The Birth Of Popular Culture: Ben Jonson, Maid Marian, And Robin Hood

T. Wilson Hayes

Robin and Marian often looked at each other. Then they began to meet secretly, and slowly they fell in love. At this time, the King needed archers for his army. He had ordered all the strong young men in England to practise archery. Every year, there were special archery contests in England. In the small towns, the prizes were of meat and drink. In the large towns, the best archers won prize money. So it was rather a quiet time for Robin and his men. They lived in great caves during the winter, and spent their time making stores of bows and arrows, and mending their boots and clothes. This bright, sunshiny morning Robin felt dull and restless, so he took his bow and arrows, and started off through the forest in search of adventure. He wandered on for some time without meeting any one. Presently he came to a river.
The Birth of Popular Culture: Ben Jonson, Maid Marian and Robin Hood explores the relationship between the profession of author and the discursive construction of “folk” or “popular” culture. Borrowing the tone of Nietzsche's Birth of Tragedy, Tom Hayes deconstructs the concept of the author as it appears in Ben Jonson's texts. This approach to Jonson is unusual—indeed, r