

prided itself on its Greco-Latinate heritage. The British literature was absolutely frenchified. Chaucer was the first to experiment the native way and that too, in the people's language, English.

of King's works. So he knew the people's pulse across a cross-section of society. Just as he knew the courtiers, the royalty (he married into the royal family), he was the people's poet, too. Moreover, he

ture.

His writings are a real breath of fresh air. Marked by a comic genius, he reveals a wry and tolerant understanding that "a man is a man for all that".

real human spirit. So his language as he engenders a Polonius. Such genealogies gift an emergent nation with a soul and an enriched language and verse techniques to express it with. The sweet

- ◆ Legend of Good
- ◆ The Canterbury



BOOK

Commendable compilation

Kanyasulkam-Noorella Samalochanam

Edited by Prof. Modali Nagabhushana Sarma and Dr Yetukuri Prasad
Visalandhra Publishing House, Abids, Hyderabad.
Pages: 962, Rs 275



unanimous choice would be Kanyasulkam of Gurazada Appa Rao (1862-1915). First published in 1897, it continues to hold its

supremacy as a classic.

Kanyasulkam revolves around the evil practice of old people marrying very young girls after paying "bride money".

The play has been translated into English, French and Russian, besides a number of Indian languages.

Prof. Modali Nagabhushana Sarma and Dr. Yetukuri Prasad have done a magnificent job of collecting and scrutinising voluminous source material and compiling them into 183 articles.

This compendium on Kanyasulkam (13 chapters) deals with the controversy on the authorship; background; Gurazada as a playwright; characterisation; role of Giresam, language; Rasas; Gurazada's perspective; influence of contemporary society; influence of Telugu and non-Telugu literatures, etc.

Gurazada's brief biographical sketch forms the appendix. The articles are written by eminent persons and are authoritative.

This book, designed in the form of a retrospective on Kanyasulkam, is a trendsetter in literary documentation.

Portraying the ryots of Rayalaseema

Singamaneni Narayana Kathalu
by Singamaneni Narayana
Visalandhra Publishing House
Abids, Hyderabad
Rs 50

FONDLY touch the soil you adore and warmly sound the people you love. This is what Singamaneni Narayana does in his literary pursuit. Villages around Dharmavaram and Anantapur of Rayalaseema area so intensely fascinate him that they form the locales for most of the 18 Telugu short stories included in this collection.

Narayana's narrative is at its height when the story revolves around the parched land or humiliation of Dalits. The stories portray the hard realities of life of the peasants and tormenting social sanctions on the downtrodden, particularly in Rayalaseema.

IF connoisseurs of drama are asked to name the best Telugu social play, their