
*The Cambridge History of
Literary Criticism*

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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 several basic principles.