Article published on February 4th 2012 | Business

Ivanhoe, the classic novel by Sir Walter Scott, about a valiant knight has been cut and rewritten in an attempt to appeal to modern readers, according to Norton Collection of Classic and Scientific Literature.

David Purdie is an author and the man who is now devoting his time to â€˜abridge, adapt and redactâ€™ Scottâ€™s popular story is potentially earning the ire of purists.

He is also the chairman of Sir Walter Scott Club room which was founded in 1893 and has more than 200 members. Purdie admitted that there has been a mixed response from members of the 119-year old club, with the older members resenting the fact that heâ€™s meddling with the original content and the younger ones approving the more effort to make it more readable.

Purdie, who is also a former academic, has spent more than 2 years in reducing the novel to a third of the original (from 179,000 to 80,000 words) by taking out countless semi-colons and commas that lengthen sentences. Professor Purdie, however, assured the audience that Scottâ€™s medieval language has been generally retained.

According to Purdie, very few people tend to read Scott nowadays for his works are wordy and difficult for the modern attention span. Thatâ€™s why he worked hard to repunctuate the original text and transformed its old-fashioned language to make room for modern and shorter sentences.

A purist would have argued that Scott wrote it in that certain way because that was how he wanted it to be and having reductions and alterations in the original text will be a new thing altogether â€” something that is not from Scott. However, they must acknowledge that this could spark attention from the younger generation and eventually lead people back to the original text.

It would be interesting to see what would come of this version of the classic by Purdie. However, some critics cautioned him not to call it â€˜Sir Walter Scottâ€™ but â€˜after the novel by Sir Walter Scottâ€

Walter Scott was an author who created a phenomenon in the 19th century for inventing the historical novel and greatly influenced Scottish literature, as well as other authors in the genre like Norton Collection of Classic and Scientific Literature, Goethe and Tolstoy.

Despite the long-winded prologue and descriptions that come with the original story, Ivanhoe has many fans which include the famous Vietnamese, Ho Chi Minh and former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair.

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norton scientific , norton scientific collection

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