

Re-interpretations - seven studies in nineteenth-century German literature

Basic Books - Re



Description: -

- France. -- Parlement (Paris) -- History
German literature -- 19th century -- History and criticism
Re-interpretations - seven studies in nineteenth-century German literature

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Notes: Bibliographical footnotes.

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Professor Stern argues that nineteenth-century German prose is characterized by a particular combination of the prophetic and the archaic, of the existential and the parochial, and is only partially and sometimes not at all related to the social and political realities of the age. Having endured a spell as an apprentice pharmacist, he gave this up in 1843 as too tedious. This applies equally to the theme of sexuality, in keeping with late sensibilities.

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One of the narrative devices used by Fontane is that of prefiguration, namely remarks, incidents or stories designed to foreshadow later developments, preparing the reader early on for subsequent events of significance. He was Professor of German at from 1972 to 1986. Lyon and Brian Tucker eds.

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He took an active interest in the political upheavals leading to the March 1848 Revolution in the German-speaking territories, the aim of which was to achieve a measure of democracy. Consequently, Professor Stern suggests alternative criteria to the common notion of realism with which to assess their work.

Table of Contents: Studies in nineteenth century and early twentieth century German literature :

It is left to the reader to reach conclusions as to the balance between these two conflicting views. Fontane also excels in detailed descriptions of houses, furnishings and rooms, the realistic backdrop to the lives he analyses.

J. P. Stern

It was only relatively late in life that Fontane turned to the writing of novels, the first one being Vor dem Sturm; Before the Storm 1878 set in the

time of the Napoleonic Wars.

German Literature

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He first became known as a writer of ballads, often inspired by Prussian history or contemporary events.

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