

The Vocation of the Academic: Some Nineteenth-Century Perspectives

Dr Stuart Jones (University of Manchester)

European universities were transformed in the nineteenth century. At the beginning of the century, they were commonly seen as relics of the *ancien régime*, destined to be swept away by the revolutionary wave of 1789. Under the influence, chiefly, of the new ideas of the university born in Germany in the era of Kant and Humboldt, the university was reinvented and its purposes were fundamentally reconceived. In England, universities ceased to be essentially clerical institutions teaching a classical curriculum: the idea of an academic profession was formed, and it was taking shape around modern disciplines. This paper explores these processes through an examination of Mark Pattison - Victorian Oxford don, Germanizer, and university reformer. For Pattison, the academic's calling was fundamentally a calling to be an intellectual. This conception of the academic vocation is contrasted with those of some of Pattison's contemporaries - Newman and Jowett in particular - and also with later understandings of the academic as intellectual.