

Write a critical note on the post shakespearean dramatists or the Jacobean Dramatists.

Introduction — The drama had reached its culmination in the dramatic hands of W. Shakespeare, the contemporary dramatists of the Elizabethan Age couldn't change the pattern of Drama Shakespeare remained unsurpassed in the field of English Drama. The Jacobean drama i.e. is the drama of the age of James I. Although the Elizabethan age was the golden age of the English drama yet during the Jacobean period (1603-1625) there was the downfall of English dramas. One of the reasons for the decay in Jacobean drama was its loss of national spirit and patronage (security). In the age of James I, the Jacobean drama lost contact with common people.

Contributions of the Jacobean Dramatists:—

George Chapman — George Chapman was the true drama of the Jacobean age. He wrote both comedies and tragedies but his comedies are better than his tragedies. His best known comedies are All fools, Gentleman usher and Eastward. We find certain delightful romanticism hidden in them. The best known tragedies of Chapman are Caesar and Pompey and Revenge of Bussy De Ambois. In Bussy, the dramatist asks the oldest question how can a man endowed by God with reason and strength, knowledge and virtue live in the corrupted world.

But he gets no answer to this question.

ii) John Marston — Marston was the most impressive dramatist of the Jacobean Age. He was very reputed for the use of dramatist irony. His famous comedies are 'The Malcontent' is quite cynical in tone and reveals the utmost pessimism of Marston.

His best known tragedies are 'To Antonio and Melida' and 'Antonio's Revenge'. We observe that his plays display the employment of the devices used by Webster and Middleton. Marston attacks an evil by painting it in its most horrible and revolutionary forms.

iii) Thomas Dekker — Dekker wrote his dramas in which he treated the life of a craftsman. His popular comedies are 'The Shoemaker's Holiday' and 'The Honest Whore'. In 'The Shoemaker's Holiday', he portrays the life picture of Eyre, the shoemaker who ultimately gets the post of Lord Mayor. This very play displays his optimism. There is a lack of unity in his plays. As all plays were written in a hurry with a view to earning money.

iv) Thomas Heywood — Heywood was a very popular domestic novelist. He was also a conservative dramatist. He unflinchingly believed that there is the order in creation of the God. His tragedies describe the moral problems. His well known tragedies, entitled 'A Woman Killed with Kindness'. He demonstrates the universe as the harmonious creation of ever loving God.

v) Thomas Middleton — Middleton was a strong critic of the life of the Jacobean period. His famous tragedies are 'Women Beware Women', 'The Witch', 'The Changeling' and 'The Game of Chess'. In his tragedies, there is the description of the situation of tense and delicate nature.

The famous comedies of Middleton are a

fact that Lyly, Greene and Pele contributed much towards that establishment of the romantic comedy and Kyd and Marlowe, Elizabethan tragedy.

Write a critical note on the Jacobean Drama.

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mad world, My masters and a trick to catch the old one. His farcical comedies deal with satirical stories of the down-trodden life in London.

Francis Beaumont — Beaumont's famous comedy is 'The night of the Burning pestle'. He wrote two famous tragedies. The mad's tragedy and a king and no king with the collaboration of John Fletcher.

John Webster — Webster was the most popular dramatist of the Jacobean age. He is best remembered for his two tragedies. The White Devil and the dutches of Malffi. His tragedies have been criticised for their plot construction. T.S. Eliot quotes, "Webster was a very great literary and dramatic genius, directed literary and dramatic genius, directed towards chaos." According to Triving Ribner, "Webster's play are agonised search for moral order in the uncertain and chaotic world of Jacobean scepticism."

Conclusion — Poetically Jacobean drama is much less rich than Elizabethan drama. The pathos sought to be created by Jacobean dramatist is generally of the artificial kind. The Jacobean spectators had tendency towards sentimentalism. To quote Nicoll, "The Jacobean dramatist employ every means illegitimate as well as legitimate to stir the emotion of the spectators and to present before them something of novelty."