The Victorian Gentleman Dandified: Aspects of Dandyism in Charles Dickens' Bleak House and A Tale of Two Cities

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Subject(s): Literary Texts
Published by: TARTU ÜLIKOOLI KIRJASTUS

Summary/Abstract: The concept of masculinity as a cultural historical construction cannot be seen as monolithic but rather as a synthesis of various, often contradictory, aspects. Victorian masculinity is often identified with certain formations of the masculine, for example, muscular Christianity or bourgeois paternalism, which have contributed to the understanding of the concept of the Victorian gentleman. Such stereotypes dominated by Thomas Carlyle's ascetic heroism as the epitome of Victorian manhood are associated with a rather limited set of images. Yet the discussion of Victorian manhood only in terms of rigorous self-discipline, self-restraint and simple...
A Tale Of Two Cities. By Charles Dickens. Book the First - Recalled to Life. Chapter I - The Period. Gentleman of the name of Lorry answer straight. ‘What is the matter?’ asked the passenger, then, with mildly quavering speech. ‘Who wants me?’ The messenger rode back at an easy trot, stopping pretty often at ale-houses by the way to drink, but evincing a tendency to keep his own counsel, and to keep his hat cocked over his eyes. He had eyes that assorted very well with that decoration, being of a surface black, with no depth in the colour or form, and much too near together - as if they were afraid of being found out in something, singly, if they kept too far apart. Charles Dickens based his historical details of French Revolution and the private lives of a group of people caught up in the cataclysms of the French Revolution, on Carlyle's great work – The French Revolution – and also on his own observations and investigations during his numerous visits to Paris. Unlike the descriptions of London, Dickens fails to interest me in his observations of the French Revolution. He oversimplifies the causes of the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror. Many people say it is a mystery novel but the point is arguable that it is not. A Tale of Two Cities is somewhat autobiographical; emphasizes the key elements of theme, plot, and character; and has received extensive criticism. A Tale of Two Cities is told in three parts and takes place in England and France before and during the French Revolution. The novel starts with...
the well known opening, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." The action begins with Mr. Jarvis Lorry, and elderly...show more content... Winning critical acclaim, A Tale of Two Cities occupies a central place in the cannon of Charles Dickens' work. A Tale of Two Cities, published in