The Birth Of Popular Culture: Ben Jonson, Maid Marian, And Robin Hood

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Robin and Marian often looked at each other. Then they began to meet secretly, and slowly they fell in love. At this time, the King needed archers for his army. He had ordered all the strong young men in England to practise archery. Every year, there were special archery contests in England. In the small towns, the prizes were of meat and drink. In the large towns, the best archers won prize money.

So it was rather a quiet time for Robin and his men. They lived in great caves during the winter, and spent their time making stores of bows and arrows, and mending their boots and clothes. This bright, sunshiny morning Robin felt dull and restless, so he took his bow and arrows, and started off through the forest in search of adventure. He wandered on for some time without meeting any one. Presently he came to a river.
Tom Hayes, The Birth of Popular Culture: Ben Jonson, Maid Marian, and Robin Hood (Pittsburgh, PA: Duquesne University Press, 1992), p. 3. Google Scholar. 34. Ben Jonson, Bartholomew Fair ed. by E.A. Horsman (London: Methuen, 1960; repr. “The theoretical language of The Birth of Popular Culture derives from several schools of critical theory and culture studies, including Marxism, post-structuralism and feminism. But unlike numerous theorists, Hayes is understandable, lucid, persuasive and more text-oriented. This study, perhaps more than any other, brings Jonson into the postmodern era and transforms our understanding of his works. Hayes provides a cogent.Â “The Birth of Popular Culture: Ben Jonson, Maid Marian and Robin Hood explores the relationship between the profession of author and the discursive construction of “folk” or “popular” culture. Borrowing the tone of Nietzsche’s Birth of Tragedy, Tom Hayes deconstructs the concept of the author as it appears in Ben Jonson’s texts.” Robin Hood has appeared in a number of plays throughout the medieval, early modern and modern periods. The first record of a Robin Hood play being performed is in Exeter in 1426-27.[1] The earliest surviving text of a Robin Hood play is dated c.1475 and entitled Robyn Hod and the Shryff off Notyngham.[2][3]. The plays which perhaps have been most influential upon the Robin Hood legend as a whole are Anthony Munday’s The Downfall of Robert, Earle of Huntington and The Death of Robert, Earle of Huntingdon (1597-98). It is in these plays that Robin is first depicted as a nobleman.Â The first published prose account of Robin Hood's life appears to be the anonymously authored The Noble Birth and Gallant Achievements of that Remarkable Out-Law, Robin Hood (1678).