Cyclopaedia 4 - Gothic
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Overview

Gothic Romanticism (sometimes called Gothic fiction, Gothic horror or just Gothic) imagined a medieval past that never was, often releasing the evils of the night. Gothic centered on helpless victims experiencing extravagant passions and remorseless practitioners of unmotivated cruelty. Over time, Gothic added dark heroes and supernatural villains. The effect of Gothic feeds on the emotions of palatable terror that is almost pleasurable. It was characteristically set among haunting ruins, fog-filled cities, and harrowing dungeons visited by unearthly apparitions and creatures. First given expression in Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto*, Gothic has continued to haunt literature, art, cinema, fashion, and games ever since its height in Britain in the 1790s.

This extreme form of Romanticism was very popular in England, originating in the second half of the 18th century and also having success in the 19th, as can be seen by the popularity of by Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and the works of Edgar Allan Poe, culminating in the late Victorian era *Dracula* by Bram Stoker. The word Gothic refers to the buildings of Gothic architecture in which many of these stories take place. The English Gothic novel also led to new novel types such as the German Schauerroman and the French Georgia.

Modern Gothic Influences

The themes and aesthetics of the literary Gothic have had major influence in other media and mediums.

- Goth Movement and Fashion
- Goth Rock
- Gothic Romances
- Modern Horror
- Southern Gothic

Following are sources of information pertaining to Gothic Romanticism to assist prospective game masters, game designers, writers, and storytellers in knowing where to start their research.

Articles

Being There: Gothic Violence and Virtuality in Frankenstein, Dracula, and Strange Days
By Law, Jules David
Source: ELH, 73, no. 4 (2006): 975-996

The Forensic Gothic: Knowledge, the Supernatural, and the Psychic Detective
By McGuire, Ann and Buchbinder, David
Source: Canadian Review of American Studies, v40 n3 (20101201): 289-307

The Gothic Heart of Victorian Serial Fiction
By Chavez, Julia M.
Source: SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900, 50, no. 4 (2010): 791-810

Gothic Origins: New Primary Scholarship
By Gamer, Michael
Source: Eighteenth-Century Fiction, v14 n2 (2002): 215-222

The Gothic Vocabulary of Fear
By Carlson, E.
Source: Journal of English and Germanic Philology, v111 n3 (2012 07 01): 285-303

The Horror, The Horror: Recent Studies in Gothic Fiction
By Williams, Anne
Source: Modern Fiction Studies, 46, no. 3
(2000): 789-799

Introduction: Gothic Cults and Gothic Cultures 1: Modern and Postmodern Gothic
By Whatley, J.
Source: GOTHIC STUDIES, 4, no. 2, (2002): 91-98

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein: What made the Monster monstrous?
By Britton, Ronald
Source: Journal of Analytical Psychology, v60 n1
(February 2015): 1-11

modern gothic. Undeath in Fashion
By Benesh-Liu, P.R.
Source: Ornament. 32, no. 2, (2008): 38-41

Purity and Danger: Dracula, the Urban Gothic, and the Late Victorian Degeneracy Crisis
By Spencer, Kathleen
Source: ELH, v59 n1 (19920401): 197-225

Toward an Organic Theory of the Gothic: Conceptualizing Horror
By: Morgan, Jack
Source: The Journal of Popular Culture, v32 n3
(Winter 1998): 59-80

Screening the Gothic
By Waldman, Diane
Source: Film Quarterly, v61 n2 (200712): 86-88

Vampire Gothic
By Goddu, Teresa
Source: American literary history. 11, no. 1,
(1999): 125

Books

A Geography of Victorian Gothic Fiction: Mapping History's Nightmares
By Mighall, Robert

A New Companion to The Gothic
By Punter, David

A Scicilian Romance
By Radcliffe, Ann

The Biology of Horror: Gothic Literature and Film
By Morgan, Jack

The Call of Cthulhu and Other Weird Stores
By Lovecraft, H.P.

The Cambridge Companion to Gothic Fiction
By Hogle, Jerrold

The Castle of Otranto
By Walpole, Horace

Dracula
By Stoker, Bram

The Fall of the House of Usher (and other stories and poems)
By Poe, Edgar Allan

Frankenstein
By Shelley, Mary

The Gothic cathedral: Origins of Gothic Architecture and the Medieval Concept of Order
By George von Simson, Otto

Gothicka: Vampire Heroes, Human Gods, and the New Supernatural
By Victoria Nelson

Gothic to Goth: Romantic Era Fashion and Its Legacy
By Bassett, Lynne

The Gothic Quest: A History of the Gothic Novel
By Summers, Montague

Gothic Realities: The Impact of Horror Fiction on Modern Culture
By Cooper, L. Andrew

The Gothic Vision: Three Centuries of Horror, Terror and Fear
By Cavallaro, Dani

The Hound of the Baskervilles
By Doye, Sir Arthur Conan

The Hunchback of Notre-Dame
By Hugo, Victor

Interview with the Vampire (The Vampire Chronicles)
By Rice, Anne

Jane Eyre
By Brontë, Charlotte

The Monk
By Lewis, Matthew Gregory

The Mystery of Edwin Drood
By Dickens, Charles

The Mysteries of London
By Reynolds, G.W.M.

The Old English Baron
By Reeve, Clara

The Phantom of the Opera
By Leroux, Gaston

The Picture of Dorian Gray
By Wilde, Oscar

Romanticism and the Gothic : Genre, Reception, and Canon Formation
By Gamer, Michael

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
By Stevenson, Robert Louis

Terror & Wonder: The Gothic Imagination
By Townshend, Dale

Wuthering Heights
By Brontë, Emily

Games

American McGee's Alice - Computer Game
Betrayal at the House on the Hill - Tabletop Game
Bram Stokers Dracula - RPG
Castlevania - Computer Game
Chronicles of Darkness - RPG
Curse of Strahd - RPG
Dance of the Damned - RPG
Dark Harvest - RPG
Dead of Night - RPG
Demons Souls/Dark Souls/Bloodbourne - Computer Game
De Profundis - RPG
Frankenstein's Bodies - Tabletop Game
Fury of Dracula - Tabletop Game
Gloom - Tabletop Game
Gother Than Thou - Tabletop Game
Hunter: The Reckoning - Computer Game
Letters from Whitechapel - Tabletop Game
Lost Souls - RPG
Monsterhearts -RPG
My Life With Master - RPG
Ravenloft - RPG
Ravenloft: Masque of the Red Death - RPG
Rippers - RPG

Silent Hill - Computer Game
Vampire: Bloodlines - Computer Game
World of Darkness - RPG

Underworld
Vampire Hunter D - Anime
Witch Hunter Robin - Anime

Cinema

Adams Family – Movie & TV Series
American Gothic - TV
Bezerk - Anime
Bram Stoker's Dracula
Brotherhood of the Wolf
Corpse Bride
The Crow
Dark Shadows - TV
Death Note - Anime
Dracula (1931 & 1958)
Dragonwyck
Edward Scissorhands
Frankenstein (1931)
The Hound of the Baskervilles
House of Usher
House on Haunted Hill
Interview with the Vampire
Jane Eyre
Kolchak: The Night Stalker - TV
Masque of the Red Death (1964)
Medium - TV
The Name of the Rose
Near Dark
Nightmare Before Christmas
Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror
The Orphanage
The Phantom of the Opera (1925)
The Picture of Dorian Gray (1945)
The Pit and the Pendulum (1961)
Rebecca (1940)
Sleepy Hollow
Suspiria
Supernatural - TV
Sweeny Todd - Broadway Musical
Trinity Blood - Anime

Locations

Biserica Neagră
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biserica_Neagr%C4%83

Castle Dracula
http://www.castledracula.ie/

Cathédrale Notre Dame de Paris
http://notredamedeparis.fr/

Gothic Quarter, Barcelona
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gothic_Quarter,_Barcelona

Keats-Shelley House
http://www.keats-shelley-house.org/

Museum of Edgar Allan Poe
http://www.poemuseum.org/index.php

People

Charlotte Brontë
Emily Brontë
Tim Burton
Count Dracula
Victor Frankenstein
Dr. Henry Jekyll
Bela Lugosi
Edger Allan Poe
Vincent Price
Ann Radcliffe
Mary Shelley
Bram Stoker
Horace Walpool