**Robert Frost “The Gift Outright”**

*The land was ours before we were the land’s*

*She was our land more than a hundred years*

*Before we were her people. She was ours*

*In Massachusetts, in Virginia,*

*But we were England’s, still colonials*

*Possessing what we still were unpossessed by,*

*Possessed by what we now no more possessed*

*Something we were withholding made us weak*

*Until we found out that it was ourselves*

*We were withholding from our land of living,*

*And forthwith found salvation in surrender.*

*Such as we were we gave ourselves outright*

*(The deed of gift was many deeds of war)*

*To the land vaguely realized westward,*

*But still unstoried, artless, unenhanced,*

*Such as she was, such as she would become.*

Patriotic expression and feeling. It also talks about the historic context. The possessions, who possessed them, was very important. Patriotic nationalism feeling. The colonials wanted to be citizens of a nation. English were the owners of the lands and the colonials wanted to be the possessors. There is a new culture, a starting point, the origin of a culture. It deals with the historical moment, with the beginnings of the society. It transmits the feeling of independence, slightly different to the English literature.

The poems is connected with the historical moment. The important occasion was a presidential occasion, it was made and read for that. Literature deals with the past. The historical situations, but also the society and the culture. Literature sometimes anticipates historical events, with the feeling and the emotions that it transmits, sometimes being the cause.

A confrontation between the French and the British, the colonist fought with the British finishing in 1763, so there was not yet a feeling of independence. If we read the literature the feeling was starting.

Literature had an essential role, it contributed to the political movement and the nationalism feeling. Helping also with the cultural independence. Creating a new tradition.

AMERICAN LITERATURE CANON

*that set of authors and works generally included in basic American literature college courses and textbooks, and those ordinarily discussed in standard volumes of literary history, bibliography or criticism.*

The origins of most of the writters, anglo American, anglosaxon origins (mainly white).

*WHAT IS AMERICAN LITERATURE?*

*ITS “AMERICANNESS”* the idea that writers were writing something different from the Europeans. They were writing about their experiences.

*ITS RESEMBLANCE OF EUROPEAN LITERATURE* they have similar movements even that it’s so far away, naturalism, modernism, post-modernism.

*SOCIAL & CULTURAL CONDITIONS* OF America. This is related with the Americanness.

AMERICAN LITERATURE VS LITERATURES IN AMERICA

*Male, white, anglo-saxon writers*

*Native americans*

*Women writers*

*Chicanos*

*African-american*

*Caribbean writers*

*Asian americans*