

Culture, Genre and Literary Vocation



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In "Culture, Genre and Literary Vocation" Michael Davitt Bell charts the important and often overlooked connection between literary culture and authors' careers. Bell's influential essays on 19th-century American writers - originally written for such landmark projects as "The Columbia Literary History of the United States" and "The Cambridge History of American Literature" - are gathered here with a major new essay on Richard Wright. Throughout, Bell revisits issues of genre with an eye toward the unexpected details of authors' lives, and invites us to reconsider the hidden functions that terms such as "romanticism" and "realism" served for authors and their critics. Whether tracing the demands of the market or the expectations of readers, Bell examines the intimate relationship between literary production and culture; each essay closely links the milieu in which American writers worked with the trajectory of their storied careers.

作者介绍:

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