T.S. Eliot: The Poet And His Critics

Robert H Canary

His mother, Charlotte Champe Stearns Eliot, was a school teacher and poet. She loved to dramatize those events from history, which reflected the struggles of men, dying for their faith. Later in life, she took part in social reforms, providing a house of detention for juveniles. Thomas was the youngest of his parents’ seven children, having five sisters and one brother. During his university years, he was greatly influenced by George Santayana, the philosopher and poet, and Irving Babbitt, the critic. Continuing to write, he made good impression by contributing regularly to Harvard Advocate. T.S. Eliot covered his undergraduate course in three years, instead of four years and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1909. Eliot’s study of the poetry of Dante, of the English writers John Webster and John Donne, and of the French Symbolist Jules Laforgue helped him to find his own style. From 1911 to 1914 he was back at Harvard, reading Indian philosophy and studying Sanskrit. Two other essays, first published the year after The Sacred Wood, almost complete the Eliot critical canon: “The Metaphysical Poets” and “Andrew Marvell,” published in Selected Essays, 1917–32 (1932). In these essays he effects a new historical perspective on the hierarchy of English poetry, putting at the top Donne and other Metaphysical poets of the 17th century and lowering poets of the 18th and 19th centuries. T. S. Eliot, Robert H. Canary, L. S. Dembo. https://doi.org/10.1086/391441. The Poet as Feigned Example in Sidney’s Apology for Poetry. Shifflett. Rajeev S. Patke, Postcolonial Poetry in English.
T.S. Eliot is considered one of the most important modernist poets. The content of his poem as well as his poetic style give elements of... Those critics argued that "While T. S. Eliot might be called a medieval modernist because of his admiration for the organic and spiritual community of the Middle Ages together with his "impersonal" conception of art, his elitist and formalist views isolate him from several of the central terms of the tradition as I have defined it."

In other words, some characteristics of Eliot's work exhibit medieval themes and style; at the same time, these works are also rooted in the modern orientation of literature. That is why some critics called him "medieval modernist." In the Greece of Pindar and Sophocles, in the England of Shakespeare, the poet lived in a current of ideas in the highest degree animating and nourishing to the creative power; society was, in the fullest measure, permeated by fresh thought, intelligent and alive; and this state of things is the true basis for the creative power's exercise, in this it finds.
Eliot once said that the poet must distort language in order to create his meaning. Of all the Western modernists, T. S. Eliot (1888–1965) has been the most pervasively influential through both his poetry and his literary criticism. Eliot was also indebted to later nineteenth-century French poets and particularly to Ezra Pound and the imagist movement. Pound assumed a broad range of critical roles: as poet-critic, he promoted his own work and the works of figures such as Frost, Joyce, and Eliot; he translated numerous texts from Anglo-Saxon, Latin, Greek, and Chinese; and, associating with various schools such as imagism and vorticism, he advocated a poetry which was concise, concrete, precise in expression of emotion, and appropriately. Get to know poet, playwright and critic T.S. Eliot, writer of 'The Waste Land' and one of the most influential poets of the 20th century, on Biography.com. For his lifetime of poetic innovation, Eliot won the Order of Merit and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948. Part of the ex-pat community of the 1920s, he spent most of his life in Europe, dying in London, England, in 1965. ADVERTISEMENT. read poems by this poet. Thomas Stearns Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 26, 1888. He lived in St. Louis during the first eighteen years of his life and attended Harvard University. As a poet, he transmuted his affinity for the English metaphysical poets of the seventeenth century (most notably John Donne) and the nineteenth century French symbolist poets (including Baudelaire and Laforgue) into radical innovations in poetic technique and subject matter. As a critic also, he had an enormous impact on contemporary literary taste, propounding views that, after his conversion to orthodox Christianity in the late thirties, were increasingly based in social and religious conservatism.
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orthodox Christianity in the late thirties, were increasingly based in social and religious conservatism. After a notoriously unhappy first
marriage, Eliot separated from his first wife in 1933, and remarried Valerie Fletcher in 1956. T. S. Eliot received the Nobel Prize for