ABSTRACTS

УДК 82.09

S. Vatchenko

"THE LONG EIGHTEENTH CENTURY": SCHOLARS ABOUT THE SPECIFICITY OF THE DEFINITION

Contemporary literary studies have changed radically and, as John Richetti states, in the last forty years or so, since the early 1960s, there has been a disorienting succession of intellectual revolutions whereby the notion that literature is a privileged artistic and cultural institution has been challenged by many critics. Also the value of literary history has been eroded if not destroyed by a nearly a century of intellectual upheaval as well as by profound social and moral transformations in European culture and in the world at large.

In their traditional effort to find moral value and aesthetic structure and coherence in the great works of the past literary studies are for many observers in crisis. For the most part, the academic study of literature has sought to develop other methods and perspectives that respond to what some critics and scholars has been overlooked – the inescapable involvement of literary works in the historical and cultural world of which they are part.

The works by such distinguished scholars as John Richetti, Robert DeMaria, Gary Day and Jack Lynch, Penny Pritchard which accommodate the range of insights and fresh perspectives and bring new approaches to the history of English literature of the 18th century are observed.