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## Modern Poetry: The First Phase, An Overview



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### **Abstract :**

Modern poetry has a long, varied and tangled history. By and large, the poetry of the 20<sup>th</sup> century may be put under this. However, I am here concerned with the first half of Modern Poetry. The focus is on the poets who came into prominence roughly between 1900 and 1950. Needless to state that at the early stage, poets like Thomas Hardy, Gerard Manley Hopkins, William Butler Yeats, Ezra Pound, T.S Eliot and their progenies were the path breakers and finders. Their period as M.L Rosenthal rightly asserts was the 'heroic age' of modern poetry.

The great trio; Pound, Yeats and Eliot effected a clean break with the Victorian tradition. They deliberately moved away from the sensuousness and picturesqueness of Victorian poetry. Contemporary issues were taken up for 'poetic deals'. The tragic propensity of life caught the eye of the

modern poets. Displacement of the old verities by the new findings of science profoundly disturbed these 'differently thinking, feeling and seeing poets'. The gathering storms, horrifying wars and the consequent atmosphere of violence and destruction affected the modern poets. As a result they strove to find new ways – forms and modes – to throw light on the complex and confounding state of modern man in the contemporary world.

**Keywords :**

Modern Poetry, Thomas Hardy, Gerard Manley Hopkins, William Butler Yeats, Ezra Pound, T.S Eliot