<<英国文学史(第四册)>>

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内容概要

. Introduction、a. Historical Background: Political and Social、b. General Cultural Background、c. English Poetry: 1900-1940、d. English Drama: 1900-1940、e. English Prose Fiction: 1900-1940、f. English Prose (Essays and Biographies): 1900-1940、 . English Poetry: 1900-1920、a. Four Minor Poets at the Turn of the Century: Bridges, Masefield, Kipling, Housman、b. Gerard Manly Hopkins、c. Thomas Hardy和d. Georgian Poets and Poetry of World War I and Imagism in England等等。

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章节摘录

Act IV has to do entirely with the Madras family, or rather with the strained relations between old Mrs. Madras and Jessica, bet-ween Constantine and his deserted wife, between Constantine and Philip, and finally between Philip and Jessica. Constantine is iden-tified as the man responsible for Miss Yates pregnancy, and he is leaving forhis home in the East, while Philip denying inheritance from Constantine and refusing the offer of directorship from Mr.State needs to reduce his expenses at home and to readjust his rela-tions with Jessiea. The final episode of tete-a-tete between Philip and Jessica to which "there is no end" according to the dramatist, sounds like a bit of a comedy of manners, or a high comedy but really it isnt -its just a unique bit of the dramatists fun.

The four acts are described here in great detail chiefly to show the naturalistic bent of the play. Though Philip Madras appears in all four acts of the play, he does not really dominate in any of them,nor is the story chiefly concerned with the development of his char-aeter or career. Roughly speaking the first act is chiefly about the Huxtables, the second act about the goings-on in the Madras House, the third about the sale of the House,.. and the fourth about the two generations of the Madras family. The chief incident - the sale of the Madras House- takes up less than five minutes at the conference table or less than one-tenth of the 3rd act. It is quite obvious, therefore, that the author means here to demonstrate "a slice of life" theory of drama that was prevalent on the Continental stage in the last lap of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, for here interesting details—such as the depiction of the six spin-sterish Misses Huxtable in Act I, Philip Madras patient attempts to resolve the scandals involving Miss Yates, Mr.—and Mrs. Brigstock and Miss Chancellor in Act II, and the pass-in-review of the Par-isian-fashion costume models, numero un to numero dix in Act III—are all fully represented with nothing left out, and these extran-eous details are given here not to further the plot nor to add to the portrayal of characters, but simply for their own sake.

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