

Industry and Empire:

Victoria Literature On Screen



Week Three

Welcome to *Industry and Empire*

Week Three

A detour into more comic fiction this week, with a look at three humourist who nonetheless contribute hugely to our understanding of the Victorian outlook (and, in the case of one Samuel Clemens, the America of the same time period.)

In many ways, comic writing is one of the most potent avenues we have by which to explore the thought processes of a period. What writers choose to lampoon, to satirise and to pass comment on generally tells not only what contradictions existed within an era but also how aware artists and by extension their audiences were of them.

Across the three writers this week, we see three very different approaches: the gentle ribbing of Jerome, the surrealist satire of Carroll (aka the Rev. Charles Dodgson) and the homespun barbs of Twain (aka Samuel Clemens).

Each writer has, like the more drama focused writers before them, a set of societal bugbears they'd like to discuss. Some of which, like Twain's portrayal of the racist South resonate, sadly, as strongly as ever. Others, like the political elements present in *Alice in Wonderland*, have been lost to the work's appraisal as a children's classic.

We'll also look at the perception of the writers in popular culture and the controversies that have dogged at least one of them.

WEEK THREE FILMS

Jerome K Jerome

Novels

Three Men in a Boat

The Passing of the Third Floor Back

TV/Films

The Passing of the Third Floor Back (1935)

Berthold Viertel

Three Men in a Boat (1933)

Graham Cutts

Three Men in a Boat (1975)

Stephen Frear

Lewis Carroll

Novels

Alice in Wonderland
Through the Looking Glass

TV/Films

Alice in Wonderland (1903)
Percy Stow & Cecil Hepworth

Alice in Wonderland (1951)
Clyde Geronimi, Wilfred Jackson & Hamilton Luske

Alice (1966)
Gareth Davies

Jabberwocky (1977)
Terry Gilliam

Dreamchild (1985)
Gavin Millar

Alice in Wonderland (2010)
Tim Burton

Mark Twain

Novels

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

The Prince and the Pauper

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

TV/Films

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1938)

Norman Taurog

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1949)

Tay Garnett

The Adventures of Mark Twain (1985)

Will Vinton

The Adventures of Huck Finn (1993)

Stephen Sommers

The Prince and the Pauper (1990)

George Scribner