

THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN WRITERS TO MODERN ENGLISH LITERATURE.

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Abstract: the article discusses the contribution of English writers, who were among the first to embody in their novels the idea of the possibility of self-realization of the heroine not only in the traditional sphere of the family, but also outside it, in particular, in public, professional, charitable and other spheres.

Key words: English writers, creativity, pseudonym, prose

Memoirs and rare examples of prose and poetry at the royal courts since Antiquity - that's all that women's literature could boast of. But with the advent of these brilliant talents, surpassing male contemporaries, the opinion of the "inability" of women in many areas was shaken.

The first successful female writers were among those who gave impetus to the desire to step out of the shadow of men, to break the stereotypes and outdated restrictions of narrow-minded conservatives.

The beginnings of the topic of gender equality, feminism, freedom of choice and personal development, regardless of gender or other unchanging circumstances - all this for the first time began to be discussed on a large scale since the reign of monotheism in religion, because in ancient times women, albeit infrequently, but had the opportunity to become successful and prove their worth in various "male" fields of activity (from poetry to science and politics).

It just so happened that it was always difficult for women to make their way. In past centuries, the sphere of activity of the fair sex was home, life, family and small crafts, such as sewing and embroidery. Classes in art and science were purely male, and the woman was given the opportunity to become a muse, an assistant, but not a creator. As Vera Pavlovna said in Chernyshevsky's novel *What Is to Be Done?*, women could only "be members of the family", "governesses" and "give some lessons."

Of course, in the past, outstanding women appeared who violated the prevailing stereotype, but this was something exceptional, scandalous, and sometimes even indecent. At the very least, society did not take a woman writer or doctor seriously. So George Sand put on a man's suit and changed her name. And well-wishers advised JK Rowling and the Brontë sisters to take male pseudonyms so that publishers would pay due attention to their work.

Some women still managed to make a name for themselves in the writing community. Hroswitha was one of the first writers. Gandersheimskaya is a 10th-century poetess and prose writer from Saxony. This talented nun wrote edifying comedies in Latin and became so famous for her works that the rumor about her reached Henry II of Bavaria, who not only appreciated her work, but ordered her a poem in which Gandersheim Abbey was sung - "The Beginnings of the Gandersheim Monastery".

If suddenly you are not familiar with Sei-Shonagon, you should get acquainted. This court lady lived in Japan around the same time as Hroswitha Gandersheim. She knew how to skillfully compose poetry and founded a special prose genre - *zuihitsu* (jap. "following the brush"). In *Notes at the Headboard*, she talks in detail about court life, ironically describes the aristocracy and its habits. Real courtly literature in Japanese.

Until the 19th century, there were very few famous women writers. But soon there appeared on the literary scene those whose names still immediately come to mind when the words "woman writer" are used: Jane Austen - the "First Lady" of English literature, sisters Brontë and Mary Shelley. With their success, these ladies clearly showed that not only men can be outstanding writers.

Literature is a reflection of the state of society, it changes with it. In the 20th century, we see many more women in all fields, including writing. Women's literature became more confident, they began to pay attention and appreciate it. In 1909 Selma Lagerlöf became the first woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. We come across her work even in childhood: it was she who wrote Niels' Wonderful Journey with Wild Geese. In 1955, in the USSR, the fairy tale was turned into a full-length cartoon "The Enchanted Boy".

Speaking of women in literature, one cannot help but recall two real "record holders" - Agatha Christie and Margaret Mitchell. The word "detective" brings to mind two names, one male and one female: Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie. It is difficult to imagine a more successful writer than Christie. The approximate circulation of her books is about 4 billion. The writer is in the top ten most published authors. In addition, Mrs. Christie's works are popular not only with readers, but also with theatergoers: for example, *The Mousetrap* has been running in London continuously since 1952! About the creative process, Agatha said that she thought about all her novels while knitting with friends, and when she sat down at the desk, the book was already completely ready in her head.

Margaret Mitchell did not leave such an extensive literary legacy as Agatha Christie, but the success of the novel "Gone with the Wind" is enormous. In 2014 Harris poll results Poll showed that Mitchell's novel is still the second most popular in the US after the Bible. And its adaptation - with Clark Gable and Vivien L and in the lead roles - entered the golden fund of world cinema and has long become a classic.

The writer always conveys his vision of the world in his works, and the more unusual this vision, the more memorable the narration turns out. And who certainly saw the world in his own way is Virginia Woolf - a bright personality of the era of modernism. Woolf was a member of the Bloomsbury Circle, which was famous for its freedom-loving morals and aspirations for artistic research. This greatly influenced her work. She created works that very accurately reflected not only the problems of society, but also showed them in a new way, as, for example, in the novel *Orlando*. This book is a sparkling parody of the genre of historical biographies so beloved by the public. There is no place for hypocrisy here, but irony and absurdity triumph.

Thus, it can be noted that in Victorian England, with its patriarchal society, a woman was perceived as an irrational creature, passive and capable mainly of housekeeping. The Victorian writers were the first women who declared their strong attitude to the formation of a new status of women not only in society but also in culture. Their works are the starting point, thanks to which the question of the role of women in society began to be raised.

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