

actor Shakespeare appeared to have been compiled by a committee which included Bacon, the Earl of Oxford, Marlowe, recusant Catholics, and printers' devils of extraordinary ingenuity. This fine fury of decomposition lasted well into the 1930's. As late as 1934, Gilbert Murray could discover no reputable scholar ready to defend the view that a single poet had written either or both the Iliad and the Odyssey. Today the wheel has come full turn...To Professor Whitman of Harvard, the central personal vision and 'ineradicable unity' of the Iliad are beyond doubt."

These quotations show the changing attitude toward divisive theories in secular literature in the early part of the present century. The attitude that was so widespread in the 19th and earlier 20th century has now largely disappeared. Literary criticism has become more and more a study of the value and meaning of literary works rather than an attempt to divide them into sources or to determine what brought them into being. In The Business of Criticism (1959) Professor Helen Gardner of Oxford described the change in the following terms: "The modern scholar or critic concentrates in the first place on making what he can of his text as it has come down to him. There has been a strong reaction against the study of even extant and known sources, much more against the discussion of hypothetical ones...The importance of the single author and the single work dominates literary studies."

An interesting result of this change in attitude in secular literary criticism has been the almost total disappearance from secular books of the term higher criticism. On examining the index of many recent books on literary criticism one rarely finds the term higher criticism included at all, and in the rare cases where it does occur it generally