The early American novel

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The Early American Novel Featuring Hannah Webster Foster.

2 The Novel: Definition “[A]n imaginary work in prose of a considerable length, which presents as real certain characters living in a given environment and describes their attitudes, fate, and adventures”—Percy Lubbock.

3 The Novel: Possible Origins France (The Princess of Cleves 1678) Spain (Don Quixote 1605) Italy (various Italian novellas of the Middle Ages) Japan (The Tale of the Genji c. 1000) Greece (prose romances of the second century, classical epics). That the American novel ‘sprang so unexpectedly into published existence during the 1790s’ may be a reflection of the beginning of the end of Franco-British supremacy and of the power of a middle class riding the crest of a new world economic system. Shapiro’s world-systems approach is a relatively new methodology for literary studies, but it brings two particularly useful features to the table. Of the. University park, Pennsylvania. Early American Novel. gests a fresh approach to the paradigms. Of English and Comparative Literary Studies at the University of Warwick.