

Reviews of Frye's Books

"I am astonished at the number of people who seem to have rushed into print with the notion that my view of literature is preposterous. Something tells me that the twenty-first century will have a good deal of difficulty in understanding what all the fuss was about." (NF to RD, 1974)

This section of the Library is devoted to a sampler of reviews of eighteen of Frye's books. Frye's work has been widely reviewed. I count some 1,049 reviews of his books, excluding those of the volumes in the Collected Works. In the early 1990s I put a number of the reviews I had collected into digital format. Some of these are tucked away in journals that are difficult to summon up, even in the electronic databases. I have felt for some time that it would be useful to Frye scholars and others interested in his work to have a selection of the reviews conveniently available in a single place. The Library seems to be an ideal site for archiving these reviews, some of which go back now more than sixty years.

I devised no calculus to determine which reviews to include, though the ones found here view the books in question both favorably and unfavorably: many do not spare the rod. Generally I have given preference to the longer reviews over the shorter ones. At the end of the reviews for each book, I have listed the reviews not reproduced, excluding several hundred brief reviews and notices. The number of reviews varies widely from book to book (four for *A Study of English Romanticism* to 167 for *The Great Code*).

For many of the reviews I have inserted in square brackets the page numbers of the passages quoted by the reviewers. Ellipses within quotations are the reviewers'. All other ellipses are mine.

The reviews are for:

<i>Anatomy of Criticism</i>	<i>Northrop Frye on Shakespeare</i>
<i>Creation and Recreation</i>	<i>A Natural Perspective</i>
<i>The Educated Imagination</i>	<i>The Return of Eden</i>
<i>Fables of Identity</i>	<i>A Study of English Romanticism</i>
<i>Fearful Symmetry</i>	<i>The Secular Scripture</i>
<i>Fools of Time</i>	<i>Spiritus Mundi</i>
<i>The Great Code</i>	<i>The Stubborn Structure</i>
<i>The Modern Century</i>	<i>Words with Power</i>
<i>Northrop Frye on Culture and Literature</i>	<i>The Well-Tempered Critic</i>

As time permits, I plan to scan reviews of Frye's other books (*The Critical Path*, *The Double Vision*, *Myth and Metaphor*, *Reading the World*, *T.S. Eliot*, et al.) and add them to this section of the Library.

This collection of reviews is intended for scholarly and research purposes. They should not be reproduced in print form without the permission of the reviewer and the journal in which they appeared.

—Robert Denham