

Lascelles Abercrombie

Quotes

*Epic, Age, Firsts, Important, Individuality, Men, Matter, Teaching, Mean, World,
Looks, Expression, Substitutes, Said, Destiny, Difficulty, Poetry Is, Artistic
Creation, Heroic, Mind*

The Border Ballads, for instance, and the Robin Hood Ballads, clearly suppose a state of society which is nothing but a very circumscribed and not very important heroic age.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

But the gravest difficulty, and perhaps the most important, in poetry meant solely for recitation, is the difficulty of achieving verbal beauty, or rather of making verbal beauty tell.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

The balance of private good and general welfare is at the bottom of civilized morals but the morals of the Heroic Age are founded on individuality, and on nothing else.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

No poet will ever take the written word as a substitute for the spoken word; he knows that it is on the spoken word, and the spoken word only, that his art is founded.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

How to tell students what to look for without telling them what to see is the dilemma of teaching.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

The first epics were intended for recitation; the literary epic is meant to be read.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

Poetry is the work of poets, not of peoples or communities; artistic creation can never be anything but the production of an individual mind.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

The world knows of a vast stock of epic material scattered up and down

the nations; sometimes its artistic value is as extraordinary as its archaeological interest, but not always.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

The epic poet collaborates with the spirit of his time in the composition of his work. That is, if he is successful; the time may refuse to work with him, but he may not refuse to work with his time.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

That is to say, epic poetry has been invented many times and independently; but, as the needs which prompted the invention have been broadly similar, so the invention itself has been.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

If epic poetry is a definite species, the sagas do not fall within it.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

Epic poetry exhibits life in some great symbolic attitude. It cannot strictly be said to symbolize life itself, but always some manner of life.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

With several different kinds of poetry to choose from, a man would decide that he would like best to be an epic poet, and he would set out, in conscious determination, on an epic poem.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

It is more difficult to keep the attention of hearers than of readers.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

The reason can only be this: heroic poetry depends on an heroic age, and an age is heroic because of what it is, not because of what it does.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

For the stage displays the first vigorous expression, as the natural thing

and without conspicuous restraint, of private individuality.

~Lascelles Abercrombie

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