



The West Country As A Literary Invention

Putting Fiction in its Place

by Simon Trezise

DESCRIPTION:

Is the 'West Country' on the map or in the mind? Is it the south-west peninsula of Britain or a semi-mythical country offering a home for those in pursuit of the romance of wrecking, smuggling and a rural Golden Age?

This book investigates these questions in the context of the relationship between place and writing, discussing Thomas Hardy's Wessex; R.D. Blackmore's Exmoor and Lorna Doone; Charles Kingsley, whose Westward Ho!, became a Devon place-name, Sabine Baring-Gould of Dartmoor and recorder and inventor of West Country folk-tales; Parson Hawker of Morwenstowe, an inventor of the Cornish King Arthur.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Keywords - region, topography, provincial, landscape, chronotope; Parson Hawker's Inventions - Trelawney, Cruel Coppinger and the Cornish King Arthur; Westward Ho! or Charles Kingsley's inventions - Elizabethans viewed through Victorian spectacles; tales from the telling house - the many authors of Lorna Doone; from the West Country into Wessex - Thomas Hardy; Sabine Baring-Gould - novels and folk songs of Devon and Cornwall; conclusion - from the Victorians to the 20th century

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The late Simon Trezise was a lecturer in literature at the University of Exeter and had worked as a Tutor-Counsellor for the Open University. He lived and worked in many parts of the West Country.

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