The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism

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Contents

Notes on contributors ix

Introduction 1

1 Classical standards in the period
   PAUL H. FRY 7

2 Innovation and modernity
   ALFREDO DE PAZ (trans. Albert Sbragia) 29

3 The French Revolution
   DAVID SIMPSON 49

4 Transcendental philosophy and Romantic criticism
   DAVID SIMPSON 72

5 Nature
   HELMUT J. SCHNEIDER 92

6 Scientific models
   JOEL BLACK 115

7 Religion and literature
   E. S. SHAFFER 138

8 Language theory and the art of understanding
   KURT MUELLER-VOLLMER 162

9 The transformation of rhetoric
   DAVID WELBERY 185

10 Romantic irony
    GARY HANDWERK 203

11 Theories of genre
    TILOTTAMA RAJAN 226

12 Theory of the novel
    MARSHALL BROWN 250
List of contents

13  The impact of Shakespeare  272
    JONATHAN ARAC

14  The vocation of criticism and the crisis of the republic
    of letters  296
    JON KLANCHER

15  Women, gender and literary criticism  321
    THERESA M. KELLEY

16  Literary history and historicism  338
    DAVID PERKINS

17  Literature and the other arts  362
    HERBERT LINDBERGER

Bibliography  387
Index  448
Unlike previous histories, it is not just a chronological survey of critical writing, but a multidisciplinary investigation of how the understanding of literature and its various genres was transformed, at the start of the modern era, by developments in philosophy, psychology, the natural sciences, linguistics, and other disciplines, as well as in society at large. In the process, modern literary theory - at first often implicit in literary texts themselves - emancipated itself from classical poetics and rhetoric, and literary criticism emerged as a full-time professional activity catering for... This is a comprehensive 1997 account of the history of literary criticism in Britain and Europe between 1660 and 1800. The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press); V.I: Volume I: Classical Criticism, ed. George A. Kennedy (1997); V.III: Volume III: The Renaissance, ed. Glyn P. Norton (1999); V.IV: Volume IV: The Eighteenth Century, ed. is a specific historical construct. Hence, to look over the history of literary criticism, a journey we are about to undertake in this book, is not only to revisit some of the profoundest sources of our identity but also to renew our connections with some of the deepest resources of our present and future sustenance. Methodology of this Book. The methodology of this book rests on five basic principles.