

English **S** 7

UNION No. 1012 FILE

MADE IN U. S. A.

PURCHASE ADDITIONAL SETS OF FOLDERS
FROM YOUR DEALER OR DIRECT FROM—

UNION STEEL CHEST CORPORATION

LE ROY, N. Y.

Murdock - Nov. 5

Benjamin Franklin

1706-1790

Became a myth hero of America. Much unearned praise heaped on him, because he earned so much. Van Doren's the best biog. Wecter - The Myth in America treats this. Autobiog. notes only things he wants remembered. Contemporary with J. Edw.s. Idealist vs. materialist (bull!!!) Fr. says perfect man. Fr. sober, not Godly. Edw.s vice versa. Fr. says tell truth so you won't get in trouble (right), virtue pays. Give up immediate pleasure for long run pleasure. Americans "mix up" "idealism" & "materialism", unlike ~~for~~ Europeans - see advertisements. Revolution - high taxes + principle of thing. Philadelphia growing intellectually & economically when Fr. went there, unlike Boston. Had a bastard. In times of tragedy men turn to mysticism - not Franklin. God wants us to be happy - use in innocent ways things God has given us. This is virtue - asceticism is sin. A dramatist, by instinct. Dramatizes himself in autobiog. Does not write straight forward - rather 'Rules for Reducing a Great Empire to a Small One'. Interested in applied science, but appreciated theory. Invented daylight saving, many other things. His ability to write made him more famous than his achievements alone. Wore fur hat to look like noble savage. - the rage of Paris. Regarded prose as a tool - changed style according to readers. Borrowed old proverbs, improved them infinitely.

Jefferson 173-26

Their clashing views have run thru all our hist. since. Common man ideas. Breadth of interests. Vs. slavery. States rights. Ideas summed in Decl. of Ind. Idea of natural aristocracy. Natural rights - free thought & free speech. Local self gov. & education. - 2 hooks of free gov. Idea of functional lit. - important, as it came in a time when all copied Eng. & Fr. (& didn't amount to anything) Purpose of lit. is to communicate important ideas. No stickler for syntax, not a purist, but a neologist.

Murdock

Nov. 14

Emotions & ideas bound up with revolution. New Eng. attitude, growing from puritanism - principle. Dickinson attitude - Constitutional argument (both partly right). Literary rev. began '65, but idea of real independence came not till '75. Circumstances led farther, to independence. Tom Paine, Common Sense, sells well, sharpened, cleaned up ideas, of independence. Franklin sent him from Eng. to America. Wrote for women's ~~women's~~ rights, & vs. slavery, in Philly. Then wrote Common sense, great impact, very important. In dark times of rev. wrote an irregular periodical, The Crisis, which came out after every retreat. Then went to Paris, to help rev. there. He would be a major hero, had he not written The Age of Reason. Religious conservatism strong, Paine discredited. T. Paine called him "filthy (dirty??) little atheist". Courageous, & amazingly skillful writer. "Simplify, classify, glorify", his method, esp. glorify. His devices - antithesis, balance. Gets many ideas into a few words. J. Adams thought ^{fr} Americans were anti-war. Loyalists the most cultured people in the country - the rich & privileged, on the whole. Samuel Seabury - another farmer - a Westchester Farmer. Actually a large estate owner. Argument - pure expediency - price of farm land. Petiteness of tax on tea his line.

Rev. ballads - conscious propaganda. Marathon Hale a 1st rate Ballad. Anonymous. Dickinson: Liberty Song. Parody, then parody of parody, both low, popular. Stories, too - beginning of Am. fiction. Francis Hopkinson. Joel Barlow, the Arcturion is an Am. symbol. Satire. McFingal, by John Trumbull. Ready for Yale at 7 (shows what can be done) The Friendly Club of Hartford, Tim. Dwight, Joel Barlow, Trumbull - the Hartford wits. American Epics, all poor.

Murdock

Nov. 12

Class Sat. A.M.

Snow 9 - Nov. 13 2-4 } to gripe over
" " Nov 18 2-4 } grades

On exam., more honor grades, & more unsatisfactory grades, than usual.

American revolution - very significant culturally. Causes - economic - trade restrictions - westward movement - debtor class on small western farms - distrust between seacoast townsman & plainsman - royal gov. more identified with seacoasters. Emotional factor - instinctive nationalistic feeling, & general intellectual feeling (no true distinction exist ec. & am.) M.C. Tyler, literature of revolution. Prev. stimulated Am. writing - Eng. books no longer acceptable. Am. pol. pamphlets up to Eng. 1765, arguments were formulated & expressed. James Otis said "Black Regiment" (ministers) helped make revolution. - liberal, pro-democratic ideas. (Wimutka's happiness based on force - police cruising all over)

John Wise 1652-1725

Jonathan Mayhew 1720-66

Wise a country minister, liked pol. theory. Gov. Andros imposed taxes, 1690, Wise refused to pay, because they were taxes without rep. New western towns had town meetings, sent reps to Gen. Court at Boston, voted taxes. Early 18th, Mather &c. decide to organize church a bit more - formerly all churches independent. Set up minister's councils, gave them authority to make rules, form dogma. Wise objects, goes to Dutch democrat Puffendorf for arguments, then says apply them to church, too. Church controversy dies, & so does Wise, but 1772, his books reprinted, used as rev. prop.

Mayhew abandons Puritan determinism & base view of man. Higher moral law, must be followed. Everyman should follow his own reason.

Idea of "natural" law. Revolution against tyrant is reasonable, "lawful, & glorious". Franklin, practical, not principled man, got Eng to stop taxing but reserve right to tax - & principled New Englanders objected vociferously. Radical, hot-headed N. Englanders

Other parts of country less impassioned. John Dickinson of Maryland, b. 1732, educated in Eng. Studies law there, returns here, gets in Pa. ass. Goes about argument in legal terms - Americans just want legal rights as Englishmen. - New Eng.ers hated him. He opposes violence, but goes to Cont. Congress ~~later~~ during war, & takes a commission in army, so they expell him from congress, then made him resign his commission, so he returns as a private.

2 types in revolution - appeals to principle, & appeals to existing laws. Letters from a Pa Farmer - he no farmer, but, like Cicerone, needed dramatic.

Brilliant, dramatic writing. Voltaire praised it, & Burke.

Puritan tradition leads to N. Eng. spiritual, violent approach. Dickinson's gone reason (bull!!!!)
Dick. says that British are the real rebels, as Americans are obeying British law, Eng. not (cd. Locke)

Murdock Nov. 10

Meeting # Sat.

John Woolman 1720 - 1772

Journal

J. Hector St. Jean de Crèvecoeur 1735-1813

Letters of an American Farmer

Write Skits
Martin
Duke

Middle colonies full of Quakers. - influential in forming American ideas. c. 1650, George Fox, 1st "Quaker." - name derived like Holy rollers. Society of Friends. Man's own heart & soul the source of spiritual inspiration. Bible, church, all hokey. Not ascetics, but led simple lives. Should earn a "decent competence", then leave business. The great fortunes of Philadelphia left this "theory." Very democratic, unlike Puritans. Habits of democracy got fixed in Puritanism due to Bentier - but nothing in theory. All men's inspiration from God equal. There & other - "you" a formal address, used to superiors or strangers - & they recognized no superiors, & none is a stranger. Kept their hats on. 1st great anti-slavers. Puzzled by fact of poverty. Anti literacy, since it was unnecessary. Till 1750, bloodily persecuted - everyone hated them. Priests, Puritans, (who believed in B B B L E, unlike Quakers) Definitely refugees - they would have been exterminated. Very bleak literarily. Woolman alone. Silent meetings. Super simple style & vocabulary. Faint smell of violets. Utilitarian prose.

Crèvecoeur. Jesuit, then sojourner. 1760, came to U.S. from Canada. Fell for it, married, settled in N.Y. Romantic vision of what country should be. Rousseau, idolater of natural man, influential at this time. Free land & subsistence farming. Independence & freedom, all little things. Romantic over nature. "Farmer" an idealized character. Has rudimentary "socialism" - because he advocates free land (Murdock is all up in the air, with all the usual confusions) Everyman edition in 1911 created quite a furor.

Write
Wiesner

When revolution came, he advocated moving farther west,
avoiding war. Many places called St. John are named for
Eximcoeur. - St. Johnsbury, Vt.

Not a lit. masterpiece, but better than most we've read so far.
Passage on quails nice.

Murdoch, Nov. 19

Philip Freneau 1752-1838
Wm. C. Bryant 1794-1878

After revolution, Eng. books socially outlawed. We excelled in hist. & oratory. Rivalry, Eng. - Am. Too many Am.s copied Eur.s. Unfortunate attempts at Am. epic.

Freneau a lit. nationalist, original figure. "That rascal Freneau" - title earned by attacking Wash. at height of pop. stomy, hated by Federalists, allied with Jefferson. A frustrated Romantic - times not favorable. New Jersey, Princeton. Fr. Huguenot. Madison, Brattleboro, active with him at Pr. in rev. agitation - & wrote a long novel, the 1st in America. Made mistake of becoming teacher, disliked it. Became seaman. Started a magazine, failed, bitter failure. Absolute independence of mind - attacked all presidents. A very bad farmer. Married. By death, forgotten, as N. E. greats appeared. His nature poetry, his best. Midway between Neo-classic & Wordsworth on nature. Neo-classic generalized scenery - W. told you how wide the path was. Slightly Rousseauistic. The House of Night - some great passages, & some poor. Felt duty bound to write much political poetry, dirty stuff. Melancholy, Graveyard School, pretty good as such.

Bryant. An "even" poet - they're all alike, from youth to age. As editor, prose writer, liberal politics was his chief outlet. Not very emotional poetry. Much about Greece - very restrained & cool, unlike Byron. Dignified ice-olation. Conservative Puritan stock. Fascinated by death. Thanatopsis is a major poem. Blank verse individualized. To a Waterfowl is marred by last 2 verses, which one tacked on, as in Gentry poem.

Murdock

Nov. 24

The Drama

Religious prejudice against Theatre, not drama. Southern planters liked Theatre, but it was economically impossible for a long time.

1665, Va., a play given by amateurs. 1700, Wm. & Mary started to give play. 18th cent., Addison's Cato much given, boring, but cultured & not immoral, & slightly republican. By 1749, 1st professional co. exists, proving presence of market. Quakers disliked plays. Douglas, playgiver, got it into Boston by calling plays "moral dialogues".

1st American play: 1767, Godfrey, Prince of Parthia has nothing to do with America, scenes borrowed from Shakespeare. Unfortunate tendency to borrow from Eng. A fairly good play, but not American.

Revolution brings Am. drama, like Am. lit. & poetry, to front. Cultural nationalism. Indian theme comes, 2 types: a) No good Ind. but a dead Ind. idea, & b) Noble savage. Indians used beautiful language in their orations, which playwrights borrowed. Revolutionary propaganda plays - atrocity, etc. ~~18th~~ Much 19th cent. & even modern stuff is just Eng. copy. Show boats - gaudy uniforms, music, comics: genuine "folk art", Godfrey etc. know nothing about it. 1774 Congress closed theatres.

Rowall Tyler's The Contrast, the 1st Am. comedy, professionally produced. Has a typically Am. character, B. Franklin's type - Jonathan. Other dramatists made him a stock figure, even today. Homely wisdom, straightforwardness. Movies fail to achieve humorous point of him.

Wm. Dunlap, authority on film arts. Borrowed many foreign plays, rewrote them, produced them. As actor produced, hunt for money. Spy Andre, noble British figure, caught, executed. Shall he be killed? Struggle, Wash. appears. Talks rationalist & sentimentalist & pro-

Wash. sentiment, & puts them in play. Letting good writers
follow Dunlap's lead.

Murdoch Dec 3

$\frac{1}{2}$ Hour exam week from Sat. Lecture Sat.

→ Irving no novelist. Revolution the great stimulant to native Americanism.

Puritans & Quakers hostile to novels. No prejudice in South. Puritans thought story telling ok if moralistic. But rev. breaks down, & fiction gets in. 1797, The Algerine Captive, Tyler points out how rev. replaced Day of Doom with diverting literature. And American diverting lit. Puritan N.E., strangely unlit, brought out ~~the culture's~~ most & best novels. Later 18th cent. Eng. novels were poor, so imitative Am.s handicapped. Virtue had to triumph, to satisfy religious. Seduction theme a natural for didactic novel - sex sneaked in, evil results told. Modern Chivalry, by Hugh Brackenridge, Freneau's friend, a democrat, satirizing faults of democracy. Gothic Romance - supposed to scare you to death. - ghosts, haunted houses, etc. Charles Brockden Brown makes success writing them.

Freneau, Brown, Irving, 1st to make letters a profession. Brown pleads for rights of women. 4 novels, 1798-9. Gothic, but supernaturalism always turns out to be by human agency. Influenced by intellectual rational Godein. Great advance over seduction novels. Not too good, but very highly regarded till c. 1850. Wieland, Ormond. Heroine-narrator of Wieland is an emancipated woman. Something new. Arthur Mervyn - realistic technique used. Edgar Huntley. Tires of traditional Gothic devices, begins to get better with Am. devices.

Aug WPA on Mass.

Mundack, Dec. 1

W. Irving. Salmagundi, Hist. of N. Y., Sketch Book, Tales of a Traveller.

Theatre loving son of strict father. No school after 16 - too wild. Great social success - neat guy. Lazy lawyer. 124, went abroad, terrific social success.

Salmagundi a New Yorker-like periodical, lighter than Spectator, very good, but imitation. Irving did it, ~~was~~ success, but quit from boredom. Not democratic at first, a young wealthy aristocrat, but later improved. Burlesque hist. of N. Y. a great success, in Eng. too. An original book. Cute method of advertising. "Knickerbocker" a completely bogus name, now widely used in hotels, etc. A democratic humor, tho it appeared so bookish. Devices - dead pan, saying ridiculous in serious vein - Mark Twain used this. Burlesqued pedantry of time, esp. on Mitchell, in stylistic tricks. Balance between serious sound of style & ridiculous statements.

1st attempt to work native Am. folk lore & humor into literature. 1818, family business failed, so he went into writing professionally - after 17 years in Eur. 1819-20, The Sketch Book, appeared serially, like Dickens, sold well, in Am. ~~But was not~~ A real American Book. Much like Dickens - used humor same. Dickens characters all are physically or mentally peculiar - not deep analysis. Irving fails when he tries deep emotion. - there he became bookish & traditional, neglected his roots in Am. soil.

As a historian. Spanish past of America fascinated him. Life of Columbus, 3 years at Madrid.

Then tried to acquaint self with Am., toured - earning, wrote Tar on the Prairies, poor. He was best on Am.'s past, not present.

Modest man. Important stimulus to letters.

Foerster reading notes

Bryant, Wm. Cullen: Wordsworthian. Smooth wordings, unlike Freneau, & smooth rhyming. A noted writer on politics, but only poems here. Deism, nature worship. Deeply introspective. - worried about himself, but always came out with nice assurance. Also some on freedom, Lincoln, etc.

Freneau, Phillip: very romantic, fanciful. Also pro-freedom. Often he is clumsy & uninspiring - & uses classical allusions ludicrously. But "The House of Night" is faultless.

pp. 271-276 - The Romantic Movement.

Early 19th. Cried "liberty". Abandoned Xian & classical authority (had not minimalists?) Idea of natural goodness. Sought for instinct thru introspection, deeming it higher than rational conclusions. 1798-1832 the app. dates of height of romantic feeling, in England. Later, in America. Opposing forces 1) neo-classicism: rational, formal, restrained. Voltaire, Pope, Dr. Johnson. 2) Puritans, strong but weakening. 3) Industrial revolution "realists", "economically" (in the usual false use of the word) minded. Allies: 1) Rousseau, 2) Graceland poets. Romantics believed: deism, sentimentalism, primitivism, natural goodness, humanitarianism (not humanism). Seek natural goodness & trust your emotions. The frontier a great romantic influence. 1760-1830 Romanticism rises, 1830-60 reigns, '60-'70 wanes. Jefferson one. Deism both rationalist & romantic. C.D. Brown & Freneau (deism, primitivism, naturalism, Gothicism) 1st romantics. Nationalism grew, c. 1815. With frontier ec. expansion, "ec. romanticism". Irving, Bryant, Cooper. (Cooper analogous to Scott) 1836 Transcendentalism appeared - Puritan + Romance. - idea of certain fundamental truths, intuitively perceived. Emerson wrote, but did not act for it. "Try to be & do Good" Boston the lit. center - Lowell, Longfellow in Camb. - (Lough & Sehmsucht, or

romantic longing. Holmes-Boston & Whit. Hawthorne at Salem,
under Puritan shadow. Whittier, the Quaker at Amherst - anti-slavery.
Poe - every, like no one. South produced no one. did slavery do it?
1855, west produced Walt Whitman. Post civil war disillusionment
brought Realism.

Foerster, notes

Capt. John Smith: Of the natural inhabitants of Virginia.

Brutes, not taking advantage of land, to pop. fit for mil. service. Inconstant. etc. - good material on savage life.

A clear style, very readable, & interesting; well organized description of savagery. Nicely short sentences. No bull. What you would expect from a man of action.

Wm. Byrd. 1674 - 1744

Man of political action, Londoner, pro - Colonial liberties.

The History of the Dividing Line. The dismal swamp, N. Car., good description, the unfair to N.C. No bull. Whites in N.C. are lubberly, women do work, like Indians. Indians' physical feats remarkable, such as wrestling alligators. Their dignity ruined. Visits Colo. Spotswood, immense owner & tyrant. (p. 91) Byrd notices nature, plants, animals, topography.

(Great Awakening was c. 1741, J. Edwards heading) (1747, Edwards driven from his church, Calvinism ended)

Thomas Morton: New English Canaan, take off on Puritans. Pretty funny. (merchant)

John Woolman: Tailor, Quaker. Theological, but more concerned with good works than good words. Pleasantly ethical. Better reading, much more comprehensible, than Puritans.

John Dickinson - legalistic arguments for breaking away from Eng.

Tom Paine - ~~Author~~ The Crisis - same style as Common sense. The Age of Reason - '94. Recent religious discredit-ment calls for defense of true religion (to keep reaction to priests from swinging farther) Believes in God, etc., but no church. Priests are hypocrites, this is & causes immorality. Treats Judaism, Christianity, & Moslemism all the same. All claim revelation, but to all but receiver of it, this is but hearsay. Jesus conceived by God story only credited because of heathen mythology.

rife at the time. World's called on to believe miracles
that a few claimed they saw. Amazingly outspoken, frank,
direct, this Paine - a real man. Jesus reformer & revolutionist,
against priests & corruption. Fable of Satan's fall drawn
from that of Jupiter beating Giants. Ridiculousness of
original sin thru eating an apple, etc - an insult to God, this
silly mythology. The earth is the revelation of God
Language an imperfect instrument. There can be no revelation
thru it - only thru presence of earth, which is universal.
Humans made scriptures - but they could not make earth.
God is first cause. 19th psalm, & Job in part, are Quistical.
Thru reason alone can man appreciate God. It can prove
existence of God, but never all his attributes (i.e., all
knowledge of environment) Christianity is Atheism^{tie},
putting a man between God & men, rubbing ugly myths
for beautiful earth, & sciences of it. Not sciences, but bible,
are fraudulent human invention. Properties of triangle exist
without being known, or drawn - God must have made them, too.
(?? something to think about) Man made a lens, but not its
principle. Displays certain knowledge of physics. Science &
philosophy, not foreign languages, should be taught. Education
is dead because dead languages, rather than sciences, are
taught (Don Haase in Chem, e.g., & many others. When
something interesting comes along, they jump at it.) Theologians,
wishing to retain tyranny over minds, restrict learning to dead
languages (very good - est-ce vrai? ??), as they persecuted
Galileo, Vigilius. Church, not Goths & Vandals, destroyed
classic learning. Reformation broke despotism, & ∴ set
learning free to advance, was otherwise useless. His
life - much like mine (as to basic thoughts) The whole worth
re-reading. p. 185. (Deism is to other religions what Georgism is
to other ec. philosophies - things based on no assumption)
Next to Deism, Quaker ideas best. (is this just because he?

Robert Frost - he talks like Mr. Farnell

No. X, Nov. 24, 1787. The Numerous Advantages of the Union.

206 It will prevent faction, which is some citizens seeking their good which is not the good of all. To control, 1) remove causes, 2) control effects. (True) To remove causes, 1) Remove the liberty which is essential to faction (but - true liberty knows no faction, for faction is privilege seeking, as he defined it) 2) Give each citizen the same interests. (1) no good. (2) impossible. Different religious ideas, etc., a source, but difference in ownership of property the main source of faction. Regulation of landless vs. landless, trade vs. manufacturing, etc., disputes (conflicting privilege claims) the main task of modern gov. Legislators are judges in their own case (i.e., landowners setting taxes), & tariffs, e.g., are set according to special interests rather than good of whole. As we cannot ~~stop~~ stop the causes of faction, how about controlling the effects. What is to stop majority from oppressing minority in a republic? 1) Opinions of masses will be "refined" by reps. 2) Larger the republic a) Harder for reps to gyp people, & b) Harder for faction to get majority.

No. 62 - Feb. 27, 1788 On the constitution of the Senate Similarly semi-logical. pp. 209 & 211, good quotes.

Jefferson - his life a quest for liberty.

Charles Brockden Brown: Wieland, monotonous style, horror story, no great significance or pleasure in it.

Foerster; Paine, Age of Reason, &c.

Sue Tisdale
Buy A string

dad was one?) Christianity absurd. Pious friends have to be continued, once started, so preachers can make living. (Just like bureaucracy) Mystery, miracles, & prophecy. Mystery can have no connection with religion, which is very clear.

School education a small capital from which a man may go on. (Always stay in contact with the world, the non-Georgist world - valuable experience.) (Bobb Bray told me she had become a Socialist today, Nov. 1, 1942, but did not want to talk about it - oh dear.) 2 kinds of thoughts - bolts from the blue, & those from reflection. The former more valuable to Paine.

Moral truths. A mere device to puzzle the mind. Similarly, miracles were legends made to discredit the senses. Prophecy also bull. Ends with sentence for toleration of any thought, even those not his.

My sentiments exactly.

Songs & ballads of revolution

Dickinson - the Liberty Song. Smoothly written, but not particularly good. Nothing up to Wigglesworth nor Bradstreet. Nathan Hale - better. Some sentiment-evoking passages. "No fears for the brave". Francis Hapkinson The Battle of the Clouds - cute, smooth, clever rhyming, little significance. The Old Year & the New - Tony, form ok, but rings dead. Virginia Banishing Tea - poor, but spirited.

John Trumbull - The Liberty Pole - clever satire, many of rhymes clumsy, forced. Iambic quadrimeter. One of "Hartford wits", wrote in Hudibrastic, or mock-heroic style (like the Rape of the Lock, misspelled?)

Joel Barlow - The Hasty Pudding - an appetite whetting piece. Puns not forced. Whimsical.

The Federalist - Hamilton, Madison, Jay. Papers written in '87 concerning federation. These by Madison, probably.

Murdoch, Dec. 17

William Hickling Prescott 1796-1859
John Lathrop Motley 1814-1877
Francis Parkman 1823-1893

Boutte's
calendar

History of the earliest colonial lit.

Prescott - all 3 from Brahmins, it affected their work. Sometimes over-staged, but a "great historian". Still the standard authority (wow!) Style too florid, but makes history seem living.

Motley - interested in ~~republicanism~~ drawing // between Dutch Republicanism & U.S. All "Republicans" pure white, "tyrants" pure black

Parkman - the greatest of all American historians. Certainly the greatest stylist. An amazing life. Energy. Believed in action, physical strength, athletics. Hated bookworms. But was a helpless cripple most of life. Discipline, scientific accuracy his gods. Believed Brahmins were mostly good, non Brahmins were of dubious worth. Not too enthusiastically republican. Said let's have aristocracy of heroes - hated bookworms etc. Loved his own qualities. Decided to write about heroic age of Am. lit. - colonization. Hated research - but did lots of it. - meticulous researcher. - everything he says is true, details. Travelled in vacations, with great care. Health broken by being over-active when he travelled - bad eyes, bad rheumatism, arthritis. Also a nervous disease which made him move or go insane - that it was torture to move. But no self-pity, who in intense physical agony most of time. Despite great stick-to-it-iveness, had to quit, turned to horticulture, became one of greatest. Principle - write from action & views, not books. Continued to travel, despite ill.

Brahmin provincialism. Despite drawbacks, certain virtues: moral heroism.

Meredock, Dec. 15

James Russell Lowell, 1819-1891

Interest in him, like Longfellow, has declined lately. Out of touch with non-Cambridgion society. But a great publicist of culture. High family, founded Lowell & Lawrence. Pa a minister. Maria White inspired him - a liberal poetess. Imitative at 1st. Then, '41, idealist & progressive. Next to Poe, greatest critic. Man of books, accepted masters his criterion. Little originality. Academic literary criticism & poetry his 2 fields.

Then came Mexican war, he opposed it. "Biglow" papers - "a lousy attempt at a joke." Witty, amazing command of dialect, said big things as comedy.

The Vision of Sir Launfal. Retelling old Arthurian story. - Longfellow over again, without L.'s technique. Criticism of poets good. Fable for Critics.

In Westminster.

As he aged, grew anti-Romantic.

Too bookish in his poems - c.f. d with R. Frost.

In youth subordinated poetry to "causes", then changed.

Introduced Americans to standard doctrines about European culture - & wrote fine Biglow papers.

Oliver Wendell Holmes 1809-94

Family, Cambridge, Harvard, clubs & dinners. Introduced terms Brahmin & Hub, meaning them both. But also a wit, joshing church etc. Voluminous production.

Essays his greatest work. More democratic than most, rhetorically.

Also a great medical pioneer - reduced infant mortality. Made medicine respected as it is today. - before then doctors were like barbers.

Murdoch, Dec. 10

Henry W. Longfellow
John G. Whittier

1807 - 1882

1807 - 1892

The Flowering of New England. 2 different approaches to life & poetry. Longfellow the greatest reputation; once degraded, now little recovered. 1) Genuine contribution to culture, & 2) Poetic merits. "The Ford of Poetry" - i.e., he popularized it, the defective. Did an immense democratic service.

At Bowdoin, insignificant. Excellent teacher. Psalm of Life seems like platitude to us, but advanced at time. A social figure, wine bibber, dandy, popular professor. Preferred discussion to lecture. First to call students "Mr.". Pumped elective system.

Evangeline - hexameter difficult, he did it well. Hiawatha - strange meter. - he too bookish, never came about big issues of day. Wrote on slavery, but cold, meaningless. - "mechanical exercises". Better than equally democratic Edgar Guest because he is mechanically really good.

But, being bookish, he opened vistas of European matter to Americans.

At best when emotionally stirred. by ocean, e.g. (Cotton Mather really against burning witches)

Immense international reputation.

Not a nationalist poet, but chose universal themes. At the same time, he should use illustrations from home.

Whittier. Not the technician Long was. A Quaker. Lived near Haverhill. Nearer to real things than Longf. Blazing hot vs. slavery. 1) Landscape poetry 2) Social poems his good ones. Snowbound, e.g., is specific nature observation. - Emerson's snowstorm is the universal snowstorm.

Murdock, Dec. 8

Edgar Allan Poe 1809-49
10-15 minute test Sat., just on reading.

Bostonian, parents actors, pa disappeared, ma died at 5. John Allen, wealthy Richmond merchant, adopted him, but never made him legal child. Allen educated him well, but they disliked each other. Loved his foster mother, & also a Mrs. Stannard. At U. of Va., very poor Poe amid country club dissipated students with much money, got complex. Gambled & drank, big debts, trying to get money to pay bills, Allen refused to pay debts. Mrs. Stannard d., & Fannie broke engagement, he came to Boston, rose in army. Then Mrs. Allen d. - his 3 loves all gone. Got into West Point, but then Allen remarried, Poe purposely got fired. Lived with Aunt & Cousin, the Clems, m. cousin Virginia at 14. Occasional escapist drunken splurges. Hard time existing. Wife gets tb., slowly dies, 147. Painful life afterwards. Mysterias death. - perhaps drugged, dragged from polls to polls, voting.

Horror, melancholy, twilight world, evil spectres, the reaction to his life. Perhaps sexually impotent. Often faced starvation.

As poet - poetry is beauty, not truth. The escapist philosophy. Dream poetry. Music, moods. Essay on the poetic principle, which read. Longfellow, who writes on a theme, not Poe-ist. Beauty & sadness connected, he says. Extended limits of dream world - Estafel, in it he emphasized the effect of environment on poetry. Attacks science. Monotony of tone. But some difference. Ingenious detective stories, & other mechanical poems (Bells), & pure horror of death (Usher), & foreign weirdies. Short stories still unrivalled.

Criticism - doctrines of poems & short story. Purely artistic theory of lit. Wm.

C. Bryant only preceding poet, always thru in
moralism, as did later ones, but Poe against this.

Persecution complex, which shows up in criticism - praises
Hawthorne & Longfellow, but hits others. / But heart squeezed
out by mind.