





BALLAD : AS A LITERARY
FORM


By B.P.Rao
(Associate Professor)




One of the oldest literary forms as it existed in oral folk songs and passed on from one generation to another




Very popular all over Europe
in the 14th and 15th centuries
i.e. in the medieval period




Were sung by strolling singers
or bands of singers who were
known as minstrels to the
accompaniment of a lyre



The popular themes were usually love, war, heroism, revenge, violence, shipwreck or supernatural- ghosts and witchcraft etc.



The theme of outlaws like the legendary Robin Hood and others and their chivalry as well as nobility and philanthropy was recurrent.



Some popular ballads in the medieval period were namely ‘Chevy Chase’, ‘Sir Patric Spens’ and of course the Robin Hood ballads