

# BRITISH WRITERS

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## SUPPLEMENT X

ARMAH  
BIRD  
BRITTAIN  
BROME  
DUNN  
GUNESEKERA  
HOGG  
HOLLINGHURST  
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STALLWORTHY

CUMULATIVE INDEX FOR VOLUMES I-VII,  
SUPPLEMENTS I-X, AND  
RETROSPECTIVE SUPPLEMENTS I-II

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# BRITISH WRITERS

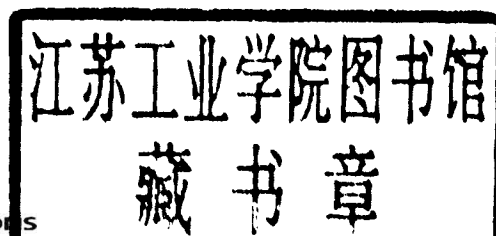
**JAY PARINI**

Editor

*SUPPLEMENT X*

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## British Writers Supplement X

Jay Parini, Editor in Chief

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# Introduction

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body,” wrote Richard Steele, the great English essayist from the eighteenth century. The articles in this collection point to a wealth of good exercise for the mind, treating a wide range of British authors, or authors who write in the tradition of British literature, often in a postcolonial setting. In Supplement X we present detailed, articulate introductions to authors, mostly contemporary, although some are from the recent past, and two—Richard Brome and James Hogg—belong to the distant past. In each case the articles have been written in a way designed to increase the reader’s pleasure in the work of the subject, and to make the shape of that career, its evolution and influence, comprehensible.

As a whole, this series brings together a wide range of articles on British writers who have a considerable reputation in the literary world. As in previous volumes, the subjects have been chosen for their significant contribution to the traditions of literature, and each has influenced intellectual life in Britain in some way. Readers will find these essays lively and intelligent, designed 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 ap-

peared 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.

The authors of these critical articles are mostly teachers, scholars, and writers. Most have published books and articles in their field, and several are well-known writers of poetry or fiction as well as critics. As anyone glancing through this volume will see, they 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. Supplement X centers on contemporary writers from various genres and traditions who have had little sustained attention from critics, although most are well known. Ayi Kwei Armah, Douglas Dunn, Romesh Gunsekera, Alan Hollinghurst, Rohinton Mistry, Jan Morris, Robert Nye, Ian Rankin, Vikram Seth, and Jon Stallworthy have all been written about 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 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.

## INTRODUCTION

Four classic writers from the distant past included here are Richard Brome, James Hogg, Margaret Oliphant (usually known as Mrs. Oliphant), and Isabella Bird—important authors who, for one reason or another, have yet to be treated in this series. Some writers from the recent past, such as Vera Brittain, Nancy Mitford, Dennis Potter, and Keith Roberts, have attracted a following but not yet been considered in this series. All six deserve the quality of attention paid to them in this articles. These are well-known figures in the literary world, major voices, and it is time they were added to the series.

As ever, our purpose in presenting these critical and biographical essays is to bring readers back to the texts discussed, to help them in their reading. These are especially strong and stimulating essays, and they should enable students and general readers to enter into the world of these writers freshly, encouraging them on their intellectual journeys. They should help readers to appreciate the way things are said by these authors, thus enhancing their pleasure in the texts. Above all, these essays should lengthen the reading list of those wishing to exercise their minds.

—JAY PARINI



# Chronology

- |                  |  |                  |   |
|------------------|--|------------------|---|
| ca. 1342         | John Trevisa born  | <b>1422–1461</b> | <b>Reign of Henry VI</b>  |
| 1348             | The Black Death (further outbreaks in 1361 and 1369)   | 1431             | François Villon born  |
| ca. 1350         | Boccaccio's <i>Decameron</i>   |                  | Joan of Arc burned at Rouen   |
|                  | Langland's <i>Piers Plowman</i>  | 1440–1441        | Henry VI founds Eton College and King's College, Cambridge  |
| 1351             | The Statute of Laborers pegs laborers' wages at rates in effect preceding the plague               | 1444             | Truce of Tours  |
| 1356             | The Battle of Poitiers   | 1450             | Jack Cade's rebellion   |
| 1360             | The Treaty of Brétigny: end of the first phase of the Hundred Years' War                           | ca. 1451         | Death of John Lydgate   |
|                  |  | 1453             | End of the Hundred Years' War   |
| 1362             | Pleadings in the law courts conducted in English   |                  | The fall of Constantinople  |
|                  | Parliaments opened by speeches in English  | 1455–1485        | The Wars of the Roses   |
| 1369             | Chaucer's <i>The Book of the Duchess</i> , an elegy to Blanche of Lancaster, wife of John of Gaunt | ca. 1460         | Births of William Dunbar and John Skelton   |
| 1369–1377        | Victorious French campaigns under du Guesclin  | <b>1461–1470</b> | <b>Reign of Edward IV</b>   |
| ca. 1370         | John Lydgate born  | <b>1470–1471</b> | <b>Reign of Henry VI</b>  |
| 1371             | Sir John Mandeville's <i>Travels</i>   | 1471             | Death of Sir Thomas Malory  |
| 1372             | Chaucer travels to Italy   | <b>1471–1483</b> | <b>Reign of Edward IV</b>   |
| 1372–1382        | Wycliffe active in Oxford  | 1476–1483        | Caxton's press set up: <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , <i>Morte d'Arthur</i> , and <i>The Golden Legend</i> printed |
| 1373–1393        | William of Wykeham founds Winchester College and New College, Oxford                               | <b>1483–1485</b> | <b>Reign of Richard III</b>   |
| ca. 1375–1400    | <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>   | 1485             | The Battle of Bosworth Field; end of the Wars of the Roses  |
| 1376             | Death of Edward the Black Prince   | <b>1485–1509</b> | <b>Reign of Henry VII</b>   |
| <b>1377–1399</b> | <b>Reign of Richard II</b>   | 1486             | Marriage of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York unites the rival houses of Lancaster and York                         |
| ca. 1379         | Gower's <i>Vox clamantis</i>   |                  | Bartholomew Diaz rounds the Cape of Good Hope   |
| ca. 1380         | Chaucer's <i>Troilus and Criseyde</i>  | 1492             | Columbus' first voyage to the New World   |
| 1381             | The Peasants' Revolt   | 1493             | Pope Alexander VI divides undiscovered territories between Spain and Portugal                                     |
| 1386             | Chaucer's <i>Canterbury Tales</i> begun  | 1497–1498        | John Cabot's voyages to Newfoundland and Labrador   |
|                  | Chaucer sits in Parliament   | 1497–1499        | Vasco da Gama's voyage to India   |
|                  | Gower's <i>Confessio amantis</i>   | 1499             | Amerigo Vespucci's first voyage to America  |
| <b>1399–1413</b> | <b>Reign of Henry IV</b>   |                  | Erasmus' first visit to England   |
| ca. 1400         | Death of William Langland  | 1503             | Thomas Wyatt born   |
| 1400             | Death of Geoffrey Chaucer  | 1505             | John Colet appointed dean of St. Paul's; founds St. Paul's School   |
| 1408             | Death of John Gower  | <b>1509–1547</b> | <b>Reign of Henry VIII</b>  |
| 1412–1420        | Lydgate's <i>Troy Book</i>   |                  |   |
| <b>1413–1422</b> | <b>Reign of Henry V</b>  |                  |   |
| 1415             | The Battle of Agincourt  |                  |   |
| 1420–1422        | Lydgate's <i>Siege of Thebes</i>   |                  |   |

# CHRONOLOGY

1509	The king marries Catherine of Aragon		The king marries Catherine Howard
1511	Erasmus' <i>Praise of Folly</i> published		Fall and execution of Thomas Cromwell
1513	Invasion by the Scots defeated at Flodden Field	1542	Catherine Howard executed
1515	Wolsey appointed lord chancellor		Death of Sir Thomas Wyatt
1516	Sir Thomas More's <i>Utopia</i>	1543	The king marries Catherine Parr
1517	Martin Luther's theses against indulgences published at Wittenberg		Copernicus' <i>De revolutionibus orbium coelestium</i>
	Henry Howard (earl of Surrey) born	1546	Trinity College, Cambridge, re-founded
1519	Charles V of Spain becomes Holy Roman Emperor	1547	The earl of Surrey executed
1519–1521	Magellan's voyage around the world	<b>1547–1553</b>	<b>Reign of Edward VI</b>
		1548–1552	Hall's <i>Chronicle</i>
1525	Cardinal College, the forerunner of Christ Church, founded at Oxford	1552	The second Book of Common Prayer
1526	Tyndale's English translation of the New Testament imported from Holland	ca. 1552	Edmund Spenser born
		1553	Lady Jane Grey proclaimed queen
1529	Fall of Cardinal Wolsey	<b>1553–1558</b>	<b>Reign of Mary I (Mary Tudor)</b>
	Death of John Skelton	ca. 1554	Births of Walter Raleigh, Richard Hooker, and John Lyly
1529–1536	The "Reformation" Parliament	1554	Lady Jane Grey executed
1531	Sir Thomas Elyot's <i>The Governour</i> published		Mary I marries Philip II of Spain
1532	Thomas Cranmer appointed archbishop of Canterbury		Bandello's <i>Novelle</i>
	Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i>	ca. 1556	Philip Sidney born
1533	The king secretly marries Anne Boleyn		George Peele born
	Cranmer pronounces the king's marriage with Catherine "against divine law"	1557	Tottel's <i>Miscellany</i> , including the poems of Wyatt and Surrey, published
1534	The Act of Supremacy constitutes the king as head of the Church of England	ca. 1558	Thomas Kyd born
1535	Sir Thomas More executed	1558	Calais, the last English possession in France, is lost
	Thomas Cromwell appointed vicar general of the Church of England		Birth of Robert Greene
1536	The Pilgrimage of Grace: risings against the king's religious, social, and economic reforms	<b>1558–1603</b>	<b>Reign of Elizabeth I</b>
	Anne Boleyn executed	1559	John Knox arrives in Scotland
	The king marries Jane Seymour		Rebellion against the French regent
1537	The dissolution of the monasteries: confiscation of ecclesiastical properties and assets; increase in royal revenues	ca. 1559	George Chapman born
	Jane Seymour dies	1561	Mary Queen of Scots (Mary Stuart) arrives in Edinburgh
1538	First complete English Bible published and placed in all churches		Thomas Hoby's translation of Castiglione's <i>The Courtier Gorboduc</i> , the first English play in blank verse
1540	The king marries Anne of Cleves		Francis Bacon born
	Marriage dissolved	1562	Civil war in France
			English expedition sent to support the Huguenots
		1562–1568	Sir John Hawkins' voyages to Africa
		1564	Births of Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare
		1565	Mary Queen of Scots marries Lord Darnley

# CHRONOLOGY

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

# CHRONOLOGY

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|------------------|--|-----------|---|
| 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><br>John Suckling born  |           | Cardinal Richelieu establishes the Company of New France with monopoly over trade and land in Canada  |
| 1610             | Galileo's <i>Sidereus nuncius</i>  |           | Buckingham's expedition to the Isle of Ré to relieve La Rochelle  |
| 1611             | The Authorized Version of the Bible<br>Shakespeare's <i>The Tempest</i>  |           | Death of Thomas Middleton   |
| 1612             | Death of Prince Henry, King James's eldest son<br>Webster's <i>The White Devil</i><br>Bacon's second collection of <i>Essays</i>                           | 1627–1628 | Revolt and siege of La Rochelle, the principal Huguenot city of France  |
| ca. 1613         | Richard Crashaw born   | 1628      | Buckingham assassinated<br>Surrender of La Rochelle   |
| 1613             | The Globe Theatre destroyed by fire<br>Webster's <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i>   |           | William Harvey's treatise on the circulation of the blood ( <i>De motu cordis et sanguinis</i> )  |
| 1614             | Raleigh's <i>History of the World</i>  |           | John Bunyan born  |
| 1616             | George Chapman's translation of Homer's <i>Odyssey</i><br>Deaths of William Shakespeare, Francis Beaumont, and Miguel Cervantes                            | 1629      | Ford's <i>The Broken Heart</i><br>King Charles dismisses his third Parliament, imprisons nine members, and proceeds to rule for eleven years without Parliament |
| ca. 1618         | Richard Lovelace born  |           | The Massachusetts Bay Company formed  |
| 1618             | The Thirty Years' War begins<br>Sir Walter Raleigh executed<br>Abraham Cowley born   | 1629–1630 | Peace treaties with France and Spain  |
| 1619             | The General Assembly, the first legislative assembly on American soil, meets in Virginia<br>Slavery introduced at Jamestown                                | 1631      | John Dryden born<br>Death of John Donne   |
| 1620             | The Pilgrims land in Massachusetts<br>John Evelyn born   | 1633      | William Laud appointed archbishop of Canterbury<br>Death of George Herbert  |
| 1621             | Francis Bacon impeached and fined<br>Robert Burton's <i>Anatomy of Melancholy</i><br>Andrew Marvell born   | 1634      | Deaths of George Chapman and John Marston   |
| 1622             | Middleton's <i>The Changeling</i><br>Henry Vaughan born  | 1635      | The Académie Française founded<br>George Etherege born  |
| 1623             | The First Folio of Shakespeare's plays<br>Visit of Prince Charles and the duke of Buckingham to Spain; failure of attempts to negotiate a Spanish marriage | 1636      | Pierre Corneille's <i>Le Cid</i><br>Harvard College founded   |
| 1624             | War against Spain  | ca. 1637  | Thomas Traherne born  |
| <b>1625–1649</b> | <b>Reign of Charles I</b>  | 1637      | Milton's "Lycidas"<br>Descartes's <i>Discours de la méthode</i><br>King Charles's levy of ship money challenged in the courts by John Hampden                   |
| 1625             | Death of John Fletcher<br>Bacon's last collection of <i>Essays</i>   |           | The introduction of the new English Book of Common Prayer strongly opposed in Scotland  |
| 1626             | Bacon's <i>New Atlantis</i> , appended to <i>Sylva sylvarum</i><br>Dutch found New Amsterdam<br>Death of Cyril Tourneur                                    | ca. 1638  | Death of Ben Jonson   |
|                  |  | 1638      | Death of John Webster<br>The Scots draw up a National Covenant to defend their religion   |

# CHRONOLOGY

- ca. 1639 Death of John Ford
- 1639 Parliament reassembled to raise taxes  
Death of Thomas Carew  
Charles Sedley born
- 1639–1640 The two Bishops' Wars with Scotland
- 1640 The Long Parliament assembled  
The king's advisers, Archbishop Laud and the earl of Strafford, impeached  
Aphra Behn born
- 1641 Strafford executed  
Acts passed abolishing extraparliamentary taxation, the king's extraordinary courts, and his power to order a dissolution without parliamentary consent  
The Grand Remonstrance censuring royal policy passed by eleven votes  
William Wycherley born
- 1642 Parliament submits the nineteen Propositions, which King Charles rejects as annihilating the royal power  
The Civil War begins  
The theaters close  
Royalist victory at Edgehill; King Charles established at Oxford  
Death of Sir John Suckling
- 1643 Parliament concludes the Solemn League and Covenant with the Scots  
Louis XIV becomes king of France  
Charles Sackville, earl of Dorset, born
- 1644 Parliamentary victory at Marston Moor  
The New Model army raised  
Milton's *Areopagitica*
- 1645 Parliamentary victory under Fairfax and Cromwell at Naseby  
Fairfax captures Bristol  
Archbishop Laud executed
- 1646 Fairfax besieges King Charles at Oxford  
King Charles takes refuge in Scotland; end of the First Civil War  
King Charles attempts negotiations with the Scots  
Parliament's proposals sent to the king and rejected
- 1647 Conflict between Parliament and the army  
A general council of the army established that discusses representational government within the army  
The Agreement of the People drawn up by the Levelers; its proposals include manhood suffrage  
King Charles concludes an agreement with the Scots  
George Fox begins to preach  
John Wilmot, earl of Rochester, born
- 1648 Cromwell dismisses the general council of the army  
The Second Civil War begins  
Fairfax defeats the Kentish royalists at Maidstone  
Cromwell defeats the Scots at Preston  
The Thirty Years' War ended by the treaty of Westphalia  
Parliament purged by the army
- 1649–1660 Commonwealth**
- 1649 King Charles I tried and executed  
The monarchy and the House of Lords abolished  
The Commonwealth proclaimed  
Cromwell invades Ireland and defeats the royalist Catholic forces  
Death of Richard Crashaw
- 1650 Cromwell defeats the Scots at Dunbar
- 1651 Charles II crowned king of the Scots, at Scone  
Charles II invades England, is defeated at Worcester, escapes to France  
Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan*
- 1652 War with Holland  
**Death of Richard Brome**
- 1653 The Rump Parliament dissolved by the army  
A new Parliament and council of state nominated; Cromwell becomes Lord Protector  
Walton's *The Compleat Angler*
- 1654 Peace concluded with Holland  
War against Spain
- 1655 Parliament attempts to reduce the army and is dissolved  
Rule of the major-generals

# CHRONOLOGY

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| <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<br/>Cromwell is offered and declines the throne<br/>Death of Richard Lovelace</p> <p>1658 Death of Oliver Cromwell<br/>Richard Cromwell succeeds as Protector</p> <p>1659 Conflict between Parliament and the army</p> <p>1660 General Monck negotiates with Charles II<br/>Charles II offers the conciliatory Declaration of Breda and accepts Parliament's invitation to return<br/>Will's Coffee House established<br/>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<br/>Pepys's <i>Diary</i> begun</p> <p><b>1660–1685 Reign of Charles II</b></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<br/>Anne Finch born</p> <p>1662 Peace Treaty with Spain<br/>King Charles II marries Catherine of Braganza<br/>The Royal Society incorporated (founded in 1660)</p> <p>1664 War against Holland<br/>New Amsterdam captured and becomes New York<br/>John Vanbrugh born</p> <p>1665 The Great Plague<br/>Newton discovers the binomial theorem and invents the integral and differential calculus, at Cambridge</p> <p>1666 The Great Fire of London<br/>Bunyan's <i>Grace Abounding</i><br/><i>London Gazette</i> founded</p> <p>1667 The Dutch fleet sails up the Medway and burns English ships</p> | <p>The war with Holland ended by the Treaty of Breda<br/>Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i><br/>Thomas Sprat's <i>History of the Royal Society</i><br/>Death of Abraham Cowley</p> <p>1668 Sir Christopher Wren begins to rebuild St. Paul's Cathedral<br/>Triple Alliance formed with Holland and Sweden against France<br/>Dryden's <i>Essay of Dramatick Poesy</i></p> <p>1670 Alliance formed with France through the secret Treaty of Dover<br/>Pascal's <i>Pensées</i><br/>The Hudson's Bay Company founded<br/>William Congreve born</p> <p>1671 Milton's <i>Samson Agonistes</i> and <i>Paradise Regained</i></p> <p>1672 War against Holland<br/>Wycherley's <i>The Country Wife</i><br/>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<br/>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><br/>Jean Racine's <i>Phèdre</i><br/>King Charles's niece, Mary, marries her cousin William of Orange</p> <p>1678 Fabrication of the so-called popish plot by Titus Oates<br/>Bunyan's <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i><br/>Dryden's <i>All for Love</i><br/>Death of Andrew Marvell<br/>George Farquhar born</p> <p>1679 Parliament passes the Habeas Corpus Act<br/>Rochester's <i>A Satire Against Mankind</i></p> <p>1680 Death of John Wilmot, earl of Rochester</p> <p>1681 Dryden's <i>Absalom and Achitophel</i> (Part 1)</p> |
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# CHRONOLOGY

- 1682 Dryden's *Absalom and Achitophel* (Part 2)  
Thomas Otway's *Venice Preserv'd*  
Philadelphia founded  
Death of Sir Thomas Browne
- 1683 The Ashmolean Museum, the world's first public museum, opens at Oxford  
Death of Izaak Walton
- 1685–1688 Reign of James II**
- 1685 Rebellion and execution of James Scott, duke of Monmouth  
John Gay born
- 1686 The first book of Newton's *Principia—De motu corporum*, containing his theory of gravitation—presented to the Royal Society
- 1687 James II issues the Declaration of Indulgence  
Dryden's *The Hind and the Panther*  
Death of Edmund Waller
- 1688 James II reissues the Declaration of Indulgence, renewing freedom of worship and suspending the provisions of the Test Act  
Acquittal of the seven bishops imprisoned for protesting against the Declaration  
William of Orange lands at Torbay, Devon  
James II takes refuge in France  
Death of John Bunyan  
Alexander Pope born
- 1689–1702 Reign of William III**
- 1689 Parliament formulates the Declaration of Rights  
William and Mary accept the Declaration and the crown  
The Grand Alliance concluded between the Holy Roman Empire, England, Holland, and Spain  
War declared against France  
King William's War, 1689–1697 (the first of the French and Indian wars)  
Samuel Richardson born
- 1690 James II lands in Ireland with French support, but is defeated at the battle of the Boyne  
John Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
- 1692 Salem witchcraft trials
- Death of Sir George Etherege
- 1694 George Fox's *Journal*  
Voltaire (François Marie Arouet) born  
Death of Mary II
- 1695 Congreve's *Love for Love*  
Death of Henry Vaughan
- 1697 War with France ended by the Treaty of Ryswick  
Vanbrugh's *The Relapse*
- 1698 Jeremy Collier's *A Short View of the Immorality and Profaneness of the English Stage*
- 1699 Fénelon's *Les Aventures de Télémaque*
- 1700 Congreve's *The Way of the World*  
Defoe's *The True-Born Englishman*  
Death of John Dryden  
James Thomson born
- 1701 War of the Spanish Succession, 1701–1714 (Queen Anne's War in America, 1702–1713)  
Death of Sir Charles Sedley
- 1702–1714 Reign of Queen Anne**
- 1702 Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion* (1702–1704)  
Defoe's *The Shortest Way with the Dissenters*
- 1703 Defoe is arrested, fined, and pilloried for writing *The Shortest Way*  
Death of Samuel Pepys
- 1704 John Churchill, duke of Marlborough, and Prince Eugene of Savoy defeat the French at Blenheim  
Capture of Gibraltar  
Swift's *A Tale of a Tub* and *The Battle of the Books*  
*The Review* founded (1704–1713)
- 1706 Farquhar's *The Recruiting Officer*  
Deaths of John Evelyn and Charles Sackville, earl of Dorset
- 1707 Farquhar's *The Beaux' Stratagem*  
Act of Union joining England and Scotland  
Death of George Farquhar  
Henry Fielding born
- 1709 The *Tatler* founded (1709–1711)  
Nicholas Rowe's edition of Shakespeare  
Samuel Johnson born



# CHRONOLOGY

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| <p>Marlborough defeats the French at Malplaquet</p> <p>Charles XII of Sweden defeated at Poltava</p> <p>1710 South Sea Company founded</p> <p>First copyright act</p> <p>1711 Swift's <i>The Conduct of the Allies</i></p> <p><i>The Spectator</i> founded (1711–1712; 1714)</p> <p>Marlborough dismissed</p> <p>David Hume born</p> <p>1712 Pope's <i>The Rape of the Lock</i> (Cantos 1–2)</p> <p>Jean Jacques Rousseau born</p> <p>1713 War with France ended by the Treaty of Utrecht</p> <p><i>The Guardian</i> founded</p> <p>Swift becomes dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin</p> <p>Addison's <i>Cato</i></p> <p>Laurence Sterne born</p> <p><b>1714–1727 Reign of George I</b></p> <p>1714 Pope's expended version of <i>The Rape of the Lock</i> (Cantos 1–5)</p> <p>1715 The Jacobite rebellion in Scotland</p> <p>Pope's translation of Homer's <i>Iliad</i> (1715–1720)</p> <p>Death of Louis XIV</p> <p>1716 Death of William Wycherley</p> <p>Thomas Gray born</p> <p>1717 Pope's <i>Eloisa to Abelard</i></p> <p>David Garrick born</p> <p>Horace Walpole born</p> <p>1718 Quadruple Alliance (Britain, France, the Netherlands, the German Empire) in war against Spain</p> <p>1719 Defoe's <i>Robinson Crusoe</i></p> <p>Death of Joseph Addison</p> <p>1720 Inoculation against smallpox introduced in Boston</p> <p>War against Spain</p> <p>The South Sea Bubble</p> <p>Gilbert White born</p> <p>Defoe's <i>Captain Singleton</i> and <i>Memoirs of a Cavalier</i></p> <p>1721 Tobias Smollett born</p> <p>William Collins born</p> <p>1722 Defoe's <i>Moll Flanders</i>, <i>Journal of the Plague Year</i>, and <i>Colonel Jack</i></p> <p>1724 Defoe's <i>Roxana</i></p> <p>Swift's <i>The Drapier's Letters</i></p> | <p>1725 Pope's translation of Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> (1725–1726)</p> <p>1726 Swift's <i>Gulliver's Travels</i></p> <p>Voltaire in England (1726–1729)</p> <p>Death of Sir John Vanbrugh</p> <p><b>1727–1760 Reign of George II</b></p> <p>1728 Gay's <i>The Beggar's Opera</i></p> <p>Pope's <i>The Dunciad</i> (Books 1–2)</p> <p>Oliver Goldsmith born</p> <p>1729 Swift's <i>A Modest Proposal</i></p> <p>Edmund Burke born</p> <p>Deaths of William Congreve and Sir Richard Steele</p> <p>1731 Navigation improved by introduction of the quadrant</p> <p>Pope's <i>Moral Essays</i> (1731–1735)</p> <p>Death of Daniel Defoe</p> <p>William Cowper born</p> <p>1732 Death of John Gay</p> <p>1733 Pope's <i>Essay on Man</i> (1733–1734)</p> <p>Lewis Theobald's edition of Shakespeare</p> <p>1734 Voltaire's <i>Lettres philosophiques</i></p> <p>1736 James Macpherson born</p> <p>1737 Edward Gibbon born</p> <p>1738 Johnson's <i>London</i></p> <p>1740 War of the Austrian Succession, 1740–1748 (King George's War in America, 1744–1748)</p> <p>George Anson begins his circumnavigation of the world (1740–1744)</p> <p>Frederick the Great becomes king of Prussia (1740–1786)</p> <p>Richardson's <i>Pamela</i> (1740–1741)</p> <p>James Boswell born</p> <p>1742 Fielding's <i>Joseph Andrews</i></p> <p>Edward Young's <i>Night Thoughts</i> (1742–1745)</p> <p>Pope's <i>The New Dunciad</i> (Book 4)</p> <p>1744 Johnson's <i>Life of Mr. Richard Savage</i></p> <p>Death of Alexander Pope</p> <p>1745 Second Jacobite rebellion, led by Charles Edward, the Young Pretender</p> <p>Death of Jonathan Swift</p> <p>1746 The Young Pretender defeated at Culloden</p> <p>Collins' <i>Odes on Several Descriptive and Allegorical Subjects</i></p> |
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# CHRONOLOGY

- 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*  
Lessing's *Laokoon*  
Rousseau in England (1766–1767)