

Margaret
Bent Page

This is far better than a
'rehash' of literature
Primer. It gives me so
much refreshment that

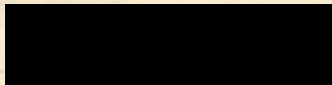
Royal Empire Society.

Mark it
by the shortcut
in the preliminary
LB

Essay Competition Class A.

Robert Rufus Daniell.

Born :



Hobart High School,

Hobart

Tasmania

Australia

Australian Literature

Scheme:

- of subject
- Paragraph I : Introductory, presenting obscurity
 - Paragraph II } : Reasons for this
 - Paragraph III } lack of knowledge.
 - Paragraph IV : Presenting the matter in Aust. Lit.
 - Paragraph V : Continuing the theory in the light of what has already been said. written.
 - Paragraph VI : Conclusion. Presenting prospects having explained the present neglect.



L. Baniwell

Australian Literature

A2.

The subject of this essay strikes a rather dissonant chord within my range of knowledge. This lack of knowledge upon the subject cannot be justifiably condemned, for I feel sure that upon questioning the average Australian ~~up~~ as to the existence of an Australian Literature he would be somewhat taken aback and humbly admit that he'd "never been asked such an awkward question" or else openly reveal that he "didn't know there was such a thing." Thus you would go on and probably become more and more amazed at each interview until at last you decide to question the Australian youth on the subject by a little competitive ~~competitory~~ essay titled as above. But I emphatically assure ^{you} that average Australian youth would be even more taken aback (the Australian adult being more accustomed to the trials of the world) and would grudgingly remark upon the taste of their teachers for essay subjects. ~~f~~ Thus I intend to write according to what I know and not what I can gather from books. I believe Australian Literature to be found in books in no small quantity if it is looked for, but as a general

L. Daniwell

Australian Literature.

A₂

file within the department of knowledge I say that it exists from ~~nothing~~ to a very restricted something.

Let us first examine the reason for this neglect upon the subject. If a nation has a language then it unquestionably has a literature derived from or utilising that language. We Australians speak the English tongue yet ~~the~~ and therefore should express ourselves in an English Literature, yet the title boldly announces an Australian Literature. Therefore over the years we English speaking people surely must have "climatised" ourselves ~~have~~ to the new conditions and surroundings here in Australia and gradually altered our former tongue, according to the conditions, and developed a specified new one. Remarkable indeed, yet it has happened — developing a new language, "new" to the extent that it can be distinguished, which is actually the same language. This inscrutable reasoning is the cause for the replies in the interviews in the first paragraph. We know an English Literature, yet an Australian Literature, the words of which ^{are} of the English language, is held in deep oblivion.

R. Barwell

Australian Literature

A2

The above logic is the first reason why Australian Literature is so obscure or unregistered as it is in our minds. The development of a new language must undoubtedly take time especially if that new language is made different yet the same as the original tongue. History tells us that Australia is a comparatively very young continent and coupling this fact with the latter we present a reasonable explanation for our lack of knowledge. It's not that we don't know that there must be a literature somewhere, it's ~~th~~ because that literature is so small and undeveloped.

Turning from the theory for a moment, let us next consider what there is of Australian Literature bearing in mind too that I am ^{writing} ~~talking~~ as an average Australian youth, unaided ~~for~~ ^{by} any foreign information. With such a new and romantic country I realise that there is at least plenty of scope for this ^{late} ~~new~~ development. Australia, with its natural untouched ^{native} life, its mysteries and adventures, its conditions and trials of its burning hinterland, the pure throb of ^{its} cities, its encompassing vastness of ocean — like a drop of new life in

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an isolated expanse of water — is simply filled to overflowing with the romance that is so fundamental in all literature. Little wonder now that this new literature did develop, and that composers conformed to this, Australian literature would be made up of primarily, the beauty and grace of a new land and secondly, man's relationship with it. Here, a little actual knowledge on the subject on the part of the Australian youth tends to justify the above. On reading Holf Boldrewood's "Robbery Under Arms", we are presented with a most vivid picture of conditions and development, both good and bad, of the early pioneers in Australia. There is little doubt that the author's feelings coincided with the resultant of my logic for the whole narrative is a wild, romantic adventure in a completely wild, romantic land. Others that the Australian youth has patronised tell a similar story. Frank Clune's works, the stories of Lion Adriess, both present a new country, its hardships, conditions, and features, but above all, its the natural splendour of its rugged beauty. Here indeed is the writer's dream and here too was the beginning of an Australian literature.

L. B. B. B. B.

Australian Literature

Of poetry and verse there is still less, but the atmosphere is still the same. The writings too are not of a very high standard. The reason for this should not be overlooked. Australia, as has been said, is a new country. Therefore can we be wholly blamed for the late existence of our literature when for the last century we have been busy carving a home and establishing our cities, our industries, our trade, our race? Literature does not take its place with pioneering, especially the pioneering that has faced the early settlers of such wild, rugged country as ours. The fine ~~art~~ arts became a subsequent result that follows the establishment and foundations of a country, not a quality that opens ^{while} as the country is still unconquered. And Australia is still unconquered. The natural problem of its harsh climatic conditions presents a difficulty which concerns the whole world. Therefore can a country so entangled and hindered by ~~its~~ the irregularity and ruggedness in its physical features be expected to indulge in the finer arts of literary writings which call essentially for a serenity of peace? No! Australia's literature must wait and let her establishment move on.

L. Boninell

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Returning to the matter in the first paragraph I repeat that Australian literature is practically non-existent. What we do know and what can be learnt on the subject is only the beginning of a unique new literature. After having conquered such a stubborn country we will feel that we have done something great and this greatness in controlling this rugged, beautiful splendour will be reflected to the same extent of greatness in our literature. For at the moment Australian literature is practically unborn but with completion in controlling a natural physical problem, Australia's literature will develop to an unlimited range of fine quality.

Bibliographical Information :

None.

