

كلية: الآداب

القسم او الفرع: اللغة الإنكليزية

المرحلة: الثانية

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اسم المادة باللغة العربية: الشعر

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية: Poetry

اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة العربية: هنري هاورد

اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة الإنكليزية :Henry Howard

## .The life of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey

(1517 - 1547)

## **Origins**

He was born in Hunsdon, Hertfordshire, he eldest son of Thomas Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk by his second wife Elizabeth Stafford, a daughter of Edward Stafford, 3rd Duke of Buckingham. He was thus descended from King Edward I on his father's side and from King Edward III on his mother's side. Like many nobility, Howard is usually referred to by his title of "Surrey" rather than his name., Henry took the courtesy title of Earl of Surrey in 1524 when his grandfather died and his father became Duke of Norfolk.

Like his father and grandfather, he was a brave and able soldier, serving in Henry VIII's French wars as Lieutenant General of the King on Sea and Land. In 1536 Surrey also served with his father in the suppression of the Pilgrimage of Grace, a rebellion against the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

## Literary activity and legacy

Howard one of the founders of English Renaissance poetry. He introduced into England the styles and metres of the Italian humanist poets and so laid the foundation of a great age of English poetry. He and his friend Sir Thomas Wyatt were the first English poets to write in the sonnet form that Shakespeare later used. Surrey was the first English poet to publish blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter) in his translation of the second and fourth books of Virgil's Aeneid. Together, Wyatt and

Surrey, due to their excellent translations of Petrarch's sonnets, are known as "**Fathers** of the English Sonnet".

While Wyatt introduced the sonnet into English, it was Surrey who gave them the rhyming meter and the division into quatrains that now characterizes the sonnets named, Shakespearean sonnets.

Most of Surrey's poetry was probably written during his confinement at Windsor; it was nearly all first published in 1557, 10 years after his death. Surrey achieved a greater smoothness and firmness, qualities that were to be important in the evolution of the English sonnet. In his other short poems he wrote not only on the usual early Tudor themes of love and death but also of life in London, of friendship, and of youth.

As a translator and poet, Howard was less well known for his own works than the literary path that he created for others to follow. He also helped in producing classical works rather than providing strict verbatim translations and demonstrated what future poets could do with the various poetical forms. Much of his literary fame was achieved after his untimely death, particularly his collection *Songes and Sonnettes* which was published in 1587 and helped to develop the iambic pentameter in English poetry. Howard was the first to use blank verse, poetry written in metrical lines but without any rhyming lines.

## His contribution

Surrey's contribution in English poetry is remarkable. He is the second sonneteer in English literature after Thomas Wyatt. On one hand, Thomas Wyatt tried his best to translate Italian sonnets; on the other hand, Surrey not only tried but also reformed the style of writing sonnets. If Thomas Wyatt is known as an artist in English literature then

Surrey can be regarded as a craftsman as he improved the structure and style of composing a sonnet. He did not only reform it but also presented his genuine ideas in form of sonnets. It is only his contribution that sonnets are known as English sonnets in the world. Although, he also followed the Petrarch's style yet he did not simply copied them. As compared to Wyatt, his sonnets has element of renaissance.

Moreover, they are **clear in language and very easily understandable**, they have personal touch in them but Surrey, with a crafty hand, modified them. He used three quatrains and couplets, rhyming as **abab cdcd efef gg**. He was not a poet by profession as he was a soldier even he introduced unrhymed iambic pentameters in blank verse, which gives direction to the new English poets.

Definitely, Petrarch became famous throughout the world because of his sonnets nevertheless if today we can write sonnets; its credit goes to Surrey because he added another form of poetry in English language. Surrey has two elements in his work; one is the element of **reformation** and the second one is **renaissance**. If he and his involvement are skipped in English language then the English sonnets are rotten. If no structure was planned by Surrey then English sonnet will be hotchpotch of different languages, therefore, if sonnets, in English language are fresh today, then Earl of Surrey can claim feather in his cap.