

**SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF BRITAIN:
HISTORY OF TUDORS AND STUARTS
MODULE-1
Restoration Theatre**

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Restoration Theatre

- ▶ Puritan period–Theatres were closed in 1642–

Restoration– The merry making monarch and his nobles began to patronise theatres– moral standard deteriorated– Rev. Jeremy Collier contemned the Restoration comedy in his ‘short view of the profaneness and Immorality of the English stage’ in 1698.

Progress in Restoration stage craft– Play house was roofed– stage was artificially lighted with candles–curtains and paintings used– advent of actresses– plays were notorious as per the taste of audience– eg. Wycherly’s Country Wife– one character pretend to be impotent for the easy movement among ladies–Restoration society was immoralised–reflection of society– less dramatic in genius–comedies were more than tragedies.



Literary persons

- ▶ The leading comedians–
- ▶ Congreve (1670–1729)–Love for Love, Way of the World
- ▶ Wycherly– The Plain Dealer(masterpiece)
- ▶ Etheredge– pioneer in this field, prepared ground for later persons.
- ▶ (works of these three–example for comedy of manners– reflects society of the upper class) written by blackguards for blackguards – commented by Leslie Stephen. Moral enlightenment was not their aim. “It was a serious fault” according to Dr. Johnson, the moral and literary dictator of the century.
- ▶ Dryden–successful Playwright –blank verse tragedies ‘All for Love’
- ▶ Restoration plays were more realistic than Elizabethan.
- ▶ English were influenced by French Moliere & Spaniard Calderon



Neo-Classical Poetry

- ▶ John Dryden(1631–1700)– Mac Flecknoe(mock heroic satire)

Absalom and Achitophel–1681 (redicule Lord Shaftsbury & his party– to place Duke of Monmouth– illegitimate son of CharlesII)

Prefaces to poetic works, especially in Essay of Dramatic Poesy

Modern English prose &criticism began with him– his qualities –lucidity , ease & force

- ▶ Alexander Pope(1688–1744)– Dunciad

Rape of the Lock–(social criticism)

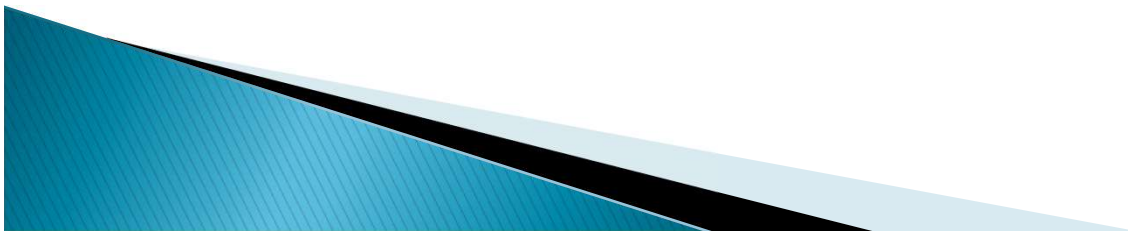
Essay on Criticism, Essay on Man, translation of Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey

Epistle to Dr.Arbutnot



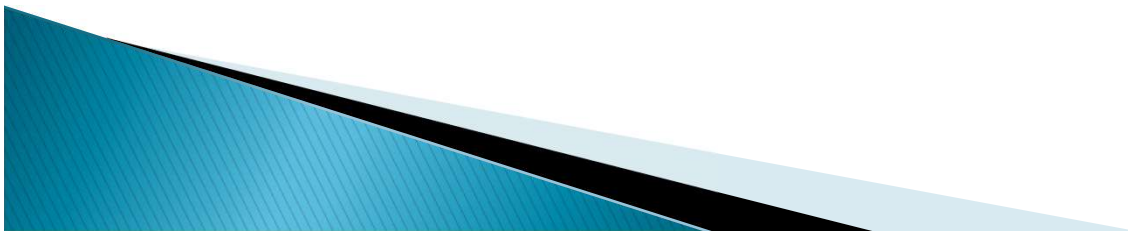
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- ▶ Samuel Butler (1612–80)–
- ▶ Masterpeice–Hudibras–1633
- ▶ Age of Dryden, Pope –Classic Age or the Augustan Age of English literature.
- ▶ Critics like Dr. Johnson regarded the age of Pope as the Golden Age of English Literature as the Age of Augustus was the Golden Age of Latin Literature(Rome).



Periodical Literature

- ▶ Sir Eicchard Steele– The Tatler, The Spectactator
- ▶ Addison–The Guardian
- ▶ Pamphlets
- ▶ Satires
- ▶ Novels



THANK YOU

