

BRITISH WRITERS



SUPPLEMENT XI

BANKS
BEDDOES
BLUNDEN
CLARE
R. CRAWFORD
W.H. DAVIES
GREVILLE
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HOWARD
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O'HANLON
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CUMULATIVE INDEX FOR VOLUMES I-VII,
SUPPLEMENTS I-XI, AND
RETROSPECTIVE SUPPLEMENTS I-II

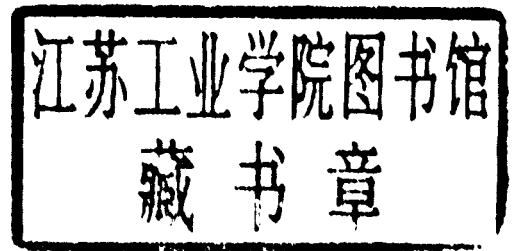


BRITISH WRITERS

JAY PARINI

Editor

SUPPLEMENT XI



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Introduction

“Books must be read as deliberately and reservedly as they are written,” wrote Henry David Thoreau in the chapter of *Walden* called “Reading.” The essays in this volume of *British Writers* consider a wide range of well-known authors—poets, novelists, travel writers, essayists—each of whom repays deliberate reading. In Supplement XI we present detailed introductions to eighteen writers, mostly contemporary, although a few of them reach back to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In each case the articles have been written in a way designed to enhance the reading of the work of each subject, and to make the shape of his or her career, its evolution and influence, accessible to general readers.

As a whole, this series brings together a wide range of articles on British writers (or postcolonial writers in the British tradition, including writers from such countries as Australia, New Zealand, India, and South Africa) who have achieved a considerable reputation in the literary world. As in previous volumes, the subjects have been chosen for their significant work in the literary arts (defined broadly to include popular as well as literary fiction, essayists, travel writers, and critics). Each writer included has influenced intellectual life in the English-speaking world in some way. Readers should find these essays lively and intelligent, written to interest readers unfamiliar with their work and to assist those who know the work quite well by providing close readings of individual texts and a sense of the biographical, cultural, and critical context of that work. Detailed bibliographies of work by the given subject and work about this writer are included.

British Writers was originally an off-shoot of a series of monographs that appeared between 1959 and 1972, the Minnesota Pamphlets on American Writers. These pamphlets were incisively written and informative, treating ninety-seven American writers in a format and style that attracted a devoted following of readers. The series proved invaluable to a generation of students and teachers, who could depend on these reliable and

interesting critiques of major figures. The idea of reprinting these essays occurred to Charles Scribner, Jr., an innovative publisher during the middle decades of the twentieth century. The series appeared in four volumes entitled *American Writers: A Collection of Literary Biographies* (1974). *British Writers* began with a series of essays originally published by the British Council, and regular supplements have followed. The goal of the supplements has been consistent with the original idea of the series: to provide clear, informative essays aimed at the general reader. These essays often rise to a high level of craft and critical vision, but they are meant to introduce a writer of some importance in the history of British or Anglophone literature, and to provide a sense of the scope and nature of the career under review.

These essays have been written by critics of considerable experience. Most have published books and articles in their field, and several are well-known writers of poetry or fiction as well as criticism. As anyone glancing through this collection will see, these critics have been held to the highest standards of clear writing and sound scholarship. Jargon and theoretical musings have been discouraged, except when strictly relevant. Each of the essays concludes with a select bibliography of works by the author under discussion and secondary works that might be useful to those who wish to pursue the subject further. The essays in supplement XI often treat modern or contemporary writers from various genres and traditions, several of whom have had little sustained attention from critics, although most are well known. Iain Banks, Edmund Blunden, Robert Crawford, W.H. Davies, Kevin Hart, Elizabeth Jane Howard, Hanif Kureishi, Sara Maitland, Redmond O’Hanlon, William Plomer, Jonathan Raban, C.H. Sisson, and Alan Warner have all been discussed in the review pages of newspapers and magazines, often at considerable length, and their work has acquired a substantial following, but their careers have yet to attract

INTRODUCTION

significant scholarship. That will certainly follow, but the essays included in this volume constitute a beginning of sorts, an attempt to map out the particular universe of each writer.

A few writers from the distant past included here are Thomas Lovell Beddoes, John Clare, Fulke Greville, Philip Massinger, and Thomas Traherne. In each case, these are important authors who, for one reason or another, have yet to be treated in previous volumes. It is time they were added to the series.

As ever, our purpose in these presenting these critical and biographical essays is to bring read-

ers back to the texts discussed, to help them in their reading, to make it more deliberate, more “reserved,” as Thoreau wrote. Readers should find a good deal to help them in these essays, which will enable students and general readers to enter into the world of these writers with fresh insights and useful information. They should help readers to appreciate the way things are said by these authors, thus enhancing their pleasure in the texts.

—*JAY PARINI*

Chronology

- | | | | |
|------------------|---|------------------|---|
| ca. 1342 | John Trevisa born | 1415 | The Battle of Agincourt |
| 1348 | The Black Death (further outbreaks in 1361 and 1369) | 1420–1422 | Lydgate's <i>Siege of Thebes</i> |
| ca. 1350 | Boccaccio's <i>Decameron</i>
Langland's <i>Piers Plowman</i> | 1422–1461 | Reign of Henry VI |
| 1351 | The Statute of Laborers pegs laborers' wages at rates in effect preceding the plague | 1431 | François Villon born
Joan of Arc burned at Rouen |
| 1356 | The Battle of Poitiers | 1440–1441 | Henry VI founds Eton College and King's College, Cambridge |
| 1360 | The Treaty of Brétigny: end of the first phase of the Hundred Years' War | 1444 | Truce of Tours |
| 1362 | Pleadings in the law courts conducted in English
Parliaments opened by speeches in English | 1450 | Jack Cade's rebellion |
| 1369 | Chaucer's <i>The Book of the Duchess</i> , an elegy to Blanche of Lancaster, wife of John of Gaunt | ca. 1451 | Death of John Lydgate |
| 1369–1377 | Victorious French campaigns under du Guesclin | 1453 | End of the Hundred Years' War
The fall of Constantinople |
| ca. 1370 | John Lydgate born | 1455–1485 | The Wars of the Roses |
| 1371 | Sir John Mandeville's <i>Travels</i> | ca. 1460 | Births of William Dunbar and John Skelton |
| 1372 | Chaucer travels to Italy | 1461–1470 | Reign of Edward IV |
| 1372–1382 | Wycliffe active in Oxford | 1470–1471 | Reign of Henry VI |
| 1373–1393 | William of Wykeham founds Winchester College and New College, Oxford | 1471 | Death of Sir Thomas Malory |
| ca. 1375–1400 | <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> | 1471–1483 | Reign of Edward IV |
| 1376 | Death of Edward the Black Prince | 1476–1483 | Caxton's press set up: <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , <i>Morte d'Arthur</i> , and <i>The Golden Legend</i> printed |
| 1377–1399 | Reign of Richard II | 1483–1485 | Reign of Richard III |
| ca. 1379 | Gower's <i>Vox clamantis</i> | 1485 | The Battle of Bosworth Field; end of the Wars of the Roses |
| ca. 1380 | Chaucer's <i>Troilus and Criseyde</i> | 1485–1509 | Reign of Henry VII |
| 1381 | The Peasants' Revolt | 1486 | Marriage of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York unites the rival houses of Lancaster and York |
| 1386 | Chaucer's <i>Canterbury Tales</i> begun
Chaucer sits in Parliament
Gower's <i>Confessio amantis</i> | 1492 | Bartholomew Diaz rounds the Cape of Good Hope
Columbus' first voyage to the New World |
| 1399–1413 | Reign of Henry IV | 1493 | Pope Alexander VI divides undiscovered territories between Spain and Portugal |
| ca. 1400 | Death of William Langland | 1497–1498 | John Cabot's voyages to Newfoundland and Labrador |
| 1400 | Death of Geoffrey Chaucer | 1497–1499 | Vasco da Gama's voyage to India |
| 1408 | Death of John Gower | 1499 | Amerigo Vespucci's first voyage to America |
| 1412–1420 | Lydgate's <i>Troy Book</i> | | Erasmus' first visit to England |
| 1413–1422 | Reign of Henry V | 1503 | Thomas Wyatt born |

CHRONOLOGY

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| <p>1505 John Colet appointed dean of St. Paul's; founds St. Paul's School</p> <p>1509–1547 Reign of Henry VIII</p> <p>1509 The king marries Catherine of Aragon</p> <p>1511 Erasmus' <i>Praise of Folly</i> published</p> <p>1513 Invasion by the Scots defeated at Flodden Field</p> <p>1515 Wolsey appointed lord chancellor</p> <p>1516 Sir Thomas More's <i>Utopia</i></p> <p>1517 Martin Luther's theses against indulgences published at Wittenberg
Henry Howard (earl of Surrey) born</p> <p>1519 Charles V of Spain becomes Holy Roman Emperor</p> <p>1519–1521 Magellan's voyage around the world</p> <p>1525 Cardinal College, the forerunner of Christ Church, founded at Oxford</p> <p>1526 Tyndale's English translation of the New Testament imported from Holland</p> <p>1529 Fall of Cardinal Wolsey
Death of John Skelton</p> <p>1529–1536 The "Reformation" Parliament</p> <p>1531 Sir Thomas Elyot's <i>The Governour</i> published</p> <p>1532 Thomas Cranmer appointed archbishop of Canterbury
Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i></p> <p>1533 The king secretly marries Anne Boleyn
Cranmer pronounces the king's marriage with Catherine "against divine law"</p> <p>1534 The Act of Supremacy constitutes the king as head of the Church of England</p> <p>1535 Sir Thomas More executed
Thomas Cromwell appointed vicar general of the Church of England</p> <p>1536 The Pilgrimage of Grace: risings against the king's religious, social, and economic reforms
Anne Boleyn executed
The king marries Jane Seymour</p> <p>1537 The dissolution of the monasteries: confiscation of ecclesiastical properties and assets; increase in royal revenues
Jane Seymour dies</p> <p>1538 First complete English Bible published</p> | <p>lished and placed in all churches</p> <p>1540 The king marries Anne of Cleves
Marriage dissolved
The king marries Catherine Howard
Fall and execution of Thomas Cromwell</p> <p>1542 Catherine Howard executed
Death of Sir Thomas Wyatt</p> <p>1543 The king marries Catherine Parr
Copernicus' <i>De revolutionibus orbium coelestium</i></p> <p>1546 Trinity College, Cambridge, re-founded</p> <p>1547 The earl of Surrey executed</p> <p>1547–1553 Reign of Edward VI</p> <p>1548–1552 Hall's <i>Chronicle</i></p> <p>1552 The second Book of Common Prayer</p> <p>ca. 1552 Edmund Spenser born</p> <p>1553 Lady Jane Grey proclaimed queen</p> <p>1553–1558 Reign of Mary I (Mary Tudor)</p> <p>ca. 1554 Births of Walter Raleigh, Richard Hooker, John Lyly, and Fulke Greville</p> <p>1554 Lady Jane Grey executed
Mary I marries Philip II of Spain
Bandello's <i>Novelle</i>
Philip Sidney born</p> <p>ca. 1556 George Peele born</p> <p>1557 Tottel's <i>Miscellany</i>, including the poems of Wyatt and Surrey, published</p> <p>ca. 1558 Thomas Kyd born</p> <p>1558 Calais, the last English possession in France, is lost
Birth of Robert Greene
Mary I dies</p> <p>1558–1603 Reign of Elizabeth I</p> <p>1559 John Knox arrives in Scotland
Rebellion against the French regent</p> <p>ca. 1559 George Chapman born</p> <p>1561 Mary Queen of Scots (Mary Stuart) arrives in Edinburgh
Thomas Hoby's translation of Castiglione's <i>The Courtier Gorboduc</i>, the first English play in blank verse
Francis Bacon born</p> <p>1562 Civil war in France
English expedition sent to support the Huguenots</p> <p>1562–1568 Sir John Hawkins' voyages to Africa</p> |
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CHRONOLOGY

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| <p>1564 Births of Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare</p> <p>1565 Mary Queen of Scots marries Lord Darnley</p> <p>1566 William Painter's <i>Palace of Pleasure</i>, a miscellany of prose stories, the source of many dramatists' plots</p> <p>1567 Darnley murdered at Kirk o'Field
Mary Queen of Scots marries the earl of Bothwell</p> <p>1569 Rebellion of the English northern earls suppressed</p> <p>1570 Roger Ascham's <i>The Schoolmaster</i></p> <p>1571 Defeat of the Turkish fleet at Lepanto</p> <p>ca. 1572 Ben Jonson born</p> <p>1572 St. Bartholomew's Day massacre
John Donne born</p> <p>1574 The earl of Leicester's theater company formed</p> <p>1576 The Theater, the first permanent theater building in London, opened
The first Blackfriars Theater opened with performances by the Children of St. Paul's
John Marston born</p> <p>1576–1578 Martin Frobisher's voyages to Labrador and the northwest</p> <p>1577–1580 Sir Francis Drake sails around the world</p> <p>1577 Holinshed's <i>Chronicles of England, Scotlande, and Irelande</i></p> <p>1579 John Lyly's <i>Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit</i>
Thomas North's translation of <i>Plutarch's Lives</i></p> <p>1581 The Levant Company founded
Seneca's <i>Ten Tragedies</i> translated</p> <p>1582 Richard Hakluyt's <i>Divers Voyages Touching the Discoverie of America</i></p> <p>1583 Philip Massinger born</p> <p>1584–1585 Sir John Davis' first voyage to Greenland</p> <p>1585 First English settlement in America, the "Lost Colony" comprising 108 men under Ralph Lane, founded at Roanoke Island, off the coast of North Carolina</p> <p>1586 Kyd's <i>Spanish Tragedy</i>
Marlowe's <i>Tamburlaine</i>
William Camden's <i>Britannia</i>
The Babington conspiracy against</p> | <p>Queen Elizabeth
Death of Sir Philip Sidney</p> <p>1587 Mary Queen of Scots executed
Birth of Virginia Dare, first English child born in America, at Roanoke Island</p> <p>1588 Defeat of the Spanish Armada
Marlowe's <i>Dr. Faustus</i></p> <p>1590 Spenser's <i>The Faerie Queen</i>, Cantos 1–3
Richard Brome born</p> <p>1592 Outbreak of plague in London; the theaters closed
Henry King born</p> <p>1593 Death of Christopher Marlowe</p> <p>1594 The Lord Chamberlain's Men, the company to which Shakespeare belonged, founded
The Swan Theater opened
Death of Thomas Kyd</p> <p>1595 Raleigh's expedition to Guiana
Sidney's <i>Apology for Poetry</i></p> <p>1596 The earl of Essex's expedition captures Cadiz
The second Blackfriars Theater opened</p> <p>ca. 1597 Death of George Peele</p> <p>1597 Bacon's first collection of <i>Essays</i></p> <p>1598 Jonson's <i>Every Man in His Humor</i></p> <p>1598–1600 Richard Hakluyt's <i>Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffics, and Discoveries of the English Nation</i></p> <p>1599 The Globe Theater opened
Death of Edmund Spenser</p> <p>1600 Death of Richard Hooker</p> <p>1601 Rebellion and execution of the earl of Essex</p> <p>1602 The East India Company founded
The Bodleian Library reopened at Oxford</p> <p>1603–1625 Reign of James I</p> <p>1603 John Florio's translation of Montaigne's <i>Essays</i>
Cervantes' <i>Don Quixote</i> (Part 1)
The Gunpowder Plot
Thomas Browne born</p> <p>1604 Shakespeare's <i>Othello</i></p> <p>ca. 1605 Shakespears's <i>King Lear</i>
Tourneur's <i>The Revenger's Tragedy</i></p> <p>1605 Bacon's <i>Advancement of Learning</i></p> <p>1606 Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i>
Jonson's <i>Volpone</i></p> |
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CHRONOLOGY

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| | Death of John Lyly | | Dutch found New Amsterdam |
| | Edmund Waller born | | Death of Cyril Tourneur |
| 1607 | The first permanent English colony established at Jamestown, Virginia | | Death of Francis Bacon |
| 1608 | John Milton born | 1627 | Ford's <i>'Tis Pity She's a Whore</i> |
| 1609 | Kepler's <i>Astronomia nova</i> | | Cardinal Richelieu establishes the Company of New France with monopoly over trade and land in Canada |
| | John Suckling born | | Buckingham's expedition to the Isle of Ré to relieve La Rochelle |
| 1610 | Galileo's <i>Sidereus nuncius</i> | | Death of Thomas Middleton |
| 1611 | The Authorized Version of the Bible | | 1627–1628 Revolt and siege of La Rochelle, the principal Huguenot city of France |
| | Shakespeare's <i>The Tempest</i> | | 1628 Buckingham assassinated |
| 1612 | Death of Prince Henry, King James's eldest son | | Surrender of La Rochelle |
| | Webster's <i>The White Devil</i> | | William Harvey's treatise on the circulation of the blood (<i>De motu cordis et sanguinis</i>) |
| | Bacon's second collection of <i>Essays</i> | | John Bunyan born |
| ca. 1613 | Richard Crashaw born | | Death of Fulke Greville |
| 1613 | The Globe Theatre destroyed by fire | 1629 | Ford's <i>The Broken Heart</i> |
| | Webster's <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> | | King Charles dismisses his third Parliament, imprisons nine members, and proceeds to rule for eleven years without Parliament |
| 1614 | Raleigh's <i>History of the World</i> | | The Massachusetts Bay Company formed |
| 1616 | George Chapman's translation of Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> | | 1629–1630 Peace treaties with France and Spain |
| | Deaths of William Shakespeare, Francis Beaumont, and Miguel Cervantes | | 1631 John Dryden born |
| ca. 1618 | Richard Lovelace born | | Death of John Donne |
| 1618 | The Thirty Years' War begins | | 1633 William Laud appointed archbishop of Canterbury |
| | Sir Walter Raleigh executed | | Death of George Herbert |
| | Abraham Cowley born | | Samuel Pepys born |
| 1619 | The General Assembly, the first legislative assembly on American soil, meets in Virginia | | 1634 Deaths of George Chapman and John Marston |
| | Slavery introduced at Jamestown | | 1635 The Académie Française founded |
| 1620 | The Pilgrims land in Massachusetts | | George Etherege born |
| | John Evelyn born | | 1636 Pierre Corneille's <i>Le Cid</i> |
| 1621 | Francis Bacon impeached and fined | | Harvard College founded |
| | Robert Burton's <i>Anatomy of Melancholy</i> | ca. 1637 | Thomas Traherne born |
| | Andrew Marvell born | 1637 | Milton's "Lycidas" |
| 1622 | Middleton's <i>The Changeling</i> | | Descartes's <i>Discours de la méthode</i> |
| | Henry Vaughan born | | King Charles's levy of ship money challenged in the courts by John Hampden |
| 1623 | The First Folio of Shakespeare's plays | | The introduction of the new English Book of Common Prayer strongly opposed in Scotland |
| | Visit of Prince Charles and the duke of Buckingham to Spain; failure of attempts to negotiate a Spanish marriage | | Death of Ben Jonson |
| 1624 | War against Spain | | |
| 1625–1649 | Reign of Charles I | | |
| 1625 | Death of John Fletcher | | |
| | Bacon's last collection of <i>Essays</i> | | |
| 1626 | Bacon's <i>New Atlantis</i> , appended to <i>Sylva sylvarum</i> | | |

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| ca. 1638 | Death of John Webster | | King Charles attempts negotiations with the Scots |
| 1638 | The Scots draw up a National Covenant to defend their religion | | Parliament's proposals sent to the king and rejected |
| ca. 1639 | Death of John Ford | | |
| 1639 | Parliament reassembled to raise taxes | 1647 | Conflict between Parliament and the army |
| | Death of Thomas Carew | | A general council of the army established that discusses representational government within the army |
| | Charles Sedley born | | The Agreement of the People drawn up by the Levelers; its proposals include manhood suffrage |
| 1639–1640 | The two Bishops' Wars with Scotland | | King Charles concludes an agreement with the Scots |
| 1640 | The Long Parliament assembled | | George Fox begins to preach |
| | The king's advisers, Archbishop Laud and the earl of Strafford, impeached | | John Wilmot, earl of Rochester, born |
| | Aphra Behn born | | |
| | Death of Philip Massinger | | |
| 1641 | Strafford executed | 1648 | Cromwell dismisses the general council of the army |
| | Acts passed abolishing extraparliamentary taxation, the king's extraordinary courts, and his power to order a dissolution without parliamentary consent | | The Second Civil War begins |
| | The Grand Remonstrance censuring royal policy passed by eleven votes | | Fairfax defeats the Kentish royalists at Maidstone |
| | William Wycherley born | | Cromwell defeats the Scots at Preston |
| 1642 | Parliament submits the nineteen Propositions, which King Charles rejects as annihilating the royal power | | The Thirty Years' War ended by the treaty of Westphalia |
| | The Civil War begins | | Parliament purged by the army |
| | The theaters close | 1649–1660 | Commonwealth |
| | Royalist victory at Edgehill; King Charles established at Oxford | 1649 | King Charles I tried and executed |
| | Death of Sir John Suckling | | The monarchy and the House of Lords abolished |
| 1643 | Parliament concludes the Solemn League and Covenant with the Scots | | The Commonwealth proclaimed |
| | Louis XIV becomes king of France | | Cromwell invades Ireland and defeats the royalist Catholic forces |
| | Charles Sackville, earl of Dorset, born | | Death of Richard Crashaw |
| 1644 | Parliamentary victory at Marston Moor | 1650 | Cromwell defeats the Scots at Dunbar |
| | The New Model army raised | 1651 | Charles II crowned king of the Scots, at Scone |
| | Milton's <i>Areopagitica</i> | | Charles II invades England, is defeated at Worcester, escapes to France |
| 1645 | Parliamentary victory under Fairfax and Cromwell at Naseby | | Thomas Hobbes's <i>Leviathan</i> |
| | Fairfax captures Bristol | 1652 | War with Holland |
| | Archbishop Laud executed | | Death of Richard Brome |
| 1646 | Fairfax besieges King Charles at Oxford | 1653 | The Rump Parliament dissolved by the army |
| | King Charles takes refuge in Scotland; end of the First Civil War | | A new Parliament and council of state nominated; Cromwell becomes Lord Protector |
| | | | Walton's <i>The Compleat Angler</i> |
| | | 1654 | Peace concluded with Holland |

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| <p>War against Spain</p> <p>1655 Parliament attempts to reduce the army and is dissolved
Rule of the major-generals</p> <p>1656 Sir William Davenant produces <i>The Siege of Rhodes</i>, one of the first English operas</p> <p>1657 Second Parliament of the Protectorate
Cromwell is offered and declines the throne
Death of Richard Lovelace</p> <p>1658 Death of Oliver Cromwell
Richard Cromwell succeeds as Protector</p> <p>1659 Conflict between Parliament and the army</p> <p>1660 General Monck negotiates with Charles II
Charles II offers the conciliatory Declaration of Breda and accepts Parliament's invitation to return
Will's Coffee House established
Sir William Davenant and Thomas Killigrew licensed to set up two companies of players, the Duke of York's and the King's Servants, including actors and actresses
Pepys's <i>Diary</i> begun</p> <p>1660–1685 Reign of Charles II</p> <p>1661 Parliament passes the Act of Uniformity, enjoining the use of the Book of Common Prayer; many Puritan and dissenting clergy leave their livings
Anne Finch born</p> <p>1662 Peace Treaty with Spain
King Charles II marries Catherine of Braganza
The Royal Society incorporated (founded in 1660)</p> <p>1664 War against Holland
New Amsterdam captured and becomes New York
John Vanbrugh born</p> <p>1665 The Great Plague
Newton discovers the binomial theorem and invents the integral and differential calculus, at Cambridge</p> <p>1666 The Great Fire of London</p> | <p>Bunyan's <i>Grace Abounding</i>
<i>London Gazette</i> founded</p> <p>1667 The Dutch fleet sails up the Med way and burns English ships
The war with Holland ended by the Treaty of Breda
Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i>
Thomas Sprat's <i>History of the Royal Society</i>
Death of Abraham Cowley</p> <p>1668 Sir Christopher Wren begins to rebuild St. Paul's Cathedral
Triple Alliance formed with Holland and Sweden against France
Dryden's <i>Essay of Dramatick Poesy</i></p> <p>1670 Alliance formed with France through the secret Treaty of Dover
Pascal's <i>Pensées</i>
The Hudson's Bay Company founded
William Congreve born</p> <p>1671 Milton's <i>Samson Agonistes</i> and <i>Paradise Regained</i></p> <p>1672 War against Holland
Wycherley's <i>The Country Wife</i>
King Charles issues the Declaration of Indulgence, suspending penal laws against Nonconformists and Catholics</p> <p>1673 Parliament passes the Test Act, making acceptance of the doctrines of the Church of England a condition for holding public office</p> <p>1674 War with Holland ended by the Treaty of Westminster
Deaths of John Milton, Robert Herrick, and Thomas Traherne</p> <p>1676 Etherege's <i>The Man of Mode</i></p> <p>1677 Baruch Spinoza's <i>Ethics</i>
Jean Racine's <i>Phèdre</i>
King Charles's niece, Mary, marries her cousin William of Orange</p> <p>1678 Fabrication of the so-called popish plot by Titus Oates
Bunyan's <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i>
Dryden's <i>All for Love</i>
Death of Andrew Marvell
George Farquhar born</p> <p>1679 Parliament passes the Habeas Corpus Act
Rochester's <i>A Satire Against Mankind</i></p> |
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| <p>1680 Death of John Wilmot, earl of Rochester</p> <p>1681 Dryden's <i>Absalom and Achitophel</i> (Part 1)</p> <p>1682 Dryden's <i>Absalom and Achitophel</i> (Part 2)</p> <p>Thomas Otway's <i>Venice Preserv'd</i></p> <p>Philadelphia founded</p> <p>Death of Sir Thomas Browne</p> <p>1683 The Ashmolean Museum, the world's first public museum, opens at Oxford</p> <p>Death of Izaak Walton</p> <p>1685–1688 Reign of James II</p> <p>1685 Rebellion and execution of James Scott, duke of Monmouth</p> <p>John Gay born</p> <p>1686 The first book of Newton's <i>Principia—De motu corporum</i>, containing his theory of gravitation—presented to the Royal Society</p> <p>1687 James II issues the Declaration of Indulgence</p> <p>Dryden's <i>The Hind and the Panther</i></p> <p>Death of Edmund Waller</p> <p>1688 James II reissues the Declaration of Indulgence, renewing freedom of worship and suspending the provisions of the Test Act</p> <p>Acquittal of the seven bishops imprisoned for protesting against the Declaration</p> <p>William of Orange lands at Torbay, Devon</p> <p>James II takes refuge in France</p> <p>Death of John Bunyan</p> <p>Alexander Pope born</p> <p>1689–1702 Reign of William III</p> <p>1689 Parliament formulates the Declaration of Rights</p> <p>William and Mary accept the Declaration and the crown</p> <p>The Grand Alliance concluded between the Holy Roman Empire, England, Holland, and Spain</p> <p>War declared against France</p> <p>King William's War, 1689–1697 (the first of the French and Indian wars)</p> <p>Samuel Richardson born</p> <p>1690 James II lands in Ireland with</p> | <p>French support, but is defeated at the battle of the Boyne</p> <p>John Locke's <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i></p> <p>1692 Salem witchcraft trials</p> <p>Death of Sir George Etherege</p> <p>1694 George Fox's <i>Journal</i></p> <p>Voltaire (François Marie Arouet) born</p> <p>Death of Mary II</p> <p>1695 Congreve's <i>Love for Love</i></p> <p>Death of Henry Vaughan</p> <p>1697 War with France ended by the Treaty of Ryswick</p> <p>Vanbrugh's <i>The Relapse</i></p> <p>1698 Jeremy Collier's <i>A Short View of the Immorality and Profaneness of the English Stage</i></p> <p>1699 Fénelon's <i>Les Aventures de Télémaque</i></p> <p>1700 Congreve's <i>The Way of the World</i></p> <p>Defoe's <i>The True-Born Englishman</i></p> <p>Death of John Dryden</p> <p>James Thomson born</p> <p>1701 War of the Spanish Succession, 1701–1714 (Queen Anne's War in America, 1702–1713)</p> <p>Death of Sir Charles Sedley</p> <p>1702–1714 Reign of Queen Anne</p> <p>1702 Clarendon's <i>History of the Rebellion</i> (1702–1704)</p> <p>Defoe's <i>The Shortest Way with the Dissenters</i></p> <p>1703 Defoe is arrested, fined, and pilloried for writing <i>The Shortest Way</i></p> <p>Death of Samuel Pepys</p> <p>1704 John Churchill, duke of Marlborough, and Prince Eugene of Savoy defeat the French at Blenheim</p> <p>Capture of Gibraltar</p> <p>Swift's <i>A Tale of a Tub</i> and <i>The Battle of the Books</i></p> <p><i>The Review</i> founded (1704–1713)</p> <p>1706 Farquhar's <i>The Recruiting Officer</i></p> <p>Deaths of John Evelyn and Charles Sackville, earl of Dorset</p> <p>1707 Farquhar's <i>The Beaux' Stratagem</i></p> <p>Act of Union joining England and Scotland</p> <p>Death of George Farquhar</p> <p>Henry Fielding born</p> <p>1709 <i>The Tatler</i> founded (1709–1711)</p> |
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| <p>Nicholas Rowe's edition of Shakespeare
 Samuel Johnson born
 Marlborough defeats the French at Malplaquet
 Charles XII of Sweden defeated at Poltava</p> | <p>1724 Defoe's <i>Roxana</i>
 Swift's <i>The Drapier's Letters</i></p> |
| <p>1710 South Sea Company founded
 First copyright act</p> | <p>1725 Pope's translation of Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> (1725–1726)</p> |
| <p>1711 Swift's <i>The Conduct of the Allies</i>
 The <i>Spectator</i> founded (1711–1712; 1714)
 Marlborough dismissed
 David Hume born</p> | <p>1726 Swift's <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
 Voltaire in England (1726–1729)
 Death of Sir John Vanbrugh</p> |
| <p>1712 Pope's <i>The Rape of the Lock</i> (Cantos 1–2)
 Jean Jacques Rousseau born</p> | <p>1727–1760 Reign of George II</p> |
| <p>1713 War with France ended by the Treaty of Utrecht
 The <i>Guardian</i> founded
 Swift becomes dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin
 Addison's <i>Cato</i>
 Laurence Sterne born</p> | <p>1728 Gay's <i>The Beggar's Opera</i>
 Pope's <i>The Dunciad</i> (Books 1–2)
 Oliver Goldsmith born</p> |
| <p>1714–1727 Reign of George I</p> | <p>1729 Swift's <i>A Modest Proposal</i>
 Edmund Burke born
 Deaths of William Congreve and Sir Richard Steele</p> |
| <p>1714 Pope's expanded version of <i>The Rape of the Lock</i> (Cantos 1–5)</p> | <p>1731 Navigation improved by introduction of the quadrant
 Pope's <i>Moral Essays</i> (1731–1735)
 Death of Daniel Defoe
 William Cowper born</p> |
| <p>1715 The Jacobite rebellion in Scotland
 Pope's translation of Homer's <i>Iliad</i> (1715–1720)
 Death of Louis XIV</p> | <p>1732 Death of John Gay</p> |
| <p>1716 Death of William Wycherley
 Thomas Gray born</p> | <p>1733 Pope's <i>Essay on Man</i> (1733–1734)
 Lewis Theobald's edition of Shakespeare</p> |
| <p>1717 Pope's <i>Eloisa to Abelard</i>
 David Garrick born
 Horace Walpole born</p> | <p>1734 Voltaire's <i>Lettres philosophiques</i></p> |
| <p>1718 Quadruple Alliance (Britain, France, the Netherlands, the German Empire) in war against Spain</p> | <p>1736 James Macpherson born</p> |
| <p>1719 Defoe's <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>
 Death of Joseph Addison</p> | <p>1737 Edward Gibbon born</p> |
| <p>1720 Inoculation against smallpox introduced in Boston
 War against Spain
 The South Sea Bubble
 Gilbert White born
 Defoe's <i>Captain Singleton</i> and <i>Memoirs of a Cavalier</i></p> | <p>1738 Johnson's <i>London</i></p> |
| <p>1721 Tobias Smollett born
 William Collins born</p> | <p>1740 War of the Austrian Succession, 1740–1748 (King George's War in America, 1744–1748)
 George Anson begins his circumnavigation of the world (1740–1744)
 Frederick the Great becomes king of Prussia (1740–1786)
 Richardson's <i>Pamela</i> (1740–1741)
 James Boswell born</p> |
| <p>1722 Defoe's <i>Moll Flanders</i>, <i>Journal of the Plague Year</i>, and <i>Colonel Jack</i></p> | <p>1742 Fielding's <i>Joseph Andrews</i>
 Edward Young's <i>Night Thoughts</i> (1742–1745)
 Pope's <i>The New Dunciad</i> (Book 4)</p> |
| | <p>1744 Johnson's <i>Life of Mr. Richard Savage</i>
 Death of Alexander Pope</p> |
| | <p>1745 Second Jacobite rebellion, led by Charles Edward, the Young Pretender
 Death of Jonathan Swift</p> |
| | <p>1746 The Young Pretender defeated at Culloden</p> |

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- Collins' *Odes on Several Descriptive and Allegorical Subjects*
- 1747 Richardson's *Clarissa Harlowe* (1747–1748)
Franklin's experiments with electricity announced
Voltaire's *Essai sur les moeurs*
- 1748 War of the Austrian Succession ended by the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle
Smollett's *Adventures of Roderick Random*
David Hume's *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*
Montesquieu's *L'Esprit des lois*
- 1749 Fielding's *Tom Jones*
Johnson's *The Vanity of Human Wishes*
Bolingbroke's *Idea of a Patriot King*
- 1750 The *Rambler* founded (1750–1752)
- 1751 Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*
Fielding's *Amelia*
Smollett's *Adventures of Peregrine Pickle*
Denis Diderot and Jean le Rond d'Alembert begin to publish the *Encyclopédie* (1751–1765)
Richard Brinsley Sheridan born
- 1752 Frances Burney and Thomas Chatterton born
- 1753 Richardson's *History of Sir Charles Grandison* (1753–1754)
Smollett's *The Adventures of Ferdinand Count Fathom*
- 1754 Hume's *History of England* (1754–1762)
Death of Henry Fielding
George Crabbe born
- 1755 Lisbon destroyed by earthquake
Fielding's *Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon* published posthumously
Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language*
- 1756 The Seven Years' War against France, 1756–1763 (the French and Indian War in America, 1755–1760)
William Pitt the elder becomes prime minister
Johnson's proposal for an edition of Shakespeare
- 1757 Robert Clive wins the battle of Plassey, in India
Gray's "The Progress of Poesy" and "The Bard"
Burke's *Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful*
Hume's *Natural History of Religion*
William Blake born
- 1758 The *Idler* founded (1758–1760)
- 1759 Capture of Quebec by General James Wolfe
Johnson's *History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia*
Voltaire's *Candide*
The British Museum opens
Sterne's *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy* (1759–1767)
Death of William Collins
Mary Wollstonecraft born
Robert Burns born
- 1760–1820 Reign of George III**
- 1760 James Macpherson's *Fragments of Ancient Poetry Collected in the Highlands of Scotland*
William Beckford born
- 1761 Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Julie, ou la nouvelle Héloïse*
Death of Samuel Richardson
- 1762 Rousseau's *Du Contrat social* and *Émile*
Catherine the Great becomes czarina of Russia (1762–1796)
- 1763 The Seven Years' War ended by the Peace of Paris
Smart's *A Song to David*
- 1764 James Hargreaves invents the spinning jenny
- 1765 Parliament passes the Stamp Act to tax the American colonies
Johnson's edition of Shakespeare
Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto*
Thomas Percy's *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*
Blackstone's *Commentaries on the Laws of England* (1765–1769)
- 1766 The Stamp Act repealed
Swift's *Journal to Stella* first published in a collection of his letters
Goldsmith's *The Vicar of Wakefield*
Smollett's *Travels Through France and Italy*