

Moritz Daniel Oppenheim, *Goethe Surrounded by Illustrations from his Works* (c. 1835)

Abstract

Many of the works portrayed here would have enjoyed widespread recognition, particularly among Germany's educated public and theatergoers. The painting's border features scenes (clockwise, from top left) from *Elective Affinities*, *Tasso*, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, *Götz von Berlichingen (Iron Hand)*, *Egmont*, *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*, *Faust*, *Hermann and Dorothea*, *Clavigo*, and *Iphigenia in Tauris*. Spanning the poet's entire life, some of these works also exemplify the literary movements with which they are associated: for example, *Götz von Berlichingen*, a drama about a rebellious medieval knight (1773), represents the *Sturm und Drang* movement, whereas the verse drama *Hermann and Dorothea* (1797) exemplifies the so-called Weimar classicism. Others, such as *The Sorrows of Young Werther* (1774), the epistolary novel about a sentimental hero who eventually commits suicide, left their mark on generations of readers; *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship* (1796) became the archetypical *Bildungsroman* of the German educated bourgeoisie; and Goethe's most famous drama, *Faust* (Part One: 1808; Part Two: posthumously, 1832), examines the character of a scholar who tragically probes the complexity of human existence in a pact with the devil. Painting by Moritz Daniel Oppenheim (1800–1882), c. 1835.

Source



Source: Original: Frankfurt am Main, Freies Deutsches Hochstift

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