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Topic: THE AUDEN GROUP

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THE AUDEN GROUP

The most significant poet of the 20th century after T.S.Eliot is W.H.Auden(1907-73).He is known as the spokesman of the scientific culture, leader of the second generation of modernism, devotee and author of light verse.Of the intellectual poets of the 1930s and after Auden alone appeared to have found a personal interest in the modern idiom and to be capable of accepting its restrictive conventions with loss of poetic stature. Auden's sense of reality has a profoundly poetical colouration.His representative poems, "1929", "Spain 1937" and "September1,1939" are obviously political in their concern. In the thiries auden certainly identified himself with Marxist ideology. He was , however inspired chiefly by his urgent search for spiritual order and moral responsibility. Auden would not be satisfied until he wrote something moving, persuading and convincing to everyone. Auden always appeared as a

generaliser- he never took interest in his own experience or the experiences of the others. He deals with these experiences as a sort of things that normally happen .

In Auden we can get the reflection of Anglo-Saxon poetry- as in theme and in form. His name is counted among the most debated poets of the thirties- Stephen Spender, Louis MacNeice and Cecil Day Lewis . It is, however, worth mention that though all of them draw sustenance from the politics of the day, they write poetry with some special characteristics. MacNeice and Lewis have classical intellectuality and temperament. Stephen Spender(1909-95) joined the 'New Wing poetry' of Auden , Cecil Day Lewis and MacNeice and became a leading member of the group. His poetry is more personal, lyrical and romantic than that of the other members of the group. Spender's art never makes a pretence of detachment. His early writings, "Twenty Poems"(1930), "Poems"(1933) and "The Still Centre"(1939) mix together the political , public and private verses. His later writings , having increasing stress on private emotions and relationships suggest the degree to which he had retreated from his short-lived attempt to reconcile liberalism and Marxism .

Cecil day Lewis is distinguished especially for his love poems. His idiom permits a strain of personal feeling combined with a 'magic' or mythological frame of reference that is very far

in character from Auden's characteristic pitch of voice. Lewis's writing was in general more abstract and tending toward the Metaphysical than that of Auden and others owing to allegiance to the Auden circle.

All these poets- Auden, Spender, Lewis and MacNeice – wrote poems enmeshed in politics. However, these poets are enmeshed, further, in the psychology of the depression. Their pictures of industrial breakdown in England present a multi- sided Marxian Wasteland. "Autumn Journal", Mac Neice's worth recalling work, is full of topical allusions. One has the feeling reading these poets, that one of their main objects was to set down a subjective record of the times.
