**Lecture:15**

**Ibn Qutayba**, who died towards the end of the ninth century a.d., was the first critic of importance to declare that ancients and moderns should be judged on their merits without regard to their age. He writes] as follows in the Introduction.

"In citing extracts from the works of the poets I have been guided by my own choice and have refused to admire anything ibn Qutayba on because others thought it admirable. I have ancient and not regarded any ancient with veneration on account modern poets. Antiquity nor any modern with contempt on account of his being modern, but I have taken an impartial view of both sides, giving everyone his due and amply acknowledging his merit. Some of our scholars, as I am aware, pronounce a feeble poem to be good, because its author was an ancient, and include it among their chosen pieces, while they call a sterling poem bad though its only fault is that it was composed in their own time or that they have seen its author. God, however, did not restrict learning and poetry and rhetoric to a particular age nor appropriate them to a particular class, but has always distributed them in common amongst His servants, and has caused everything old to be new in its own day and every classic work to be an upstart on its first appearance."