

SIR THOMAS WYATT AS THE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POETRY OF RENAISSANCE

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Abstract: Sir Thomas Wyatt, hailed as the vanguard of Renaissance poetry, embodies a transformative force within English literature. This thesis delves into Wyatt's verse, elucidating his seminal role amidst historical, cultural, and literary dynamics. Through an interdisciplinary lens, it probes Wyatt's innovative techniques, blending classical forms with vernacular expression, catalyzing a shift in English poetry.

Wyatt's sonnets, songs, and translations serve as focal points, showcasing his mastery and departure from medieval norms. Moreover, his engagement with contemporary socio-political realities, themes of love, and self-reflection underscores his cultural mediation.

Examining Wyatt's interactions with peers like Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, highlights his distinct voice and legacy. Positioned as the first representative of Renaissance poetry, Wyatt's oeuvre reflects the evolving consciousness of his era.

This study celebrates Wyatt's enduring legacy and prompts a reevaluation of individual creativity amidst historical transformation in shaping literary epochs.

Key words: Renaissance poetry, English traditions, great writer, international diplomacy, formalistic invention and historical observation.

Introduction

There were many excellent writers and poets in the 16th century in England. Among them Sir Thomas Wyatt plays much important role because of his work and way of private life. Sir Thomas Wyatt is the poet who best captures the complexity of Henry VIII's British court. Wyatt was respected and envied by his contemporaries for his skills in international diplomacy, his ability to joust in tournaments, and his ability to write courtly poetry. Because he spent his life at several courts, where he wrote for a largely aristocratic audience with common interests, the line between his public and private lives was not always apparent.

By playing with meter and voice, as well as grafting Continental and classical forms and ideas to English traditions, he produced a new English poetics. Wyatt composed the first English sonnets and real satires, addressing the most pressing political concerns of the day, including the Protestant Reformation and the Tudors' concentration of power. He is now regarded as the most influential poet of the first half of the sixteenth century for his blend of formalistic invention and historical observation.

This research work analyzes poetry and private life of poet as well as events of that period that were depicted thoroughly. Relying on previous research works, this paper is described with materials and sources.

Literature Review

Sir Thomas Wyatt (c. 1503–1542), poet and diplomat, was the eldest son of Sir Henry Wyatt and Anne, daughter of John Skinner of Reigate, and was presumably born at Allington Castle, Kent.

Thomas Wyatt may be considered to be influenced in six different ways. Although the relative importance and impact of each group might be debated, each group was undoubtedly influential in shaping Thomas Wyatt's attitude, worldview, and style.¹

Henry Wyatt, Thomas Wyatt's father, had a considerable impact on his son's career and entrance to the royal court. Henry VIII's formal guardian was Henry Wyatt, who was well-liked by his father, Henry VII. Henry Wyatt joined the royal service after his father. A courtier's existence was perilous, since political allegiances were formed and destroyed at an astounding rate. For refusing to accept Richard III's rule, Henry Wyatt was imprisoned and tortured in the Tower of London. He was welcomed into Henry VII's court after his release. Similarly, during his stint as a courtier to Henry VIII, Thomas Wyatt was imprisoned three times. Both Wyatts were fortunate to escape execution, as many others were put to death. It is likely that both men were able to use their wit, diplomacy and skills of negotiation to save their necks.

Thomas Wyatt was a well-educated, clever, and sympathetic guy. He studied classics and philosophy at St John's College, Cambridge, and was well-versed in the teachings of the great philosophers. Plutarch, a Greek scholar who was both an ambassador and historian, was the subject of one of Wyatt's early translation attempts. Plutarch used captivating detail to express the nature of his subjects as well as their acts in his chronicles of the lives of the great Greek and Roman emperors.

Wyatt had also studied and admired Plato's works. In his poem 'Farewell Love,' he describes Plato's work as a source of consolation and reflection, as well as a greater source of enlightenment than a fickle girl. In the same verse, Seneca is mentioned. Seneca was a Stoic philosopher and a Roman historian. Wyatt was a proponent of this theory, which holds that all actions are guided by a natural order. In pieces like 'Divers Doth Use' and 'My Heart I Gave Thee,' Wyatt demonstrates his commitment to Stoic values.

Thomas Cromwell was Wyatt's sponsor. Cromwell was a capable and competent statesman who carried out Henry VIII's many political stratagems in practice. At Henry's request, Cromwell coordinated the seizure and sale of monastery territory, providing much-needed finances to sustain Henry's extravagant spending. Cromwell, as Lord Chamberlain and a favorite of the King, was continually threatened by individuals who wanted to diminish his power and increase their own. Cromwell was finally imprisoned and killed for heresy, after years of honor and esteem from his monarch. Wyatt followed in the footsteps of his instructor, gaining and losing favor with a tough and erratic monarch. Wyatt is believed to have mourned his adviser in the translation of another Petrarchan sonnet, 'The Pillar Perish'd'.

Although there are likely to have been other women in Wyatt's life, three might be claimed to have had the most impact on his character and work. Elizabeth Brooke, Wyatt's wife, caused him a lot of grief. Their marriage was short-lived, and their breakup was blamed on her adultery. The narrator of Wyatt's translations of Petrarch's sonnets, which date from the early portion of his career, is frequently a bitter and dissatisfied lover. Anne Boleyn, another early love who was enticed away from him by none other than King Henry VIII, Wyatt's ruler and friend, might have been the source of his hatred and remorse.

¹ E. K. Chambers, *Sir Thomas Wyatt and some collected studies* (New York, 1965)

The sonnet 'Whoso List To Hunt?' is said to be inspired by Wyatt's decision to abandon his pursuit of Anne after she becomes Henry's property. The poem's 'hind' wears a collar that identifies her as belonging to 'Caesar.'

The deserted lover and the callous wife were popular courtly tropes at the time, but Wyatt's work contains references that go beyond these cliches. In pieces like 'The Lively Sparks,' Wyatt also depicts the powerful lady. Elizabeth Darrell, Wyatt's lover and companion until his death, was a more steady and faithful companion.

It's tough to say how much each of the aforementioned organizations influenced Wyatt's vision and work. However, comprehending Wyatt's intent and accomplishment requires establishing a social, political, and cultural framework for his writing.

Since the sixteenth century, compositions attributed to Sir Thomas Wyatt have appeared in many collections of poetry. However, there is still debate over the precise number of poems written by Wyatt; there are various reasons for this. Because many of Wyatt's works were translations of other poets, including as Petrarch, some anthologists have opted not to credit these versions to Wyatt. Without adding his satires and psalms, Wyatt's canon is thought to number between 100 and 250 poems. Another issue in determining the scope of Wyatt's work is that he was not alone in translating some poems, making it difficult to precisely credit which version belongs to which author.

The poem 'The Long Love That In My Thought Doth Harbour' by Wyatt, for example, is a translation of Petrarch's Rime 140. Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, Wyatt's contemporaries (often characterized as equal, or even better) also wrote a translation of the Petrarch poem, titled 'Love That Doth Reign and Live Within My Thought.' Various commentators have debated the three books' literary qualities and shortcomings. It's a mistake to discount Wyatt's accomplishments in changing Petrarch's early writings as just translation. Wyatt builds his new type of English poetry on Petrarch's legacy and admiration, as well as cataloguing the political and social conflicts of his period.²

Because Wyatt's poems were first published after his death, it was impossible to verify their authenticity with the poet, and a desire to understand the artist's purpose sometimes led well-intentioned anthologists to their own conclusions. Wyatt's poetry have very minimal punctuation: he only used the full stop and the virgule (a slash which approximates to pause slightly longer than a comma). He also avoided using capitalization to express personification. As a result, his work has been bent subtly between many editors' attempts to guide the reader to the "proper" understanding of Wyatt's message. Tottel's Miscellany, the earliest printed anthology of English poetry, published in 1557, included Wyatt's work. Wyatt's rhyme and punctuation were manipulated by the editors of publisher Richard Tottel. The entire title of the manuscript, Songes and Sonettes Written By the Ryght Honorable Lord Henry Howard, Late Earle of Surrey, and Other, demonstrates that Wyatt's work was not as well received at the time as Howard's. The editing of Wyatt's work may have made his work closer to Howard's, or at least closer to what Tottel thought the general public would like. Regardless of motivation, Tottel's rendition detracts from Wyatt's uniqueness and, most likely, his goal.

With each new publication of Wyatt's poems, uncertainty and confusion have grown. To aid interpretation, editors have attempted to justify Wyatt's work with punctuation. However, the end consequence is that each publication becomes a unique assessment of the writer's apparent aim. Wyatt's ambiguity has a nuance to it that contrasts well with his rawness of words and passion.

The Egerton Manuscript is thus the most dependable source of Wyatt's work. This version includes Wyatt's handwritten corrections and notes. The significance and implications of

² <https://www.gradesaver.com/>

Wyatt's numerous annotations have been investigated, but the important issue of showing Wyatt's awareness of and engagement in this collection is a strong signal of authenticity.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, we can conclude that Thomas Wyatt was not only one of the greatest poets of that period but also governmental official of British court. Thomas Wyatt was a witty, handsome, educated and diplomatic young man. He was part of the 1524 Greenwich tournament in which many leading men, including Henry VIII himself, took part in jousting and tilting events.

He had strong characteristics that could control problems and solve them step by step. For example, despite the challenging and violent times of the Tudor reign, Wyatt was able to survive three terms of imprisonment and avoid execution.

He always tried to learn something new. As well as his diplomatic, sporting and social skills, Wyatt was a great thinker and academic. He studied languages, philosophy, poetry and music.

As conclude, Wyatt highlighted the beauty and cruelty of the Tudor age; its complexity, disorder and mystery. As learner of English language and literature, we think that research and understand of poet's work are great importance of all times.

Through writing this research topic, we tried to achieve our tasks putting on it. For instance, we analyzed personal life of poet and understand that life Wyatt of was not always easy as looks. Looking at his life we should learn a lot of moral characteristics. As well as, one of our tasks to achieve was way of his work, more specifically, poems that poet wrote during his whole life. We did our best to investigate his poems, main purpose of his work in examples of some poems.

We believe that this paper can also be useful research work for students who are interested at life of Sir Thomas Wyatt afterwards.

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