Comparative Literary History

Chapter 7

World Literature and Literary History

Fitz Stern (1930-1993) was a German scholar of literature, known for his work on comparative literary studies. He was a professor at the University of Munich and in 1979 became full professor at the University of Amsterdam. Stern's work focused on the comparative study of literature and the history of literary traditions, with a particular interest in the development of the concept of world literature. His contributions to the field include the development of the concept of 'world literature' as a field of study, and his emphasis on the importance of understanding the ways in which literary traditions interact and influence each other across different cultures and times.

Through his work, Stern sought to challenge the traditional notions of national and cultural boundaries in literary studies, arguing for a more inclusive approach that recognized the interconnectedness of literary production and reception. He has been influential in the development of the field of Comparative Literature, and his ideas continue to shape the way we think about the study of literature today.