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TITLE OF THE STUDENTS STUDY PROJECT:

University Wits

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University Wits

Introduction

The University Wits were a group of English writers and dramatists associated with the University of Oxford in the 1590s. They are known for their contributions to English Renaissance theatre, particularly for their collaborations on the plays of William Shakespeare. They revised the old drama and wrote many new plays. Comedies came into existence. Tragedy began to take shape. Plot and characterisation were developed. They were Christopher Marlow, Kyd, Greene, Nash, Lyly, Peele, and Lodge So They were known as university wits because they were scholars. They brought many changes in the field of drama. They were seven in a group. So they are known as **“The seven Stars of the Cosmos.”**

Personal Contribution :-

1) John Lyly (1554-1606):-

His plays contain attractive lyrics. The first dramatist to write essentially high comedy. His plays are extremely witty in character. It foretold the kind of literature that would be coming from the University Wits for the next decade. His name is also attached to a series of Court plays performed by the children's companies throughout the '80s.

Wyatt and Collins said:

“Lyly's greatest service to drama consists in his writing plays in prose. Lyly's sparkling dialogues gave Shakespeare an excellent model to follow.”

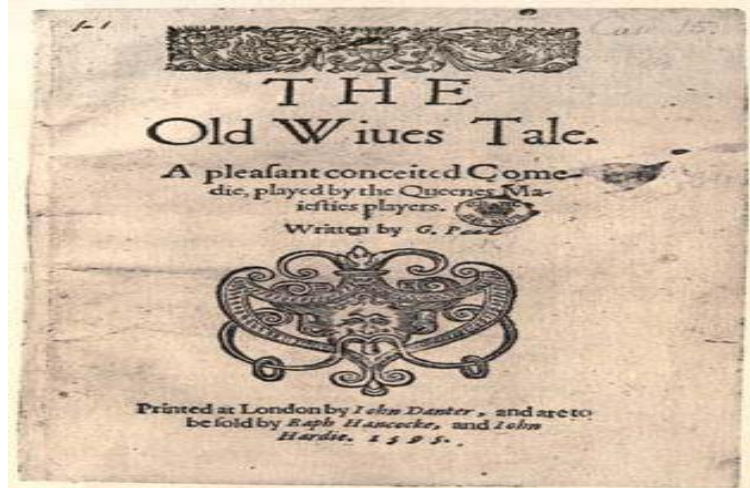
His best plays are:

1. Alexander and campase.
2. Midas.
3. Endymion.
4. Sapho and Phao

(2) George Peele (1558-1597) :-

He is noted for his poetic Style and decorative phrases. His contributions are flowery. He made no original contribution to drama. He was a graduate of Christ Church College Oxford. At a point he broke with his earlier career as a Wit, providing official encomia and writing and directing pageants for the City and his alma mater. He's credited with writing the only play to be identified with the first Blackfriars Theater - *The Arraignment of Paris* in

1581, while suggestions that he was the author of the various other plays claimed for him are



too uncertain to take on faith.

His main plays are:

1. The Arraignment of Paris.
2. The Famous Chronicle of king Edward – I.
3. The old wives' Tale.
4. The love of king Danciad and Bathsheba.

(3) Robert Greene (1558- 1592):-

He is Powerful for Romantic setting. He made notable contribution in plot Construction and characterization. He gave excellent Portraits of women. He was a poet, pamphleteer, proto-novelist and playwright. Though not the first to appear in print- his first pamphlet, *Mamillia*, was registered with the Stationers in 1580, the year after John Lyly's *Euphues*-but he was the most prolific: 20 works published over the next 12 years.

His main plays are:

1. The chemical history of alphonsus king of Aragon.
2. A looking glass for London and England.
3. Friar Bacon and friar Bungay.
4. The history of Orlando Furioso.
5. The Scottish for a romantic setting.

(4) Thomas Nash (1567- 1601):-

He made notable contribution to comedy. His comedies attack so many current abuses in the state. He and Greene should be credited with launching the English periodical press as a viable industry.

He wrote,

1. Unfortunate Traveller.
2. The Terrors of the Night.
3. Summers Last, will and Testament.
4. The Isle of Dogs.
5. The Anatomy of absurdity
6. Have with you to Saffron-Walden

(5) Thomas Lodge (1558- 1625):-

He was popular for Romance Ex. Rosalind connects with this group through all three factors: time, location, and works. Educated at the Merchant Taylor's School during the period when the students occasionally performed at Court, then at Oxford during the period that John Lyly and George Peele were attending. did produce one work that was later turned into a masterpiece

He wrote,

1. Rosalind.
2. Euphues Golden Legacy.
3. *An Alarum against Usurers.*
4. *Scillies Metamorphosis.*
5. In *A Fig for Momus.*

(6) Thomas Kyd (1558- 1994):

He brought the Senecan taste of horror ghost, hanging, stabbing, madness , pistolling and suicide. He influenced Shakespeare also. His authorship of the groundbreaking play *The Spanish Tragedy* is based on nothing more than three words by Meres and a passing mention by Thomas Heywood 30 years later, which, if nothing else, has made him a favorite with scholars as the purported author of dozens of anonymous works including the mythical-*Hamlet*. Arrested by Cecil's agents in May 1593, Kyd was imprisoned and racked into turning state's evidence against Marlowe. Though released following Marlowe's assassination, he died the following year, shortly after the murder of their patron, Lord Strange.

His plays are:

1. Spanish Tragedy.



2. Householder's Philosophy.



(7) Christopher Marlowe (1564- 1593):-

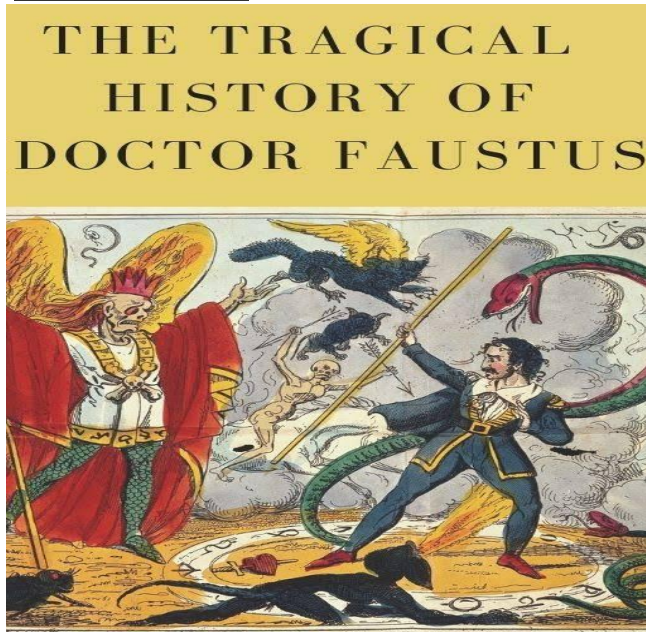
He reflected the renaissance spirit of freedom and individualism. He made heroic theme popular.

Ex. Tamburlaine. He gave life and reality to his Characters. **“Characters in the hand of Marlowe were no longer puppets pulled by a string but living and breathing realities.”**

He reflected the renaissance spirit of freedom and individualism. He made heroic theme popular. Ex. Tamburlaine. He gave life and reality to his Characters. **“Characters in the hand of Marlowe were no longer puppets pulled by a string but living and breathing realities.”** He made improvement in the field of tragedy. He brought passion, vehemence and force. GHe added poetic grandeur and poetic excellence to drama.

The most popular university wit has written:-

- 1 Tamburlaine.
- 2 The Jew of Malta.
- 3 Doctor Faustus.



- 4 Edwards- II

Hypothesis:

The University Wits were a group of Renaissance English writers and playwrights who were educated at the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge. The term has been used to refer to a number of other groups of English writers as well, including a group of 16th-century writers associated with the Inns of Court and a group of 18th-century writers associated with the Hackney Phalanx. The University Wits are often considered to be the first professional writers in England. They were also some of the first English writers to achieve international fame. The best-known of the University Wits are Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Kyd, Thomas Nashe, Robert Greene, and Shakespeare.

Aims & objectives:

To promote the interests of former students of the University of Wits.

To foster amongst its members a spirit of loyalty to the University and to one another

To promote the traditions of the University

To contribute to the welfare of the University by fostering the relations between former students and the University

To promote the welfare of the members of the Association by fostering their relations with each other

To promote the relations of the members with the general public of the University, both past and present

To promote the relations of the members with the University

The Association is managed by a Management Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting from amongst the paid-up members of the Association.

Review of literature:

The University Wits were a group of English Renaissance playwrights and poets associated with the University of Oxford in the 1580s and 1590s. The group included Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Nashe, Thomas Kyd, Robert Greene, and John Lyly. They were known for their controversial and often scandalous works, which challenged social and religious norms and often included sexual and violent content. The University Wits were a major influence on the development of English drama in the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

A University Wits Review of literature is an article that reviews the body of work of a particular author or group of authors. It usually focuses on a specific genre, such as poetry or drama, but can also encompass other genres, such as novels, short stories, or even non-fiction. The purpose of a University Wits Review of literature is to provide an overview of the main themes and ideas that are present in the body of work under consideration, as well as to evaluate the strength of the work as a whole.

Methodology:

The University Wits were a group of English Renaissance playwrights, poets, and dramatists, who were known for their intellectual and literary achievements. The term "University Wits" was first coined by George Puttenham in his 1589 work *The Arte of English Poesie*. The University Wits were a diverse group of writers, who came from different social backgrounds and had different literary styles.

However, they all shared a common interest in the new learning of the Renaissance, which they used to challenge the traditional ideas of the Church and the State. The University Wits were not an organized group, and there is no evidence that they ever met or worked together.

However, they were all connected to the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge, and many of them were friends or colleagues. The best-known members of the University Wits include Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Nashe, Thomas Kyd, Ben Jonson, and John Webster. The University Wits were a major force in the development of English Renaissance drama.

The University Wits were a group of English Renaissance writers and thinkers who were associated with the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. They include such figures as Thomas Nashe, Christopher Marlowe, and Ben Jonson.

Analysis of Data:

The University Wits, also known as the New Poets, were a group of English Renaissance dramatists and poets associated with the University of Oxford in the middle of the 16th century.

The University Wits began to be noticed in the 1570s, when a group of Oxford-educated writers began to produce plays and pamphlets in London. The group is generally considered to include Thomas Nashe, Gabriel Harvey, Thomas Kyd, Christopher Marlowe, and Robert Greene.

These writers were all highly educated, and their work was characterized by an erudite, sophisticated style.

They were also known for their controversial and often scandalous behavior. The University Wits were immensely popular in their day, and their work had a profound influence on the development of English drama.

However, they fell out of favor with the authorities in the 1590s, and their work was largely forgotten until the 20th century.

Findings:

- They brought many changes in mystery and morality plays
- Because of them comedies came into existence. Nicholas Udall wrote the first comedy 'Ralph Roister Doister'.
- They gave a new shape to tragedy.
- Their plots were loose but they were first to think about plot because of them.
- They developed the art of characterization. Characters become more real.
- They were interested in great heroic theme.
- Heroic theme needs a heroic treatment. So they gave a heroic treatment to drama such as gratefulness, variety, Splendid descriptions and long attractive speeches.
- Their comedies lacked humour. There was coarse and Immature humour later.

- They often worked together as Marlowe worked with Fletcher.
- They wrote the plays and also acted in the plays.
- Some of them (Lyly and Peele) made drama poetic.
- They chose to write for the public stage, taking over native traditions.
- They brought new coherence in structure, and real wit and poetic power to the language.
- The decade of the 1590s, just before Shakespeare started his career, saw a radical transformation in popular drama.
- They transformed the native interlude a short, simple dramatic entertainment and chronicle play into a potentially great drama by writing plays of quality and diversity.

Conclusion:

As a group, then, these contemporaries illustrate well the possible attitudes of an educated man of their time toward the drama. Midway between Lyly and his successful practice of the drama, which for the most cultivated men and women of his day, maintained and developed standards supplied to him, at least in part, by his university, and Thomas Lodge, who put the drama aside as beneath a cultivated man of manifold activities, stand Nashe, Peele and Greene. Nashe, feeling the attraction of a popular and financially alluring form, shows no special fitness for it, is never really at home in it and gives it relatively little attention. Peele, properly endowed for his best expression in another field, spends his strength in the drama because, at the time, it is the easiest source of revenue, and turns from the drama of the cultivated to the drama of the less cultivated or the uncultivated.

Greene, from the first, is the facile, adaptive purveyor of wares to which he is helped by his university experience, but to which he gives a highly popular presentation. Passing through the hands of Lyly, Greene and even Peele, it comes to Shakespeare something quite different from what it was before they wrote.

University-bred one and all, these five men were proud of their breeding. They were always ready to take arms against the unwarranted assumption, as it seemed to them, of certain dramatists who lacked this university training, and to confuse them by the sallies of their wit. One and all, they demonstrated their right to the title bestowed upon them—“university wits.”

Thank you