

The Victorian Poet: Alfred Tennyson

Séminaire

Résumé

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Alfred Tennyson and his poetical works are commonly perceived as being typically Victorian, almost as typical as Queen Victoria herself. But the man who was the Queen's poet laureate from 1850 until his death in 1892 was too complicated an individual to easily fit into categories, be they ever so vague. This lecture seeks to situate Tennyson and his poetry in selected contexts of his and its own time, to show that, poetically, he was both a pillar of the establishment and a risk-taker, and to contend that the beauty and depth of his poetry still resound in the 21st century. We will also briefly discuss some recent uses that have been made both of Tennyson's cultural clout and of his poetry.