The Literary Apprenticeship of Laura Ingalls Wilder

William T. Anderson

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Abstract
Fifty years after the publication of Laura Ingalls Wilder's first book, Little House in the Big Woods, that volume and ten succeeding volumes of the author's writings, are American classics. The "Little House" books have been read, re-read, translated, adapted, admired and worshipped by multitudes world-wide. Of Wilder's books, which portray frontier existence during the last great American Expansionist era, "it is safe to say that they have given a notion of what pioneer life was like to far more Americans than ever heard of Frederick Jackson Turner. Laura Ingalls Wilder's fame and the success of her books have been spiraling phenomena in American publishing history. In 1953, 500,000 of the "Little House" books had been printed; by 1959, the quantity had nearly doubled, and in 1976, it was estimated that 20,000,000 of Wilder's books had been published. In lists of American best-sellers of the twentieth century, the "Little House" books are included. The mystique of Laura Ingalls Wilder has spread into far-flung areas. Her appeal is global. First translated by the United States State Department as a post-World War II re-education program for Germany and Japan, the "Little House" books are now printed in approximately forty some of Wilder's supporters. The well-meaning preservation of Wilder's public image denied her miraculous and admirable evolution as a writer, and created certain falsifications that surely would have amused, if not amazed, Laura Ingalls Wilder herself. Curiously, among those who most stridently denied Wilder's multi-faceted metamorphosis from capable country woman to talented writer, was the individual who had most shaped and aided the emergence of Laura Ingalls Wilder as an author. All her lifetime, Laura Ingalls Wilder's daughter Rose Wilder Lane, contributed to a composite image of her mother that, while wholly admirable, was not fully accurate. Historical evidence has periodically suggested discrepancies between the "Little House" books and recorded facts. None is major and none diminishes the essence of truth and reality which shines from the pages of Wilder's books.

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Laura Elizabeth Ingalls Wilder (February 7, 1867 – February 10, 1957) was an American writer known for the Little House on the Prairie series of children's books, published between 1932 and 1943, which were based on her childhood in a settler and pioneer family. During the 1970s and early 1980s, the television series Little House on the Prairie was loosely based on the Little House books, and starred Melissa Gilbert as Laura and Michael Landon as her father, Charles Ingalls. All about The Literary Apprenticeship of Laura Ingalls Wilder by William Anderson. LibraryThing is a cataloging and social networking site for booklovers. The Literary Apprenticeship of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by William Anderson. Members. Reviews. Popularity. Average rating. Conversations. Laura Ingalls Wilder (February 7, 1867 - February 10, 1957) was the author of the Little House series. This series was based on her childhood as part of American pioneering family. In addition to the Little House series, the book Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Family Collection is a collection of the short stories Ms. Wilder wrote for the paper the Missouri Ruralist. Little House in the Big Woods, Farmer Boy, Little House on the Prairie, On the Banks of Plum Creek, Old Town in the Green Groves.