

Early 17th Century and Neoclassic Period (1660-1785)

= Augustan Age (Augustus Caesar) = Age of Reason

Neoclassic temper (urbane and gentlemanly): not flowery, but clear, simple, dignified, polished, and rational

Politics:

Elizabeth I (childless) – James I – Charles I (1st son of James I) – Oliver Cromwell & Richard Cromwell (Interregnum, Commonwealth, Puritan) – Charles II (son of Charles I) – James II (2nd son of James I) – William III (by Mary, daughter of Charles I)

1660 (Restoration): Restoration of Charles II (Charles I – Oliver Cromwell – Charles II)

1668 (Glorious Revolution): Charles II (actually a Catholic) – James II (actually a Catholic) – William and Mary (Anglicans)

Two parties: the Tories (loyalists, later the Conservative Party), the Whigs (mixed, later the Liberal Party)

Religion:

1660s-: the Anglican Church – Nonconformists (Catholics and Puritans) hated and prejudiced against (all clergy, college fellows, and schoolmasters belonged to the Anglican Church)

Other important dates:

1689-1763: victories over France (British Empire, control over Canada and India)

1707: unification of Scotland and England

Important writers:

John Donne and others (early 17th century, metaphysical school)

John Milton (*Paradise Lost*)

William Congreve (*The Way of the World*, Comedy of Manners)

Aphra Behn (*Oroonoko*)

Dryden (satire, witty writing), Pope and Swift (satire), Boswell and Johnson (age of prose)

Novel born:

Forerunners: John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*,
Johathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*

First novelists: Samuel Richardson (*Clarissa Harlow*), Laurence Sterne (*Tristram
Shandy*)

Gothic Novels: Horace Walpole's *Castle of Otranto*, Anne Radcliffe's *The Mysteries
of Udolpho*