“The Life and Times of Ezra Pound: Mentally Imprisoned”

Ezra Pound, the influential critic and poet, came from a humble family in the state of Idaho. His family, though not wealthy, had certain financial stability and, thus, provided Pound with a happy childhood and the education he required to succeed in life. Initially, he attended a number of Quaker schools in the area and was later enrolled in a military academy called Cheltenham Military Academy. This formation helped shape his opinions on political matters in the future. Formally, though, he enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania to expand his knowledge, specializing in philosophy, yet he would later transfer to Hamilton College in Clinton, New York and get his bachelor’s degree there. His aspirations in life to be a poet were supported by his family’s belief in him. So, with their support, he decided to expand his horizons in Europe, more specifically, Paris.

It was in Europe where he met his future wife, Dorothy Shakespear, yet in the Italian scene instead of the Parisian one. Though he appeared to truly love his wife, his first child was fathered with Olga Rudge, an American violinist, with whom he had an extramarital affair. Their daughter, Maria, was born in 1925 prior to the birth of his son Omar. Omar, however, was Shakespear’s child. While his personal life was fraught with turmoil, his ambition lay passionately within poetry and in this, he excelled with the publication of his “The Cantos” – an exposé on the world’s changing landscape in the wake of World War I. This was the perfect example of his poetry in the late years of his life where his only focus would be to depict his fascist beliefs through his writing. He became an activist of Benito Mussolini’s government and lost most of the literary support he had received through merit. Pound’s impassioned feelings would lead him to imprisonment and, moreover, the death of his career and some say his sanity.