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a comprehensive chronological overview of american literature in three scholarly and authoritative volumes a companion to american literature traces the history and development of american literature from its early origins in native american oral tradition to 21st century digital literature this comprehensive three volume set brings together contributions from a diverse international team of accomplished young scholars and established figures in the field contributors explore a broad range of topics in historical cultural political geographic and technological contexts engaging the work of both well known and non canonical writers of every period volume one is an inclusive and geographically expansive examination of early american literature applying a range of cultural and historical approaches and theoretical models to a dramatically expanded canon of texts volume two covers american literature between 1820 and 1914 focusing on the development of print culture and the literary marketplace the emergence of various literary movements and the impact of social and historical events on writers and writings of the period spanning the 20th and early 21st centuries volume three studies traditional areas of american literature as well as the literature from previously marginalized groups and contemporary writers often overlooked by scholars this inclusive and comprehensive study of american literature examines the influences of race ethnicity gender class and disability on american literature discusses the role of technology in book production and circulation the rise of literacy and changing reading practices and literary forms explores a wide range of writings in multiple genres including novels short stories dramas and a variety of poetic forms as well as autobiographies essays lectures diaries journals letters sermons histories and graphic narratives provides a thematic index that groups chapters by contexts and illustrates their links across different traditional chronological boundaries a companion to american literature is a valuable resource for students coming to the subject for the first time or preparing for field examinations instructors in american literature courses and scholars with more specialized interests in specific authors genres movements or periods

examines the impact of the machines on american literature especially on the works of anderson frank dos passos lewis and sandburg

excerpt from a history of american literature since 1870 american literature in the larger sense of the term began with irving and if we count the sketch book as the beginning the centennial year of its birth is yet four years hence it has been a custom especially among the writers of text books to divide this century into periods and all have agreed at one point in the mid thirties undoubtedly there began a new and distinct literary movement the names given to this new age which corresponded in a general way with the victorian era in england have been various it has been called the age of emerson the transcendental period the national period the central period national it certainly was not but among the other names there is little choice just as with the victorian era in england not much has been said as to when the period ended there has been no official closing though it has been long evident that all the forces that brought it about have long since expended themselves and that a distinctively new period has not only begun but has already quite run its course it has been our object to determine this new period and to study its distinguishing characteristics we have divided the literary history of the century into three periods denominating them as the knickerbocker period the new england period and the national period and we have made the last to begin shortly after the close of the civil war with those new forces and new ideals and broadened views that grew out of that mighty struggle the field is a new one no other book and no chapter of a book has ever attempted to handle it as a unit it is an important one it is our first really national period all american autochthonic it was not until after the war that our writers ceased to imitate and looked to their own land for material and inspiration the amount of its literary product has been amazing there have been single years in which have been turned out more volumes than were produced during all of the knickerbocker period the quality of this output has been uniformly high about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more

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christopher newman a self made american millionaire in france falls in love with the beautiful aristocratic claire de bellegarde her family however taken aback by his brash american manner rejects his proposal of marriage when newman discovers a guilty secret in the bellegardes past he confronts a moral dilemma should he expose them and thus gain his revenge james s masterly early work is at once a social comedy a melodramatic romance and a realistic novel of manners for more than seventy years penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the english speaking world with more than 1 700 titles penguin classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors as well as up to date translations by award winning translators

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