disagree with Lord David in his assessment of some of the authors, the book is an entertaining and informative read that I think would appeal greatly to lovers of Victorian fiction. An excellent book!

Chris Ginkens says

These lectures were done in the 1930s. Literacy criticism can shed light or bring about new found interest in an author and a work. While he thinks Dickens is an awful writer, he acknowledges he's an excellent story teller. These are worth reading if you want to go to the next level on his subjects.
