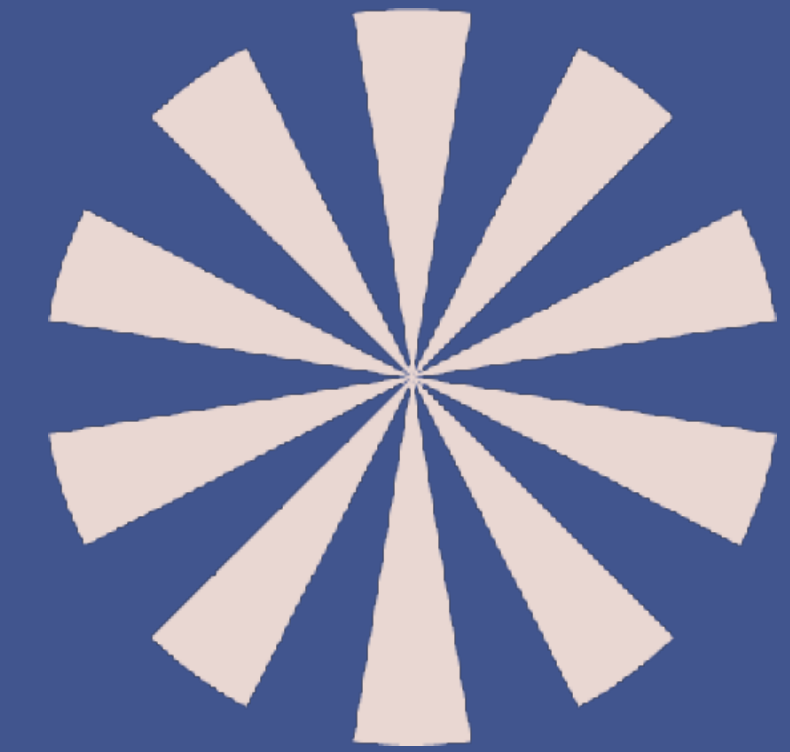

Shakespeare's Contemporaries



DR. KALYANI VALLATH

25 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE



VTES IS NOW
Vallath

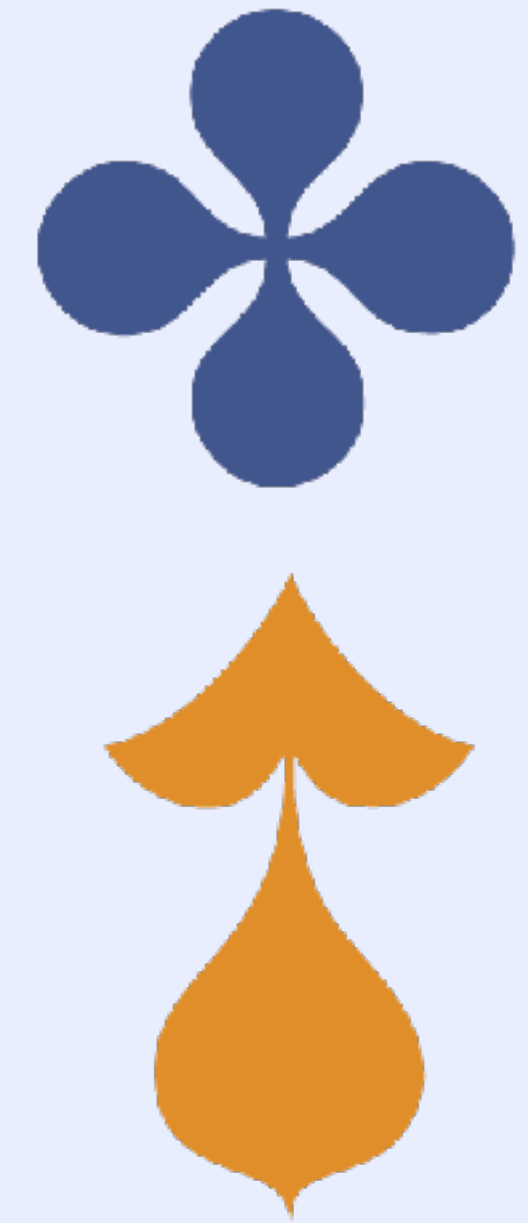
Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586)

- Considered the embodiment of Castiglione's Courtier
- Born in Kent into an aristocratic family, King Philip II was his godfather
- Fulke Greville was his lifelong friend and future biographer
- Left Oxford without taking a degree
- Imbibed values of chivalric humanism



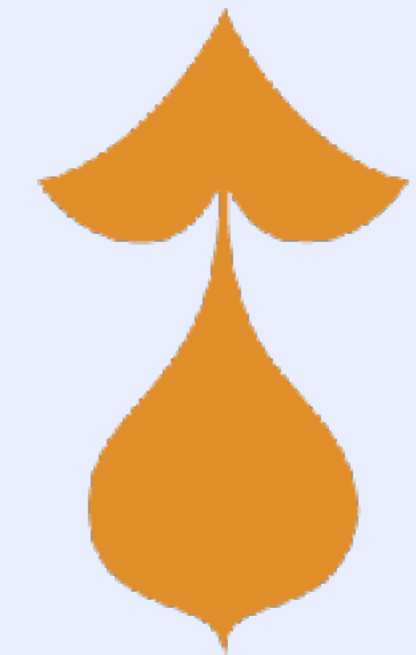
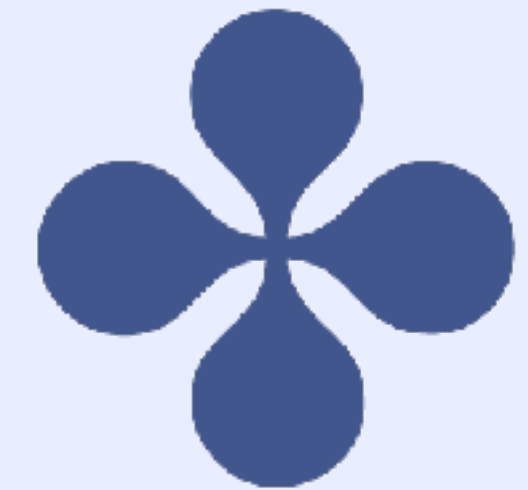
The Beginnings of His Career

- In 1572 travelled abroad (France, Italy, Germany and other European regions) to learn languages
- Greville says “wheresoever he went he was beloved and obeyed”
- Many books were dedicated to him in these countries as well as in England
 - Including Spenser’s Shepheardes Calender
 - Spenser sought Sidney’s patronage
- His promising start to a public career never fulfilled



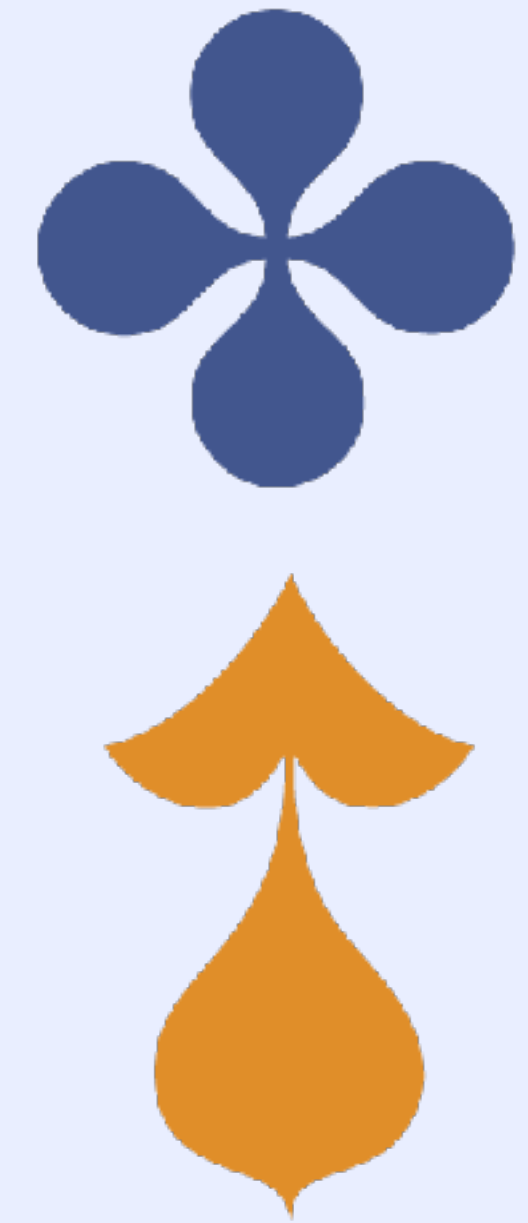
As an Elizabethan Courtier

- Fluctuating relations with the queen
- Sidney was an ardent Protestant; the queen had cautious religious policy
- Wrote to the Queen in 1579 advising her against marriage with Duke of Anjou
- Had to leave court on this account and lived with his sister Mary Herbert, Countess of Pembroke, for a while
- Wrote Arcadia at this time
- In 1585 returned to Elizabeth's court



Death

- Got a minor appointment in the Low Countries (northwestern Europe) and left England
- In 1586 fought in the unimportant battle of Zutphen and wounded in the thigh
- Died within a month before his 32nd birthday
- As the funeral procession passed by, London crowds are said to have cried out “Farewell, the worthiest knight that lived”
- Hailed after his death as the ideal representative of an idealized Elizabethan age
- Spenser mourned his death in the pastoral elegy *Astrophel*

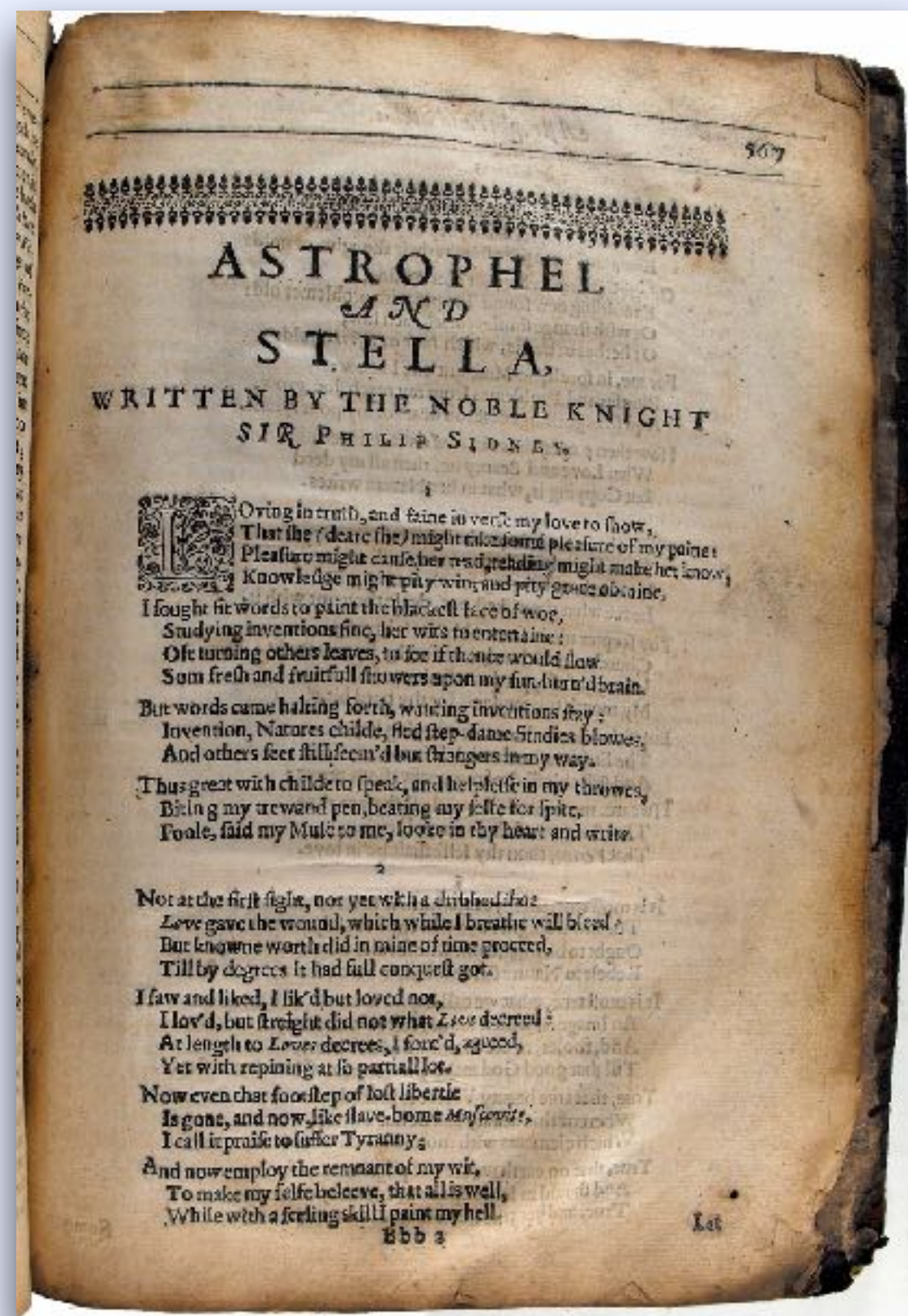




Sidney's Works

- None of his works published in his life time
- Experimented with classical metres in English
- Remarkd on his own works in a self-deprecating manner
- Asked for the Arcadia to be burned
- A folio of his work appeared in 1598

Astrophel and Stella (written in c.1582, printed 1591)



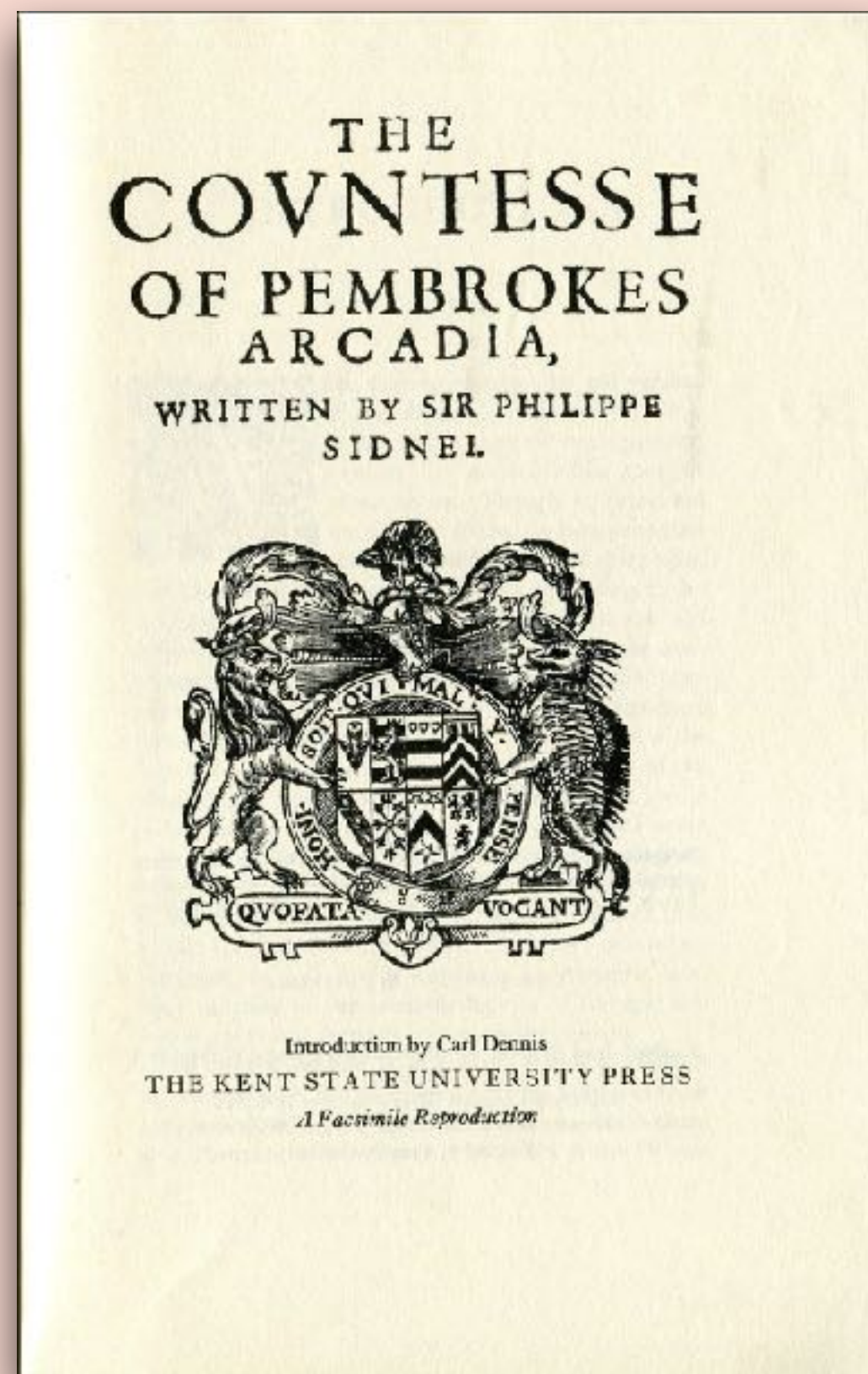
- First of the famous English sonnet sequences
- 108 sonnets and 11 songs; addressed to Penelope Devereux, wife of Lord Rich
- The preface by Thomas Nashe introduces it as a tragicomedy of love
- Astrophel (Astrophil) is the star lover
- Stella is his star
- Here, Sidney nativized the Petrarchan model
- Follows the generic conventions of Elizabethan love poetry

Themes

- The power that love has to affect the life of an individual
- Astrophel's attempts to wrestle with his own anger and depression, with unrequited love
- More about love poetry than about his love
 - Love is mockingly reduced to a narrative strategy
- Offers a critical account of conventional attitudes to love and love poetry in the late 16th century



Arcadia (bulk of it written in 1580)



- First in the Renaissance imitations of Lyly's Euphues
- Written for his sister, Mary Herbert, Countess of Pembroke
- Title and setting taken from 16th century Italian poet Jacopo Sannazaro's Arcadia
- Prose romance interspersed with poems
 - Complicated tale of adventures in love and war
 - Artificiality of treatment, typical of the pastoral tradition
- Devised as a tragic comedy in 5 acts
- Combines the pastoral, romance and epic (a patchwork technique theoretically discussed in Apology)

The Plot

- Story has a serious double plot and comic under plot
- Theme: various workings of love on human characters
 - Can be an ennobling & educative passion
 - Can also bring shame
 - Overthrows reason & undermines heroic action
- Characters
 - Duke Basilius, his wife Gynecia
 - Two daughters Philoclea and Pamela
 - Richardson adopted this name for his Pamela
 - Their lovers Pyrocles and Musidorus respectively
- The trial scene at the end raises questions of justice and equity



Revision of Arcadia

- Later, Sidney undertook a revision of Arcadia, giving rise to Old Arcadia and New Arcadia
- New Arcadia
 - Radical revision, incomplete
 - Longer than Old Arcadia
 - Includes new subsidiary stories, including that of the blind Paphlagonian King (source of the Gloucester subplot in King Lear)
 - The theme of moral earnestness is deepened especially in the case of Pamela



Apologie for Poetrie or The Defence of Poesie

- Written 1579-80, pub. in 1595 in 2 editions (hence the two titles)
- Epitome of Renaissance poetics
- Formal inauguration of literary theory in England
- Reflects continental as well as Greek and Roman criticism
- Passages based on Italian neo-Aristotelians Minturno, Scaliger, Castelvetro
- High, enthusiastic style



Apologie for Poetrie: Plan

- 5 divisions
- The antiquity and universality of poetry
- Kinds of poetry; their usefulness
- Discussion of the current objections against poetry; Sidney's reply
- Discussion of the state of contemporary English poetry & drama; objection to tragi-comedy & violation of the unities
- Remarks on Style, Diction, Versification



Apologie for Poetrie: Synopsis



- Introduction
 - Sidney justifies his own praise of poetry.
- Antiquity of Poetry
 - Poetry preceded other branches of learning; poetry elucidates other learning.
 - Early philosophers / historians appeared as poets.
 - Plato's works highly poetic.
- Universality of Poetry
 - Poetry flourishes in all countries in all ages.
 - Poetry softens the hard hearts of Turks & Tartars; sharpens the Red Indians' wit.

Apologie for Poetrie: Synopsis



- Continuity of Poetry
 - Poetry is long lasting; begins first & lasts longest
- Wide Respectability of Poetry
 - GrecoRomans honoured poets as seers/ creators
 - Poet is a prophet
 - Oracles at Delphos, Sibyl's prophecies, Biblical Psalms are in verse
- Definition of Poetry
 - Poetry is an art of imitation
 - Poetry is "speaking picture" and its end is "to teach and delight"

Gosson's Schoole of Abuse (1579)



- Dedicated to Sidney
- Poets: pipers, jesters and caterpillars of the Commonwealth
- Music is debilitating and undermines virtue.
- Drama incites “popular debauchery”
- Plato had banished poets from the Commonwealth
- Drama denounced
 - For pagan origins
 - Males playing female roles is against nature
- Tragedy (cruelty, bloodshed, murder) & Comedy (vulgar, degrading love) weaken moral fibre

Edmund Spenser (1552-1599)

- Born in London, received a humanist education
- Blended chivalric humanism with Christian ideals
- Schoolmates include Kyd and Lodge
- Graduated BA and MA from Cambridge, where he began his friendship with Gabriel Harvey
- In 1578, became secretary to John Young, Bishop of Rochester
- In 1579, entered Leicester's service, where he became acquainted with Philip Sidney and poet Edward Dyer
- In the same year, he married Maccabeus Chylde



Spenser in Ireland

- In 1580, became secretary to Lord Wilton, Lord Deputy of Ireland
- From then on, Spenser lived in Ireland as an English planter
- Irish uprisings against English rule was a regular occurrence at this time
- For a while he lived in the ruined castle of Kilcolman in Cork
- Spenser was driven away and the Kilcolman Castle was burned during Tyrone's rebellion in 1598
- Spenser's infant child and first wife believed to have died at this time



The Shepherdes Calender (1579)



- Dedicated to Sir Philip Sidney
- Published anonymously under the pseudonym Immerito (meaning “unworthy”)
- An accompanying commentary on the poems by “E.K.” (probably Edward Kirke)
- A group of 12 eclogues one for each month, sung by various shepherds
- Expressing regret for a lost golden age
- Allegory symbolizing the state of humanity
- Uses diverse forms and meters
- Models: Theocritus’s Idylls, Virgil’s Eclogues, Renaissance poets Marot (French) and Mantuan (Italian)

JANUARYE



Illustration by Hilda Quick, 1930

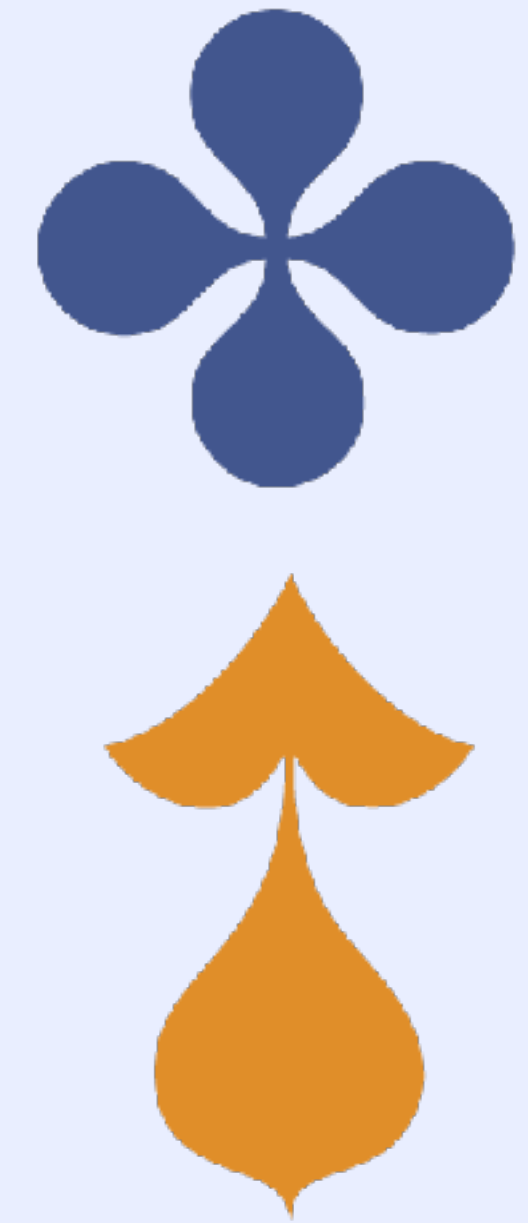
MARCH



Illustration by Hilda Quick, 1930

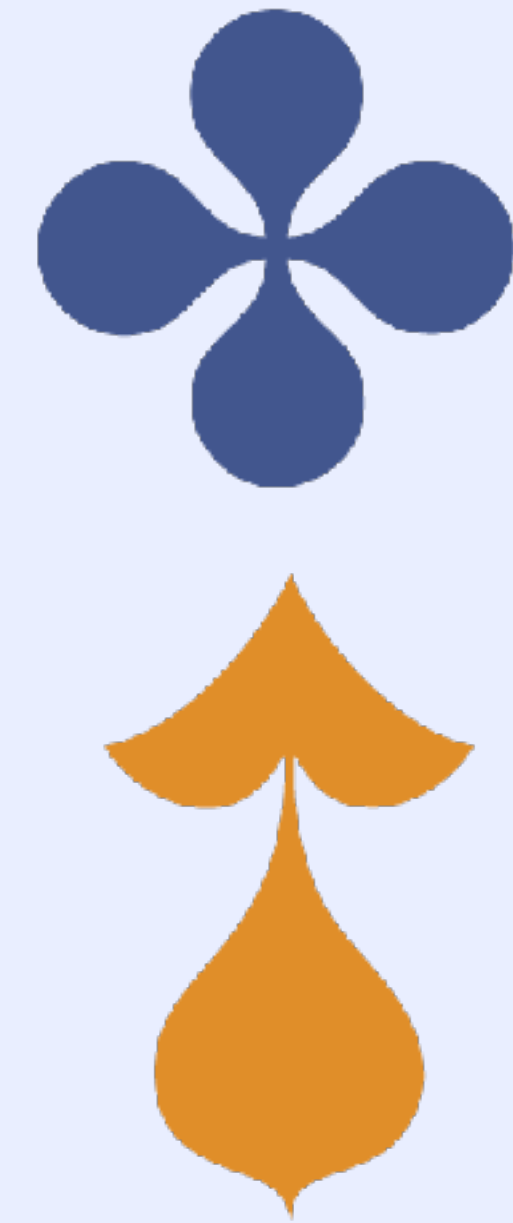
Spenser in the 1590s

- In 1591, a volume of 9 poems entitled Complaints appeared. Some of the poems are:
 - The Ruines of Time, The Tears of the Muses
 - The allegorical poem Prosopopoeia, or Mother Hubberd's Tale; it antagonized Lord Burghley, the principal secretary of Elizabeth
- In the same year, Daphnaida was published
 - An elegy on the death of Lady Howard
 - An imitation of Chaucer's The Book of the Duchess
- In 1594, he courted and married Elizabeth Boyle
- In 1595, Amoretti and Epithalamion published together



Spenser in the 1590s

- In 1595, Colin Clout's *Come Home Again* published
 - An autobiographical, pastoral allegory
 - Describes Spenser's first London journey and the vices inherent in court life
 - Dedicated to Sir Walter Raleigh
 - Colin Clout, a rustic character created by John Skelton, appears in *The Shepheardes Calender* and Book VI of the *Faerie Queene*
 - Colin Clout represents Spenser himself
- In 1596, *Four Hymns*
 - Platonic reflections on human and divine love
- In 1596, *Prothalamion*



Publication of the Faerie Queene



- In 1590, first three books of the Faerie Queene
 - Obtained a pension from the Queen for this
- Became the first unofficial poet laureate
 - Before him, John Gower and John Skelton were important court poets; and John Dryden became the first poet to get the title “Poet Laureate” in 1668.
- In 1596, 6 books of the Faerie Queene published together
 - Mutabilitie Canto, the seventh book (fragment) appeared in the folio in 1609

A View of the Present State of Ireland (1598)

- A prose dialogue between two Englishmen, Eudoxus and Irenius
 - Irenius is an expert on Irish affairs and condemns the Irish for their nomadic herding practices, religion, social and familial organization, poetry, hair and dress, and so on
- Not published until 1633
- Theme of “reformation” of Ireland
- Expresses a colonial zeal for the destruction of Irish culture
- Proposed brutal strategies by which English rule could be imposed on Ireland
 - Impose martial law
 - Bring about a famine and starve the Irish



THE FAERIE
QUEENE.

Disposed into twelue books,

Fashioning

XII. Morall vertues.



LONDON
Printed for William Ponsonbie.

1590.

Death and Fame

- Died at the age of 46, at Westminster on 13 January, 1599
 - “for lack of bread”, according to Ben Jonson
 - Other poets are said to have thrown poems and pens into his grave at the time of burial
- Collected works first published in 1611
- Critics have pointed out that Spenser used poetry for political purposes
 - His pastoral poetry has underlying political themes
 - Advocated imperialist themes

Critics on Spenser



- Sidney and Ben Jonson complained against his archaisms
 - Jonson said he “writ no language”
- Milton
 - Appreciated the “sage and serious” Spenser
 - Found him a better teacher than Thomas Aquinas and Duns Scotus

Critics on Spenser



- 18th century
 - A period of Spenser scholarship
 - Pictorial quality of Spenser's works admired
 - The Faerie Queene admired for its imaginative quality
 - Found its allegory distasteful
 - Thomas Warton's Observations on the Faerie Queene

Critics on Spenser



- The Romantics
 - Spenser was “the poets’ poet”
 - Admired as the poet of dreams, beauty and sensuous appeal
 - Hazlitt and others disliked the allegorical form
 - Wordsworth’s “The White Doe of Rylstone” shows his admiration for Book I of the Faerie Queene
- In Book III of The Prelude, Wordsworth describes as having read at Cambridge “Sweet Spenser, moving through his clouded heaven / With the moon’s beauty and the moon’s soft pace”

Critics on Spenser



- W.B. Yeats
 - Liked the “charmed sleep” of Spenser’s poetry
 - Found his morality official and impersonal; called him “the first salaried moralist”
- T.S. Eliot
 - In his *Essays* (1932), Eliot conceived of the *Faerie Queene* as a poetic curio, and doubted that anyone other than scholars had read the book with delight

The Faerie Queene

- Long, dense allegory in epic form of Christian values tied to Arthurian legends
 - Spenser calls it “a dark conceit”
- Introductory letter to Sir Walter Raleigh
- Initially intended as a Courtesy Book, guide to manners popular in the 15th century
 - Like Castiglione’s *The Courtier*
 - Spenser’s proclaimed aim in the prefatory letter to Walter Raleigh is “to fashion a gentleman or noble person in virtuous and gentle discipline”

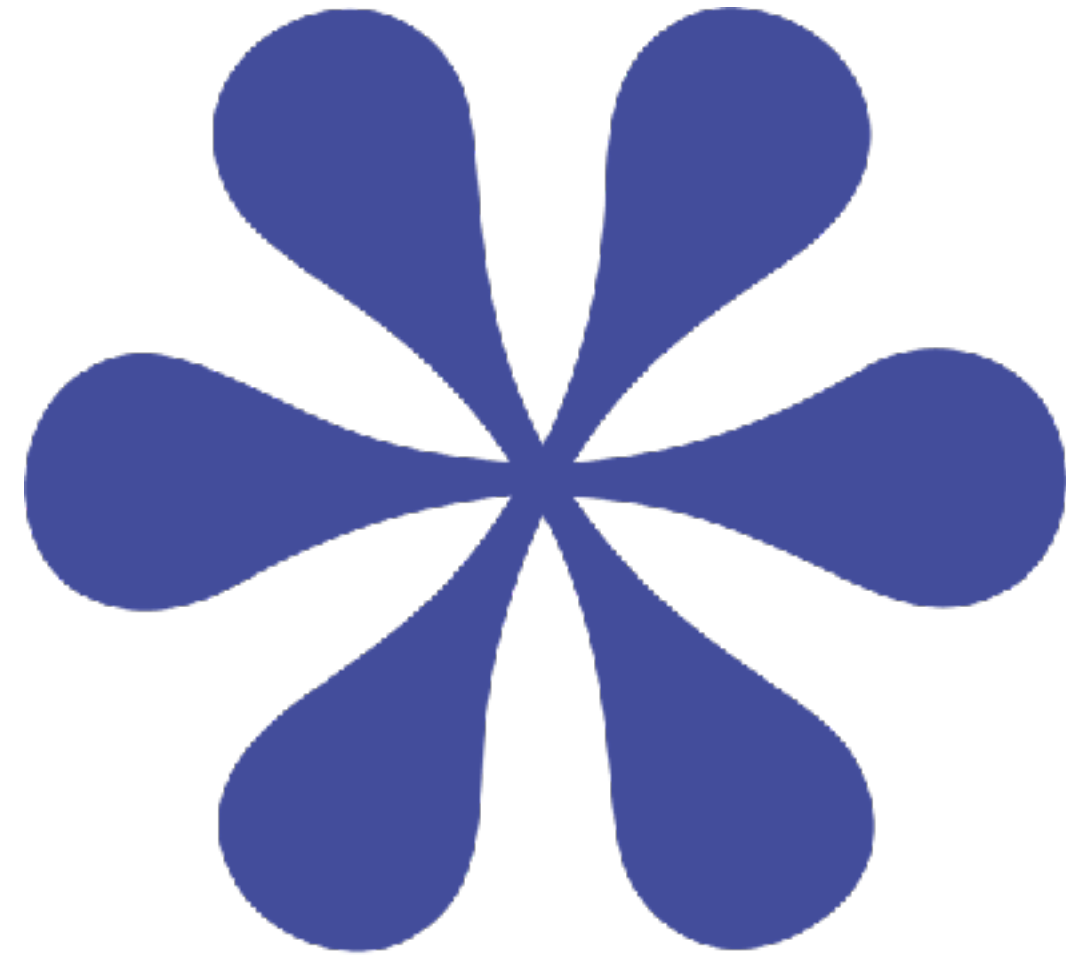


The Plan of the Book

- Spenser outlines a plan for 24 books
 - 12 books, each based on a knight exemplifying “private virtues
 - 12 books based on King Arthur displaying “public virtues”
 - Aristotle is the source of these virtues; Aquinas also an influence
 - Arthur stands for Magnificence
 - Gloriana / Faerie Queene stands for Glory
 - Mutabilitie canto represents constancy
- Only 6 out of the first 12 completed
- First major poem to be written in Spenserian stanza



The Six Books



- Bk I: Redcrosse Knight (Holiness)
 - Also represents Anglican Church, St George, England and Sir Philip Sidney
- Bk II: Guyon (Temperance)
- Bk III: Britomart (Chastity)
- Bk IV: Triamond & Cambell (Friendship)
- Bk V: Artegall (Justice)
- Bk VI: Calidore (Courtesy)

Book I

- Queen Gloriana sends Redcrosse to accompany Lady Una and her dwarf
 - To kill a dragon and free her parents
- He slays Error, half-woman half-serpent monster
- Archimago separates Redcrosse from Una by giving Redcrosse a dream
- Redcrosse is cheated by Duessa and imprisoned by the giant Orgoglio
- Una, with the help of Arthur, frees Redcrosse
- Redcrosse recovers in the House of Holiness (directly opposed to the House of Pride)
 - In the company of the House's ruler Caelia and her daughters Faith, Hope, and Charity (otherwise known as Fidelia, Speranza, and Charissa)
- Redcrosse rescues Una's parents from the dragon, fights Archimago again and gets betrothed to Una





UK 5 pound coin of 1839 with engraving of Una and the Lion

The Faerie Queene: Features



- Celebrates and memorializes Tudor dynasty
 - Like Virgil glorifies Augustus Caesar's Rome in his Aeneid
 - Connects Tudor lineage to King Arthur
- Allegorical and allusive
- Embodies the eternal conflict of good and evil
- Influences
 - Ludovico Ariosto's Orlando Furioso
 - Torquato Tasso's Jerusalem Delivered

Amoretti (1595)

- Sonnet sequence on his courtship of Elizabeth Boyle over a period of two years
 - Remarkable among other sonnet sequences for its chronological narration
- 89 sonnets, followed by 4 short lyrics (called Anacreontics) and Epithalamion
- “Amoretti” means “little loves”
- Follow Petrarchan conventions to a large extent



Epithalamion (1595)

- “Epithalamium” (Greek)
 - Song in honour of a newly wed couple
 - First written by Sappho
 - Form popular among classical Latin and Italian Renaissance poets
- Celebrates Spenser’s marriage with Elizabeth Boyle
- Invocation to the muses before dawn, awakening of the bride, progress to church, wedding ceremony, onset of night, final prayer in the bridal chamber for “fruitful progeny”
- Refrain: “The woods shall to me answer and my Eccho ring”



Prothalamion (1596)

- Word invented by Spenser, meaning “spousal verse”
- To celebrate the double-betrothal of Katherine and Elizabeth Somerset, daughters of the Earl of Worcester
- Ten stanzas modelled on Italian canzoni (singular canzone; a ballad-like lyric)
- A discontented courtier describes sights along the Thames, especially of two beautiful swans (Katherine and Elizabeth)
- The betrothal takes place at Essex House and the Earl of Essex is complimented for his valiant fighting at Cadiz during the attack on the Spanish Armada
- Refrain: “Sweet Thames, run softly till I end my song”

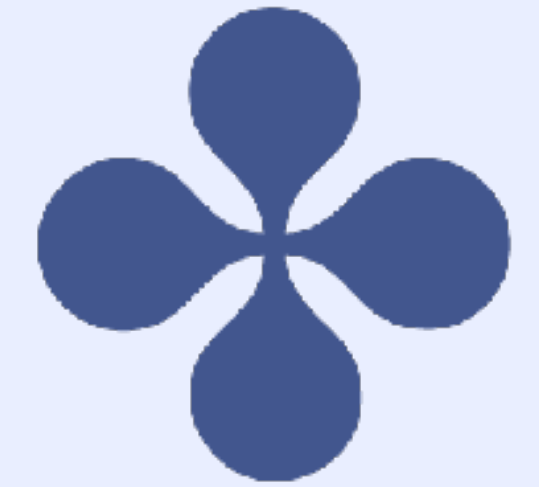


Spenser's technical innovations



- Spenserian Stanza
 - Variation of ottava rima
 - Eight lines of iambic pentameter followed by an alexandrine (iambic hexameter)
 - Rhyme scheme: ababbcbcc
 - Used by Romantic poets
 - Byron in Childe Harold's Pilgrimage
 - Shelley's Adonais

Spenser's technical innovations

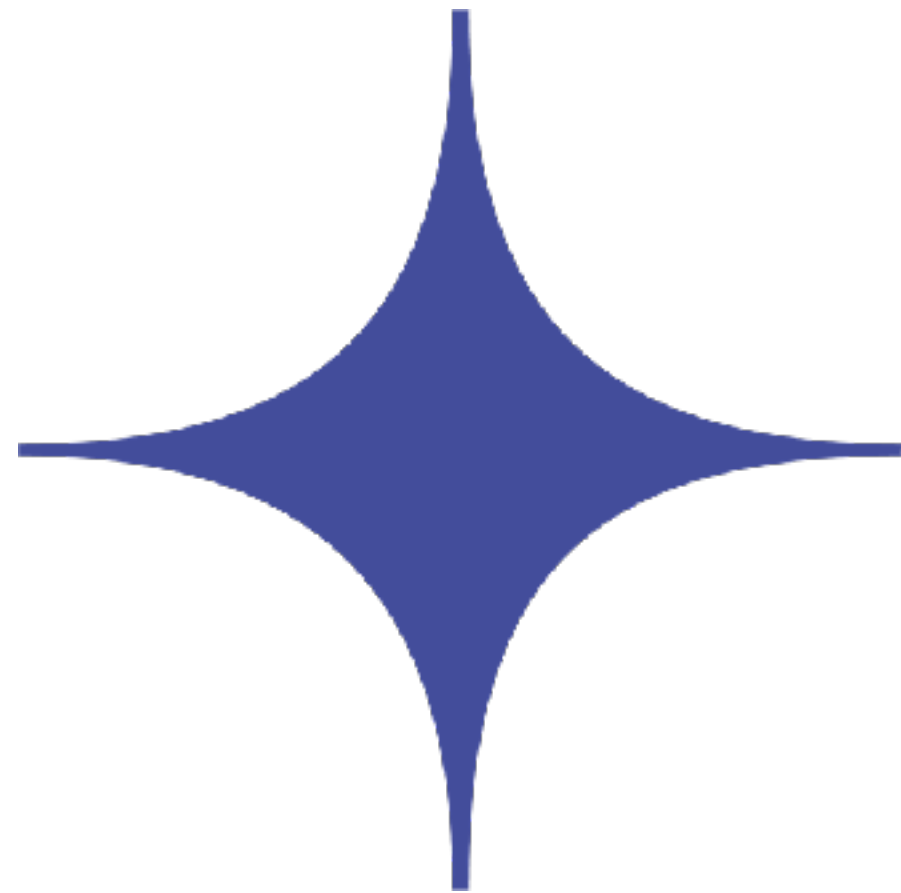


- Spenserian Sonnet
 - Variation of the English sonnet
 - Interlocked quatrains
 - Rhyme scheme: abab bcbc cdcd ee
 - [English sonnet rhymes abab cdcd efef gg]

University Wits

- Prominent in the 1580s
- Transformed the didactic interludes and shapeless chronicle histories into real plays
- Attended either of the two universities – Oxford or Cambridge
- Thomas Kyd did not attend any university, but wrote in the style of the Wits
- Term first used by Saintsbury

The Oxford School



- John Lyly
- George Peele
- Thomas Lodge
- [Thomas Middleton sometimes included]



The University of Oxford

The Cambridge School

- Robert Greene
- Thomas Nashe
- Christopher Marlowe





The University of Cambridge

Common Features

- Secular intellectuals
- Received Humanistic education at the universities
- Created complex commercial drama
- Used rhetorical language
- Occasionally they wrote together; collaborated; had shared enemies and friends
- Resented accusations of excessive dependence on one another
- Condemned those who were not university-educated
 - Such as Ben Jonson and Shakespeare
- Their high elitist ambitions found no practical fulfillment in Elizabethan England

Common Features

- Heroic themes (as in Tamburlaine)
- Heroic treatment
 - Splendid descriptions
 - Long swelling speeches
 - Magnificent epithets leading to abuse and bombast
- Violent incidents, emotions
- Tragedy
 - Lack of humour except in Lyly's comedies
 - Campaspe, Endimion, The Woman in the Moon

Common Features

- Protagonists are unconventional non-conformists
 - So were the playwrights themselves
 - Examples: Tamburlaine, Jack Wilton
- Effort to describe the world in terms of individual perception
 - Characters were highly individualized and subjective
 - This was a Renaissance trait
 - This was against the social perspectives in Morality Plays and Estates Satires

John Lyly (1554-1606)



- First major prose stylist in English
- Powerful in terms of social contact
- Had a brilliant career such as that the likes of Greene could only hope for.
- Court allegories, witty
- Drew themes from classical mythology
- Popularity waned with the rise of Marlowe, Kyd and Shakespeare
- Died a poor and bitter man



Major Works

- Euphues: Anatomy of Wit (1578)
 - Romantic intrigue told in letters
 - Interspersed with discussions on love, religion, etc
 - Plot borrowed from Boccaccio
 - “Euphues” comes from a Greek word meaning “well-bred man”
 - Got the name probably from Ascham’s The Schoolmaster
 - Enormously popular; provoked numerous imitations
- Sequel: Euphues & His England (1580)

Euphuism: Features

- Formal, elaborate, stylized prose
- Sententious (full of moral maxims)
- Syntactical balance and antithesis
- Patterns of alliteration, assonance
- Rhetorical questions
- Long similes, learned allusions
- Literary responses
 - Charles Kingsley defended this style in *Westward Ho!*
 - Walter Scott satirized it in the character Sir Piercie Shafton in *The Monastery*





Comedies of Lyly

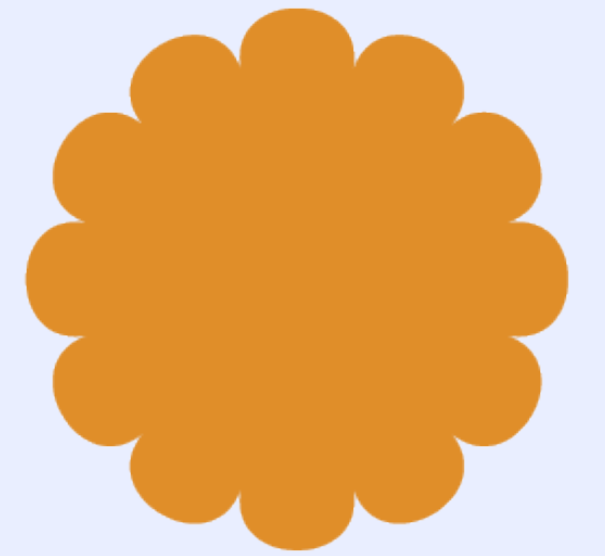
- Lyly devoted himself to writing comedies after 1580
- Witty dialogues
- Skillfully constructed plots
- Campaspe (perf. 1583-84)
- Sapho and Phao (perf. 1583-84)
- Gallathea (perf. 1585-88)
- Endimion (perf. 1588)
 - His masterpiece
 - Influenced Shakespeare



Comedies of Lyly

- Midas (perf. 1589)
- Love's Metamorphosis (perf. 1590)
- Mother Bombie (perf. 1590)
 - The only play that represents a modern theme rather than mythological stories
- The Woman in the Moon (perf. 1595)
 - The only play he wrote in blank verse rather than euphuistic prose
 - All except this play were performed by the acting-troupe called "Children of Paul's"

George Peele (1556-96)



- Experimented with many types of drama
- Predilection for violence and bloodshed
- The Arraignment of Paris (c.1584, mythological pastoral comedy)
- The Battle of Alcazar (c.1589, Marlovian historical tragedy)
- Edward I (c.1593, chronicle play)
- David and Fair Bethsabe (c.1594, a Biblical tragedy)
- The Old Wives' Tale (c.1595, masterpiece; satire on the popular drama of the day)
- Sonnet, "A Farewell to Arms" addressed to Queen Elizabeth

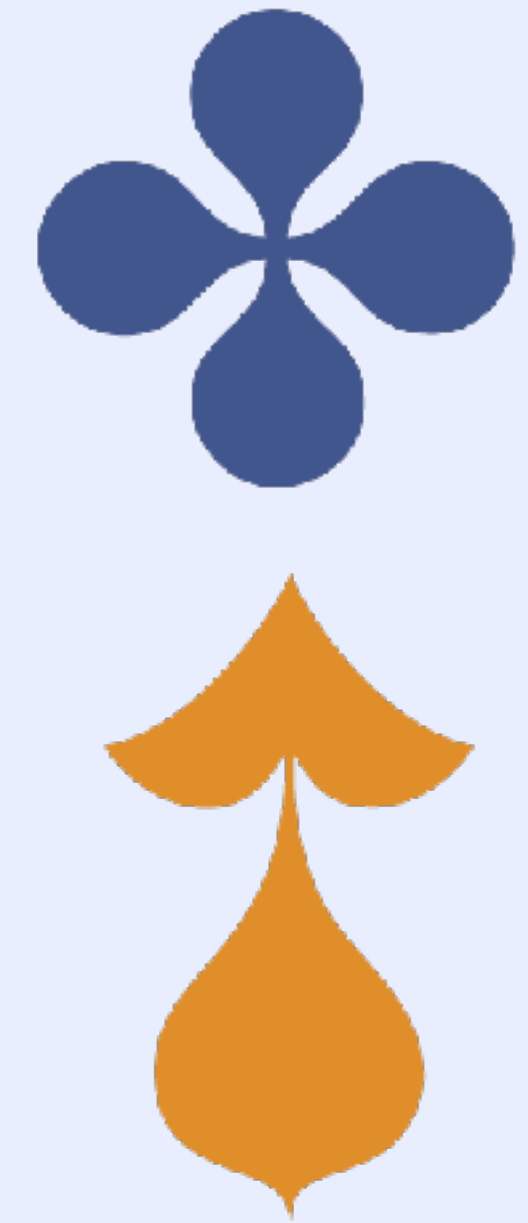
Thomas Kyd (1558-94)



- Son of a scrivener (scribe)
- Short dramatic career
- Must have been in the service of Lord Strange, the patron of Lord Strange's Men
- Imprisoned and tortured on suspicion of spreading heresy and atheism in 1593
 - Probably due to his sharing lodging with Marlowe
- Last years of his life spent in abject poverty
- Died soon after release from prison

Career

- Believed to be the author of *The Spanish Tragedy* due to reference in Thomas Heywood's *Apology for Actors* (1612)
- Also believed to have written a lost original of *Hamlet* (Ur-Hamlet)
- Wrote a Senecan tragedy, *Cornelia* (1594; trans. From French)
- Probably collaborated in *Arden of Feversham*, one of the first domestic tragedies



The Spanish Tragedy Or, Hieronimo is Mad Again (perf. c.1589)



- Produced at about the same period as Tamburlaine and of equal merit
- Along with Tamburlaine, the first success on London's public stage
- First proper English Revenge Tragedy; romantic melodrama
- Intense personal passions; madness as metaphor
- Did not conform to Seneca's austere style; instead, the play retained the loose style of Elizabethan tragedy



Hieronimo mourning for Horatio, from a Spanish performance

The Spanish Tragedy

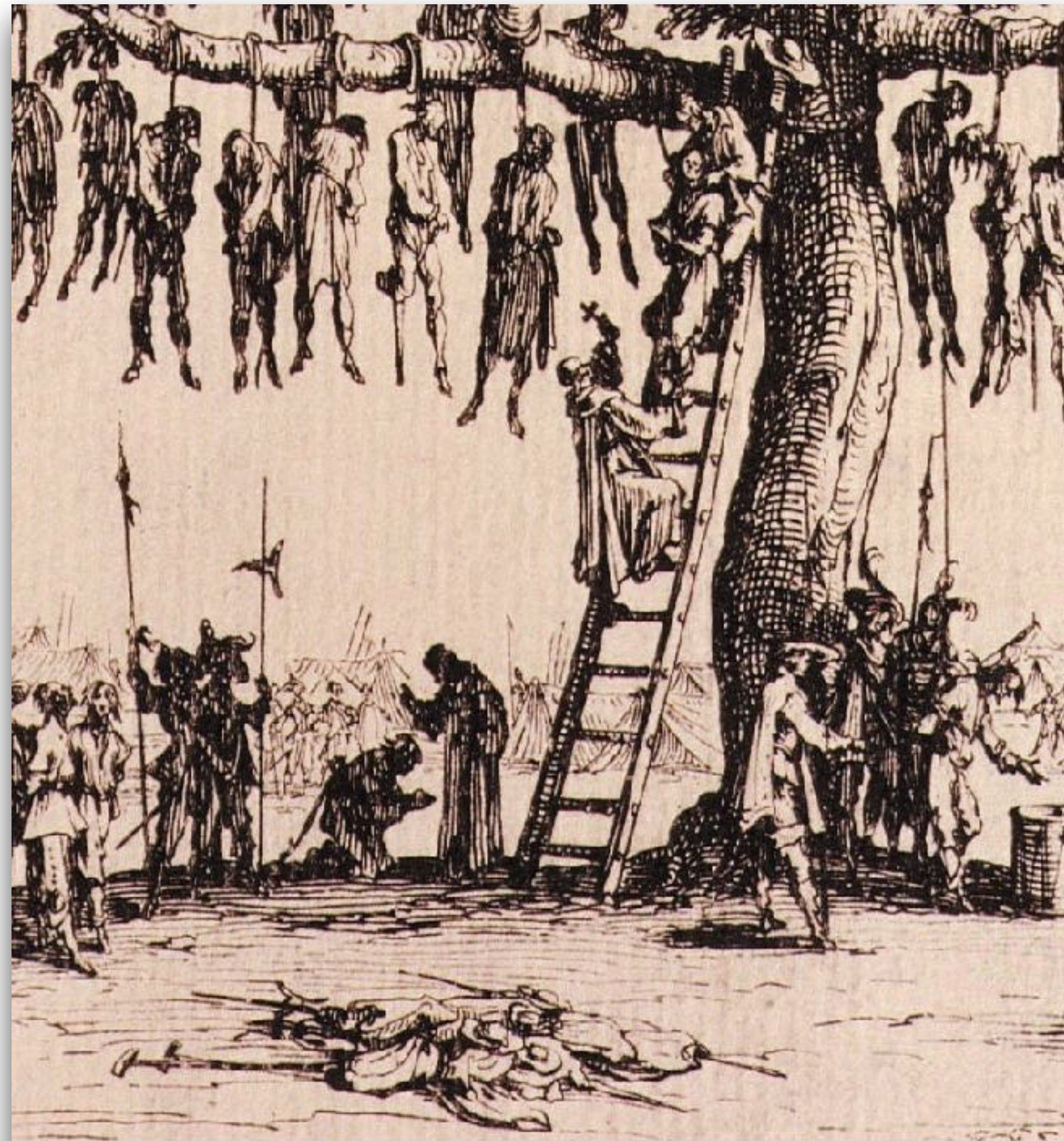
- Hieronimo is a marshal of Spain
- Spain defeats Portugal in 1580
- Hieronimo's son Horatio and his nephew Lorenzo capture Balthazar, son of the Viceroy of Portugal
- Balthazar courts Bel-Imperia, Lorenzo's sister, with Lorenzo's consent
- Bel-Imperia, however, loves Horatio
- Lorenzo and Balthazar kill Horatio and hang his body
- Hieronimo sees his son's body and goes mad with grief
- With Bel-Imperia, he plots against the murderers
- They enact a play in court
- The murderers are killed in the play-within-the-play
- Hieronimo and Bel-Imperia then take their own lives



Thomas Nashe (1567-c.1601)



- Involved in the Marprelate controversy, replying to the unidentified Puritan “Martin” from the Anglican side
- Friend of Greene; helped him fight Gabriel Harvey
- Euphuistic prose; invented prose hybrids (combining various styles)
- The Anatomie of Absurditie (1589; a bold survey of contemporary writing)
- Preface to Greene’s Menaphon



PENGUIN  CLASSICS

THOMAS NASHE

The Unfortunate Traveller and Other Works



Major Works

- Pierce Penniless (1592)
 - A satire on the Seven Deadly Sins
 - 1st distinctive work by Nashe
 - Satirized Gabriel Harvey and his brothers
- Christ's Tears Over Jerusalem (1593)
 - During the Black Death, warns his fellowmen to reform
- Collaborated with Ben Jonson in the satirical play The Isle of Dogs (1597), for which they were persecuted

The Unfortunate Traveller or The Life of Jack Wilton (1594)

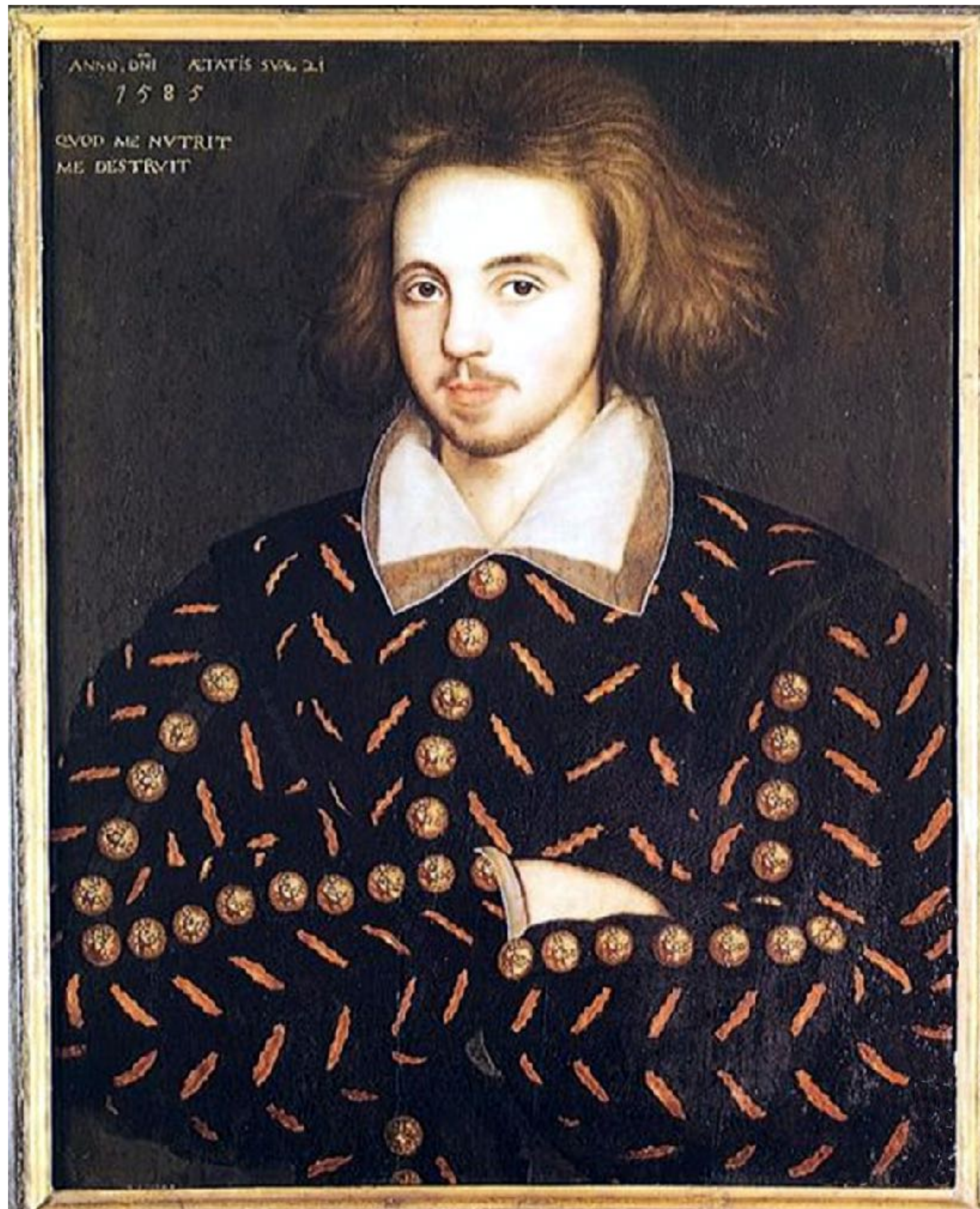


- 1st picaresque novel in English
- Strong personalized narrative of adventure
- Dedicatory epistle to the Earl of Southampton
- The rogue-hero Jack Wilton's "journey" through Italy and Germany as page to Earl of Surrey
- Encounters numerous atrocities until he is converted to a better life

Christopher Marlowe (1564-93)



- Born in Canterbury as the son of a cobbler
- Went to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
- Age of Catholic versus Protestant political intrigue; Marlowe is believed to have been a spy
- Violent and disreputable behaviour
- Atheism (probably a member of Raleigh's School of Night, a circle of free-thinkers)
- Suspected to be homosexual
- Died in a drunken brawl at Deptford, a couple of days after an order for his arrest was made
- Some believe that William Shakespeare was his pseudonym
- Shakespeare's most important predecessor in drama
- Perfected dramatic blank verse



**Portrait supposedly of
Christopher Marlowe
1585**

Marlowe's Works



- All tragedies (written in 5 years)
- Blank verse – Mighty Line (Jonson)
 - Energy
 - Splendour of diction
 - Sensuous richness
 - Variety of pace
- Renaissance quest for power and beauty
- Poetic vision, unity
- No sense of plot except in Edward II
- Simple characterization; lacks warm humanity
- Critics have pointed out that style is the only greatness of Marlowe's plays, not dramatic spirit



Marlowe's Works

- The order of his works is not clear.
- Tamburlaine the Great (2 parts, pub. anon.1590, story of Central Asian emperor Timur, “the lame”)
- The Jew of Malta (performed c.1592)
- Edward II (1594)
- Doctor Faustus (1604)
- The Tragedy of Dido (with Nashe; 1594)
- The Massacre of Paris (historical)
- Hero and Leander (unfinished poem)

Tamburlaine the Great (perf. c.1587)

- Two parts
- Central role played by Edward Alleyn
- Marked the shift from the clumsy language (“jigging veins”) and loose plots of early Tudor drama
- Renaissance humanist ideal of tremendous human potential
- Typical features of Elizabethan tragedy
 - Grand and beautiful imagery
 - Hyperbolic and rhetorical language
 - Powerful characters with overwhelming passions



The Plot

- Tamburlaine is Scythian shepherd who became a bandit
- Helps Cosroe overthrow his brother; then Tamburlaine ousts Cosroe as King of Persia
- Conquers and exhibits Turkish emperor Bajazet in a cage; he and his wife Zabina kill themselves by beating their heads against the bars of the cage
- Spares life of Egyptian Soldan, whose daughter Zenocrate he loves
- In Part II, Tamburlaine's carriage is drawn to Babylon by kings
- Zenocrate dies, so does Tamburlaine



The Jew of Malta (written c.1589)



- A tragedy with comic elements
- Prologue spoken by Machiavel, a Senecan ghost
- Barabas called the first Machiavellian villain
- Influenced Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice
- Themes of racial tension, religious conflict, political intrigue
- There were no Jews in England at this time (They had been banished)
- Religious heterodoxy was the ground-reality of 16th century England



From a theatre performance of *The Jew of Malta*

The Plot

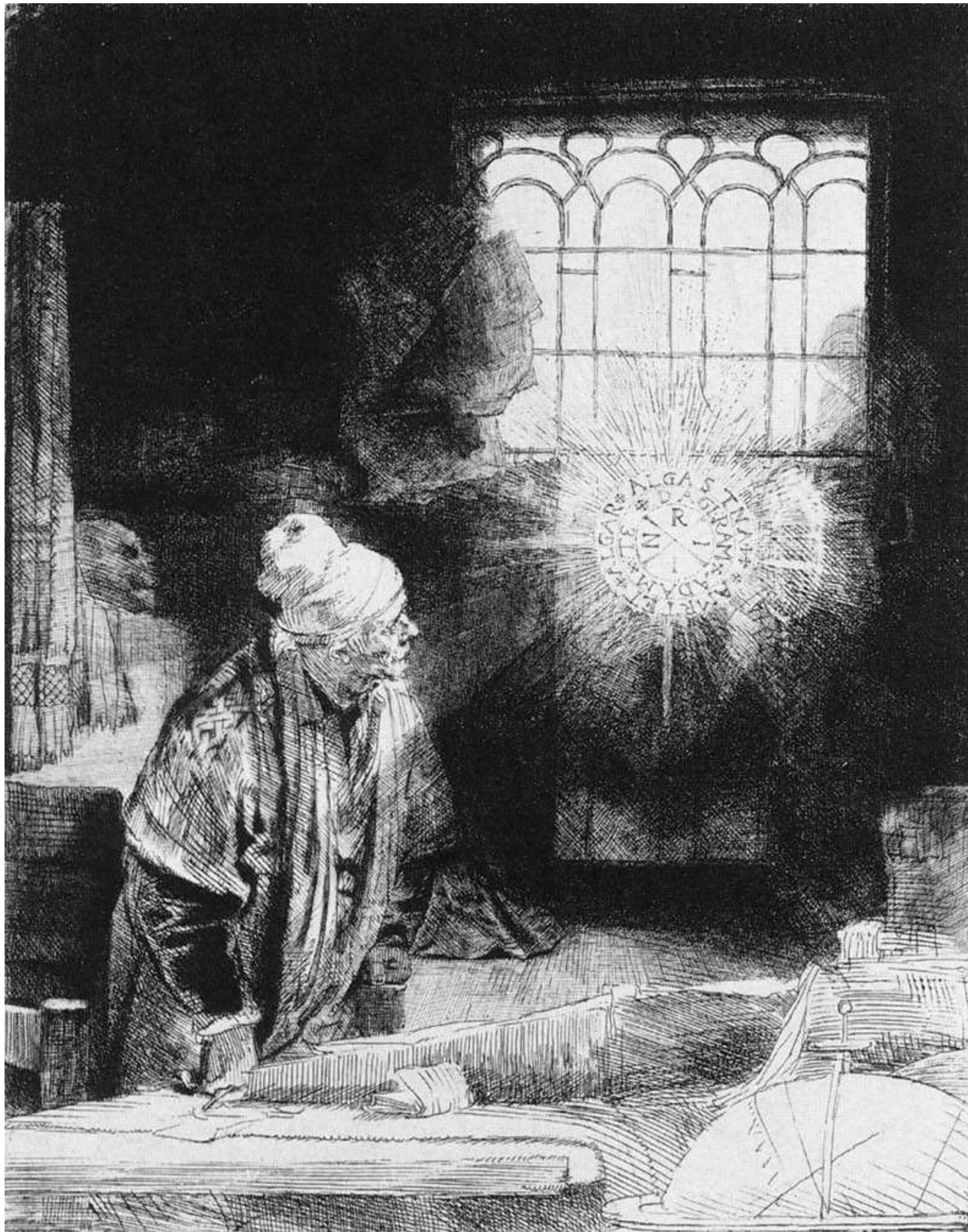
- Barabas, successful Jewish merchant of Malta; hates Christians; longs for power over them
- Turks demand tribute from Malta; the governor decides to extract money from the Jews
- Barabas's wealth taken by force; house becomes nunnery
- With the help of the Turkish slave Ithamore, Barabas embarks on an orgy of destruction
 - Kills his daughter Abigail and her Christian lover
 - Poisons wells; destroys the nunnery
 - Plans to destroy the Turks at a banquet by means of a trapdoor
- Barabas is betrayed by the Maltese people; falls into a cauldron under the same trapdoor; and dies



Doctor Faustus (1604)

- Elements of the Morality play
 - Good and Bad Angels (symbolizing battle over the spirit)
 - Seven Deadly Sins: Pride, Covetousness, Envy, Wrath, Gluttony, Sloth, Lechery
 - the potential for salvation
 - Comic interludes
- Conflict between medieval centrality of God and Renaissance centrality of man
- Other themes: sin and redemption, power as a corrupting influence





**“Faust”, painting by
Rembrandt, 1650-54**



Richard Burton as Faustus in the 1957 film

The Plot

- Weary of scientific study, Faustus turns to magic
- Makes a bargain with the Devil through Mephistophilis
 - 24 years of life with Mephistophilis at his command, at the end of which the Devil may take his soul
- His guardian angel tries to prevent him, but Lucifer himself shows him the pleasures of the Seven Deadly Sins
- An Old Man pleads with him that there is still hope for redemption, but Faustus has already made his choice
- Faustus encounters the Pope and the cardinals, then summons Helen of Troy
- At the climax, Faustus spends the last hour of his mortal life in terror, but he cannot be saved

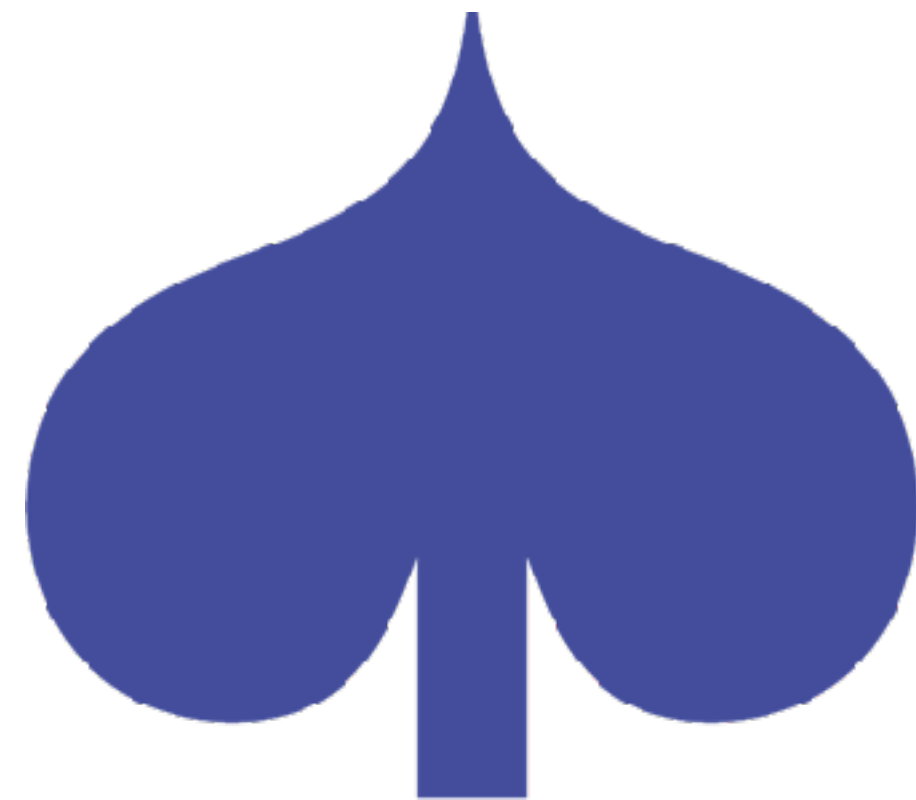


Doctor Faustus

- Autobiographical elements
 - Humble beginnings
 - Rebelled against the strict rules of class
 - Made money and fame
 - Desired knowledge
 - Accused of atheism

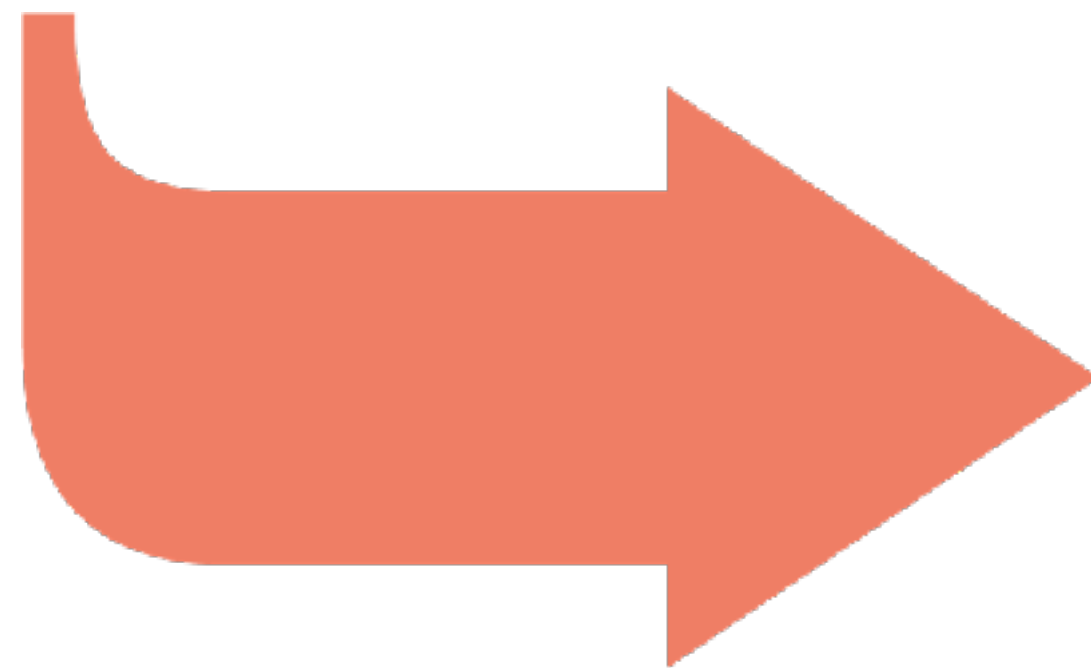


Marlovian Hero



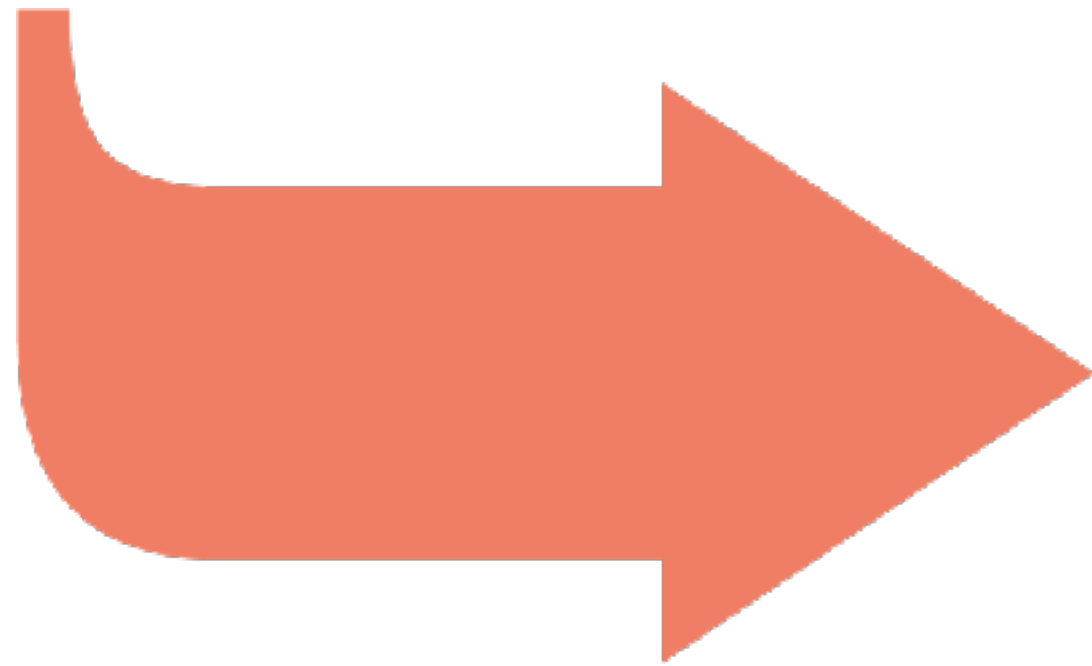
- Mostly played in his time by Edward Alleyn
- Anti-heroes
- Humble beginnings; rise to great wealth and power
- Lust for power followed by tragedy (Pride goes before a fall)
- Ambivalence: Violent, masculine, ruthless, yet winning sympathies
- Inner conflicts
- Renaissance spirit (power, beauty, knowledge)
- Hubris (inordinate pride) – Pride of intellect most dangerous temptation of the age
- Monomania (single-minded pursuit of a goal)

Marlowe's Mighty Line



- “Mighty Line” was a phrase attributed to Marlowe by Ben Jonson in his prefatory poem to Shakespeare’s First Folio
- Before Marlowe, blank verse had not been the accepted verse form for drama
- Many earlier plays had used rhymed verse; some like Gorboduc, did use blank verse, but the poetry in Gorboduc was stiff and formal
- Marlowe was the first to free the drama from the stiff traditions and prove that blank verse was an effective and expressive vehicle for Elizabethan drama.

Features of Mighty Line



- Musical quality
- Natural rhythm (avoided monotony)
 - Used run-on lines for this purpose
- Resonance and grandeur
- Allusions to classical mythology
- Splendour of diction
- Energy and versatility

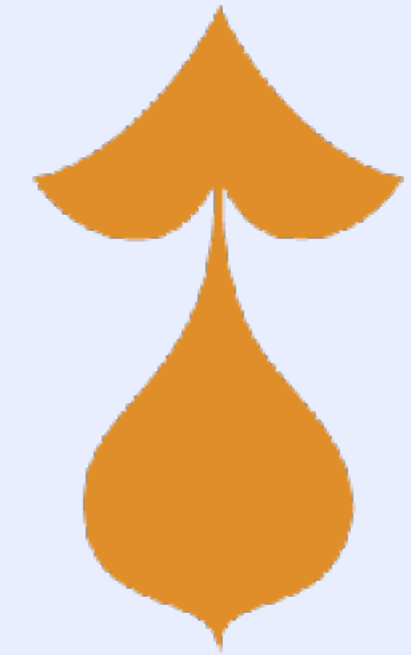
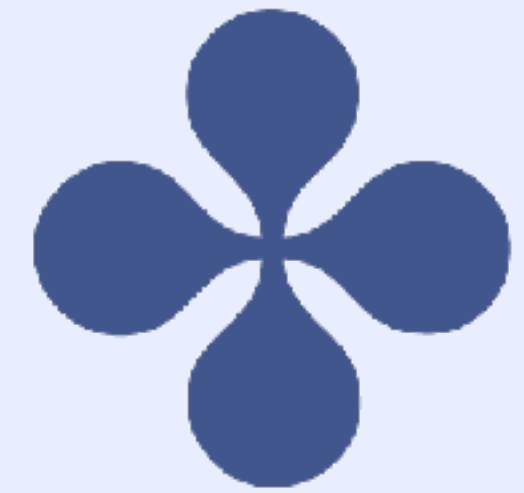
Ben Jonson (1572-1637)

- Worked as a bricklayer, like his stepfather
- Served as a soldier in Flanders, Low Countries
- Became an actor and playwright with the Lord Admiral's Company in 1597
- Imprisoned for writing the satirical play *The Isle of Dogs* (1597)
- Killed a fellow actor in a duel; escaped execution with his wit
- Wrote masques for private performances in King James's court

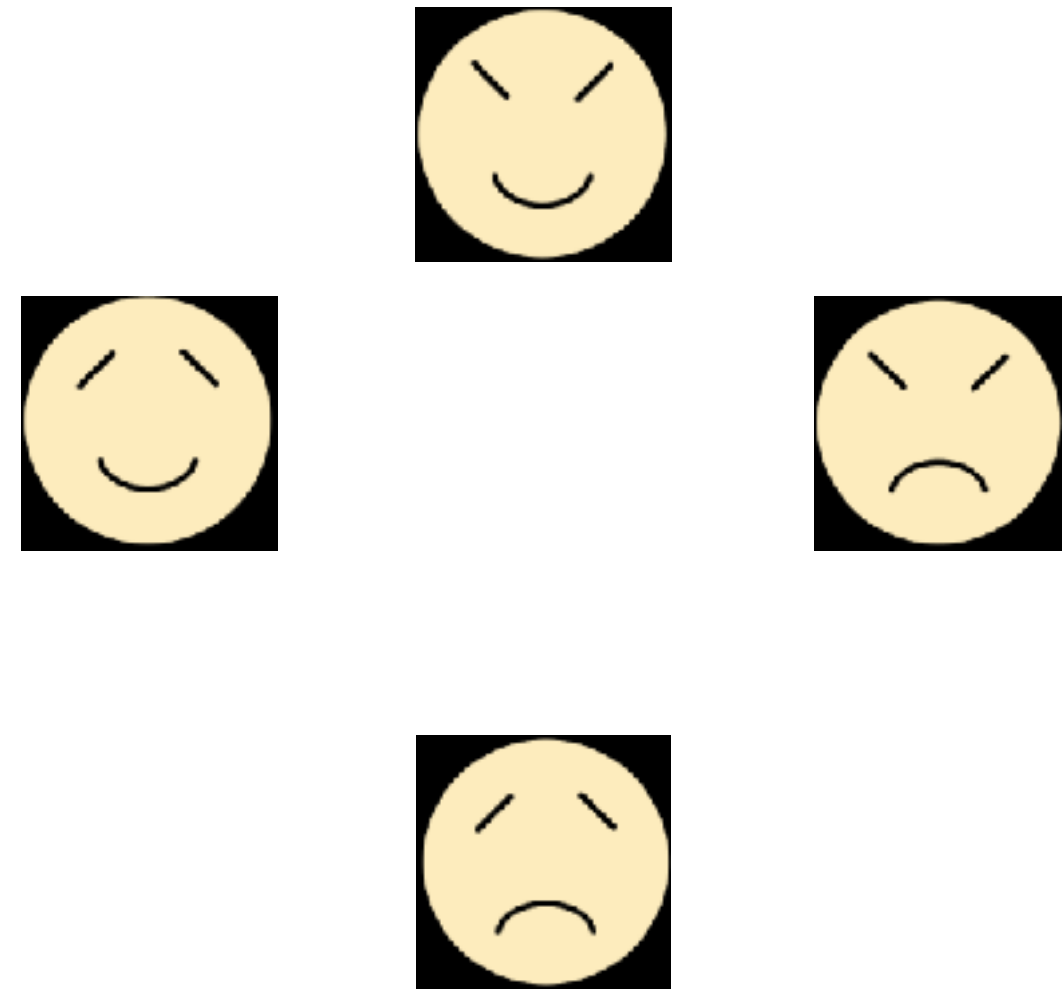


Ben Jonson's Life

- Quarrelled bitterly with Inigo Jones, his stage designer
- Quarrelled with Marston and Dekker in Wars of the Theatres
- Every Man in His Humour (perf. 1598) made him a celebrity
- Was something of a literary dictator at the Mermaid Tavern
- Buried in an upright position in Westminster Abbey with the epitaph "O rare Ben Jonson!"



Comedy of Humours



- Technique of characterization
- Comedy of Humours – individual as marked by one characteristic distortion or eccentricity based on one of the 4 humours (Blood, Phlegm, Cholera or yellow bile, Melancholy or black bile)
- Sanguine – sociable and pleasure-seeking
- Phlegmatic – relaxed and quiet
- Choleric – ambitious and leader-like
- Melancholic – introverted and thoughtful
- Robert Burton (Anatomy of Melancholy, 1621) and other “cult of melancholy” writers were writing books on humoral physiology during this period



Jonson's Works

- Works are scholarly and imaginative
- Like Donne, revolted against the artistic conventions of the age
- Employed the humanist ideal of close imitation of the classics
- Not only an antiquarian, also remarkably responsive to the social, political and artistic issues of his age
- Intimate and first hand awareness of lower-class life in London streets
- Timber, or Discoveries scholarly work
 - “Commonplace” book – a collection of conventional wisdom that forms the foundation of Jonson’s poetry and plays

Every Man in His Humour

- Performed by the Lord Chamberlain's Men in 1598, printed in 1601
 - A comedy of intrigue indebted to Roman comedy
 - The Prologue to the play
 - Attacks themes and conventions of contemporary drama
 - Explains his theory of Humours
 - Shakespeare acted in it
 - The character Bobadill is one of Jonson's greatest creations, a boastful cowardly soldier
 - Ironic tone, colloquial style
 - Draws from a variety of Roman writers



The Plot

- The merchant Kitley's brother Wellbred brings home his boisterous friends
- Kitley suspects that the men have designs upon his young and pretty wife, Dame Kitley
- Edward Knowell, who suffers from his father's excessive concern for his moral welfare, woos Kitley's sister Bridget
 - It is believed Shakespeare acted as Old Knowell
- Captain Bobadill, a cowardly boastful soldier, is also present
- Knowell's servant Brainworm (who is also his father's spy) complicates affairs with his intrigue
- The issues are resolved by Justice Clement
- Knowell wins Bridget's hand





Charles Dickens acting as Bobadill in the 1840s

Other Comedies



- Early Comedies
 - Every Man Out of His Humour (1599)
 - Cynthia's Revels (1600)
 - The Poetaster (1601)
 - All full of vivacity and fun
- Middle group of comedies
 - Best work: satirical in tone, realistic in dialogue
 - Volpone, Epicoene, The Alchemist, Bartholomew Fair
- Later comedies
 - Less powerful
 - The Devil is an Ass (1616), The Staple of News (1625), The New Inn, or The Light Heart (1631)
 - When The New Inn failed on stage, Jonson wrote an "Ode to Himself"

Volpone or the Fox (perf. c. 1605, pub. 1607)

- Volpone, a rich childless Venetian feigns that he is dying in order to draw gifts from his would-be heirs.
 - He opens the play with an ode to gold, which reveals his obsession with money
- His parasite servant Mosca (the fly) helps him
- Three leading citizens of Venice are greedy to inherit the dying man's fortune and reveal their corruption
 - Voltore (the vulture), a lawyer, is ready to break the law
 - Corbaccio (the raven), a sick, old man, disinherits his own son Bonario
 - Corvino (the crow), the merchant sends his virtuous wife Celia to Volpone's bed
- Satire on the customs and values of the rising merchant classes of Jacobean London
- "Captatores" or legacy hunters had been depicted by Roman writers like Petronius (in Satyricon), etc



Epicene or the Silent Woman (c.1609)



- Morose, an egotistic old bachelor with a pathological aversion for noise, will disinherit his nephew if he doesn't find him a silent woman.
- Cutbeard, his barber, finds a soft-spoken and quiet woman, Epicene, who after marriage becomes talkative and quarrelsome.
- The house is invaded by noisy well-wishers.
- Morose finally agrees to the proposal to get rid of Epicene and to restore his nephew's inheritance
- It is finally revealed that Epicene was a boy in disguise.
- Dryden in An Essay of Dramatic Poesy, offers a model analysis of this play

The Alchemist (1610)

- During the outbreak of the plague, Lovewit leaves London, and his house is in the care of his servant Face
- Face and his henchman Subtle use the house as a centre for their fraud
 - Subtle poses as an alchemist who possesses the philosopher's stone that can confer health and youth
 - Their victims are the greedy, voluptuous knight Sir Epicure Mammon, a tobacconist Abel Drugger, a lawyer's clerk Dapper, two hypocritical Puritans, Kastril and his sister Dame Pliant
 - Surly, a gambler sees through their imposture, and Lovewit returns without notice
 - Lovewit marries Dame Pliant and Face is at peace with his master



Bartholomew Fair (1614)

- One of his most adventurous and original plays
- A fair is held annually on St Bartholomew's Day on 24 August
- Presents a gallery of vivid characters and their different stories
- Jonson is observing their behaviour, rather than attempting to correct it
- Major Characters
 - Adam Overdo, a justice
 - Bartholomew Cokes, the country squire, and Grace Wellborn, his suitor
 - Cokes's servant Waspe, who has a biting tongue
 - The hypocritical Puritan Busy, whose mind is more fixed on food than faith





Tragedies

- Sejanus His Fall (perf. 1603, printed 1605)
 - A Roman tragedy performed by the King's Men at the Globe, with Shakespeare & Richard Burbage in the cast
- Catiline His Conspiracy (perf. and printed 1611)
 - Based on events in the history of the Roman republic
- Based on classical models
- Too laboured and mechanical to be considered great tragedies



Other Works

- Masques
 - The Masque of Blackness
 - The Masque of Beauty
- Anti-masques
 - The Masque of the Queens
- Lyrics
 - “Drink to me only with thine eyes”
- Epigrams
- The works of Ben Jonson appeared in Folio format in 1616

Inigo Jones (1573-1652)



- The first major architect in England
- Introduced in England classical architecture of Rome and Renaissance Italy
- Employed Vitruvian principles of symmetry in buildings
- Also contributed to stage design
 - When he brought masques (such as those of Ben Jonson) on stage
 - Introduced movable scenery and the proscenium arch to English theatre
- Collaborated with Ben Jonson, but there was jealousy and competition between them

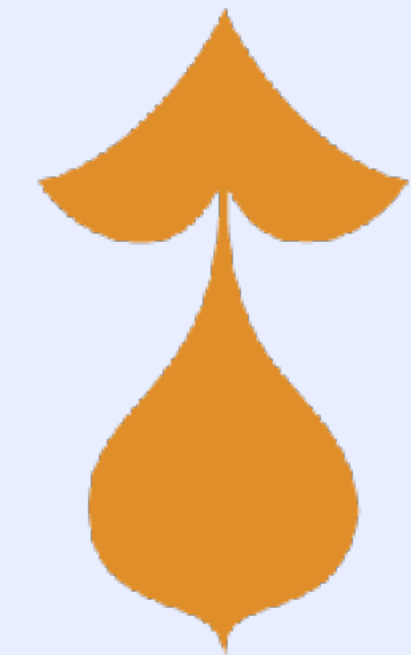
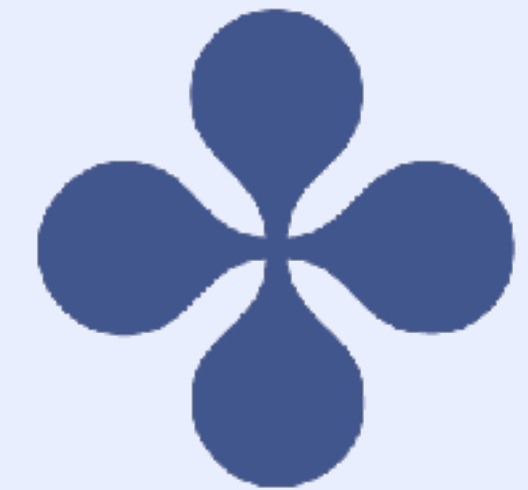
Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

- Philosopher and essayist
- Son of Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper of the Seal to Elizabeth I
- Educated at Trinity College, Cambridge
- Entered Gray's Inn; practised law
- Ambitious man
- Enjoyed the patronage of Earl of Essex
- Became MP in 1584
- Investigated the case against his own patron, leading to Essex's execution in 1601



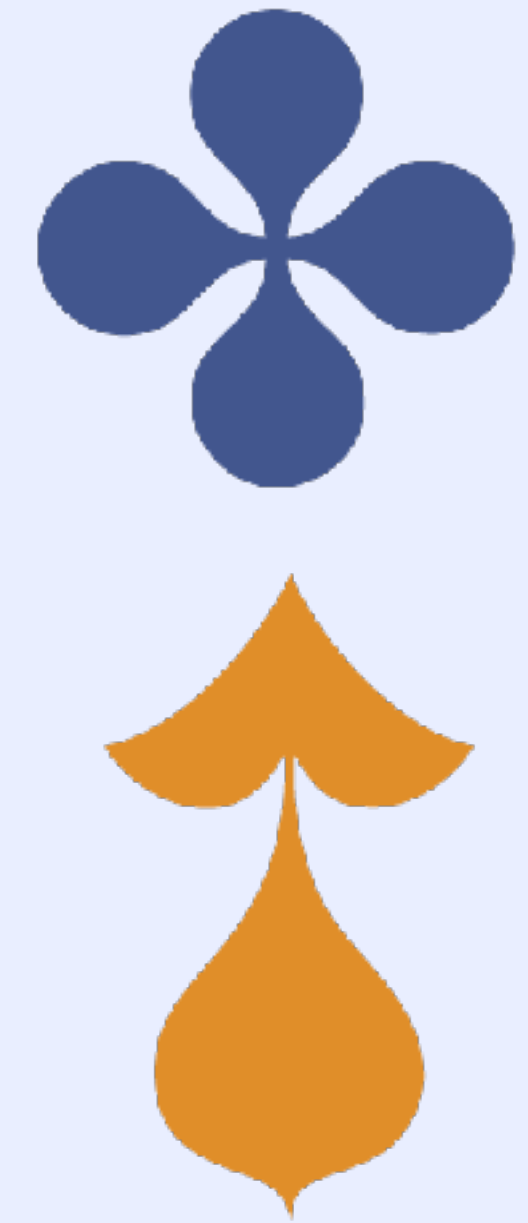
Bacon's Political Career

- Career bloomed during the reign of James I
- Became Attorney General, Lord Keeper of the Seal and Lord Chancellor
- Not popular among his peers
- His rival Edward Coke successfully instigated a charge of corruption against him
- Bacon was dismissed from office, debarred from Parliament, briefly imprisoned in the Tower
- Retired into private life, devoted subsequent life to writing
- Died of pneumonia contracted while studying the use of snow in the preservation of meat



Bacon, the Scientist

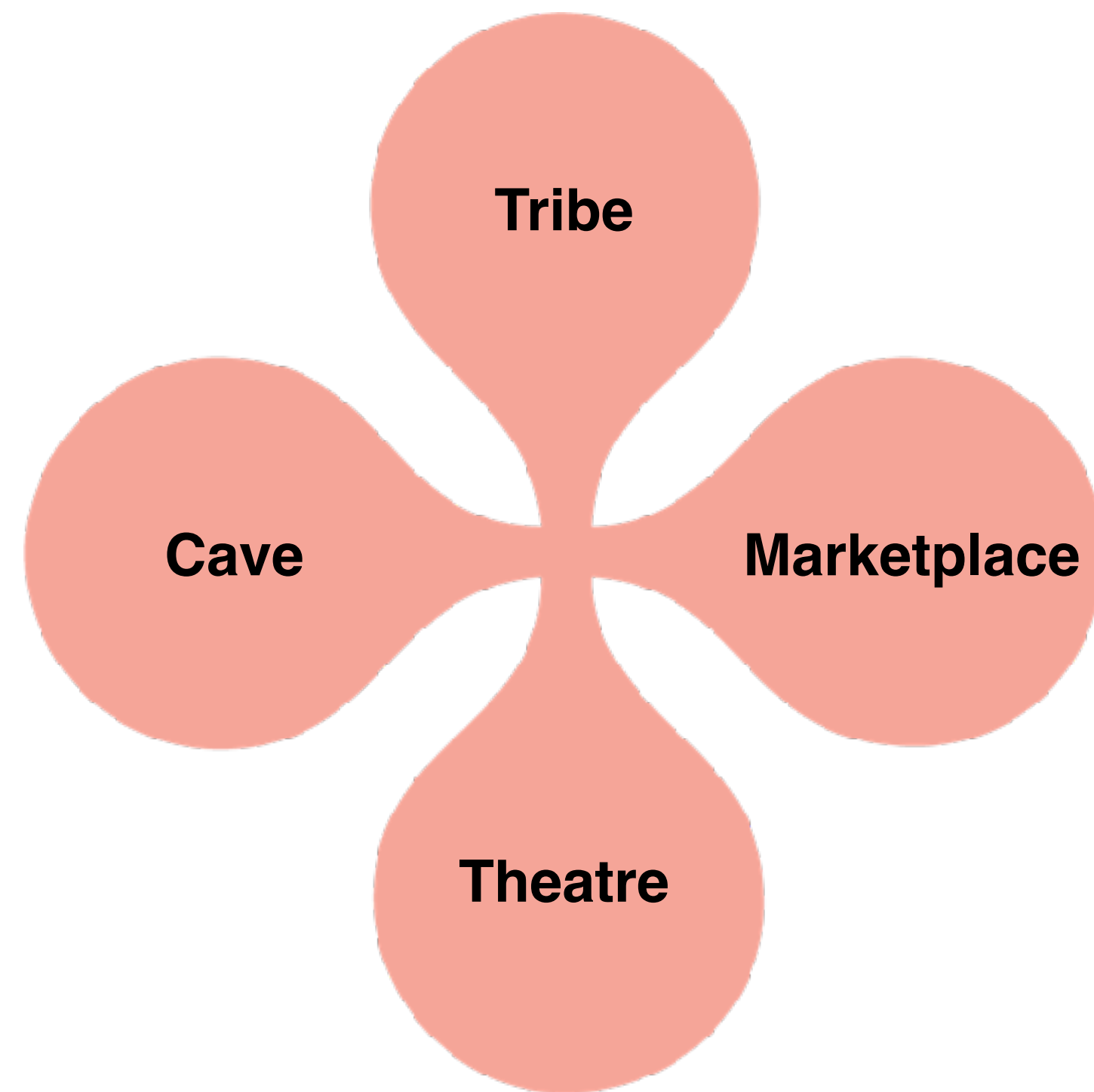
- Advocated Empiricism: sensory experience is the best source of knowledge
- Supported Scientific Revolution of the late Renaissance (religion, superstition & fear replaced by reason & knowledge)
- Established inductive method of scientific enquiry (earlier Baconian method; later developed into 'scientific method')



Great Instauration

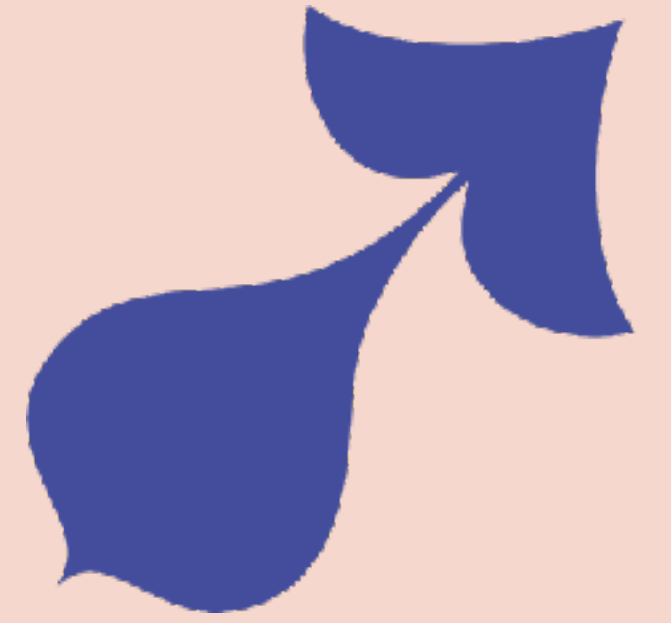
- Instauration Magna or Great Instauration (Great Renewal) was an idea propounded by Bacon in *The Advancement of Learning* (1605, a tract on education) & *Novum Organum* (1620, *The New Instrument*)
- This was a comprehensive plan to reorganize the sciences and to restore man to that mastery over nature that he was conceived to have lost by the Fall
- Rejects the older Aristotelian structures of knowledge
- Seeks to discover a new system of philosophic instruction based upon empirical perception of nature

Four Idols of the Mind



- In *Novum Organum*, he talked about Four Idols (Mistakes / Fallacies) of mankind
 - Idol of the Cave—individual shortcomings
 - Idol of the Tribe—mistakes we make for being part of humanity
 - Idol of the Marketplace—mistakes made in political or commercial association / communication with others
 - Idol of the Theatre—mistakes given by learning and philosophy

Essays

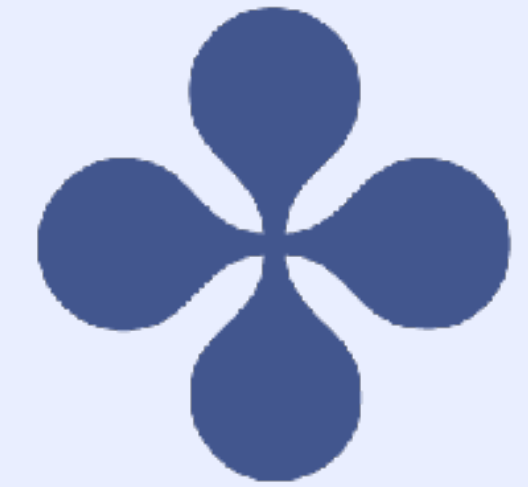


- 1597 – 10 essays
- 1612 – 38 essays
- 1625 – 58 essays
- Reflections and observations in the form of advice for living a successful life
- Wide range of topics: government, architecture, human behaviour
- Essays show acute intelligence and wit
- Incorporates numerous quotations from earlier writers

Major Essays

- Of Truth
- Of Death
- Of Unity in Religion
- Of Revenge
- Of Adversity
- Of Parents and Children
- Of Simulation and Dissimulation
- Of Marriage and Single Life
- Of Envy
- Of Love
- Of Friendship
- Of Travel
- Of Youth and Age

Features of Bacon's Essays



- Adopted the term “essai” from Montaigne (1580), who wrote essays on friendship, love, death, and morality
- While Montaigne wrote the informal essay, Bacon wrote the formal
- Practical everyday philosophy
- Detached, epigrammatic style that present finished ideas, rather than develop and explore them
- Later essays more expanded
- Employs strategy of balance and opposition
- Impersonal, objective; studies the world rather than the self
- First writer to attend to the readers: wrote to inform young men of his class (rather than for self-expression)



“Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability. Their chief use for delight is in privateness and retiring; for ornament, is in discourse; and for ability, is in the judgment and disposition of business... To spend too much time in studies is sloth; to use them too much for ornament is affectation; to make judgment wholly by their rules is the humor of a scholar... Crafty men condemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them, for they teach not their own use; but that is a wisdom without them, and above them, won by observation...”

“Of Studies”



Other Works

- The Advancement of Learning (1605)
 - Darwin quotes from The Advancement of Learning in Origin of Species
- De Sapientia Veterum (Latin, 1609)
 - Translated as The Wisdom of the Ancients (1619)
- Novum Organum (Latin, 1620)
- The History of the Reign of King Henry the Seventh (1622)
- Apophthegms New and Old (1624)
- Works on law
- Sylva Sylvarum, Or, A Natural History
 - Posthumously published in 1627

The New Atlantis

- Unfinished Utopian fiction
- Written in about 1624;
Published in Latin (Nova Atlantis) – 1627;
in English – 1629
- Accounts of the discovery by English sailors of an island called Bensalem in the Pacific Ocean
- Similar to Plato's lost Atlantis
- Introduces an ideal design for a college of the sciences



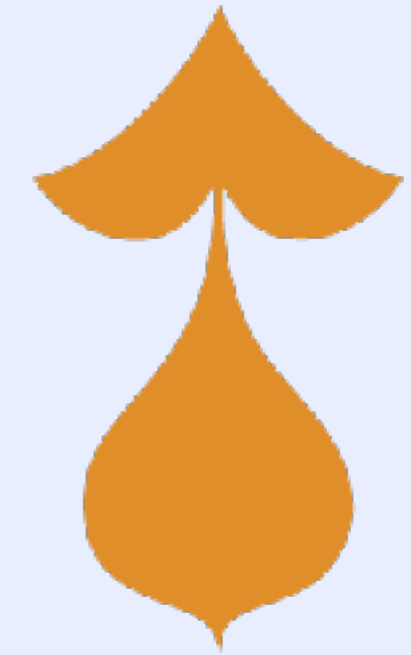
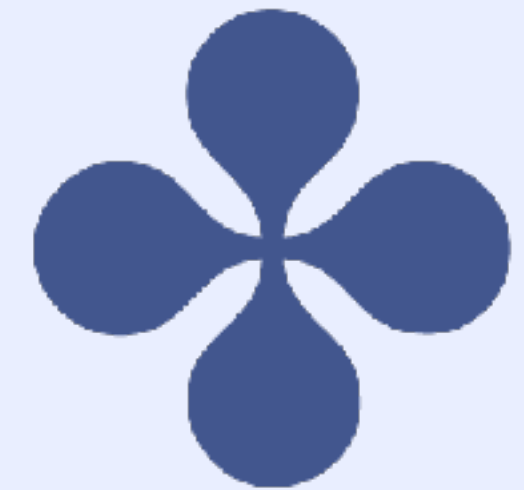
Salomon's House

- A fictional institution, also called the College of the Six Day's Works, described in *The New Atlantis*
- College for the study of the entire physical creation
- Publicly financed
- Cooperative research
- Proposal for a program of experiments
- Bacon hoped King James I would establish such a college
- Note that James wanted to be known as the British Solomon
- Bacon's proposal not carried out in his lifetime
- Eventually, the Royal Society in 1660 carried out some of his ideas



Baconian Heresy

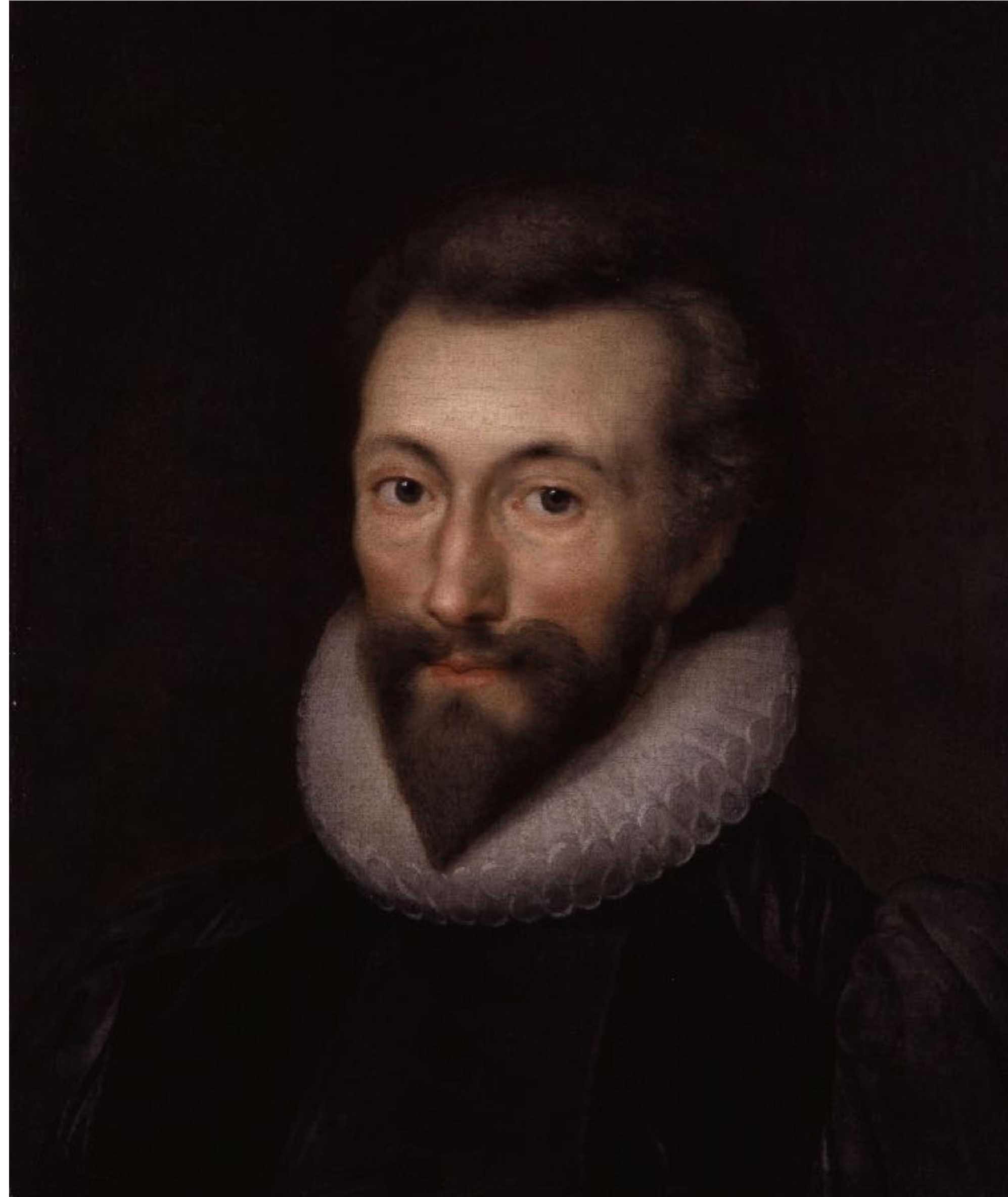
- The theory that Francis Bacon wrote the works of Shakespeare
- Advanced by Delia Bacon in her *Philosophy of the Works of Shakespeare Unfolded* (1857)
- Theory supported by other scholars



John Donne (c.1572-1631)

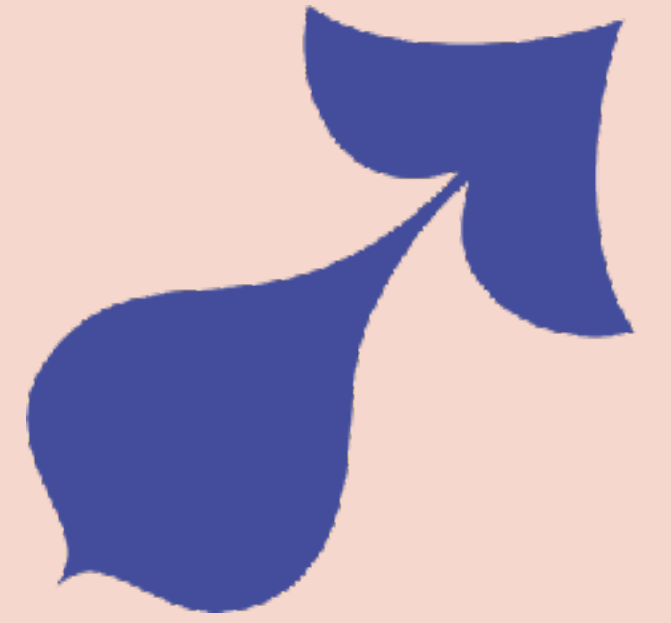


- Born into a Roman Catholic family
 - Persecution, debarred him from taking a university degree and from a public career
- Later conversion to Anglican religion
- Sailed with Earl of Essex and Walter Raleigh on colonial missions
- Secretly married Ann More, for which he was briefly imprisoned
- Ever-growing family, poverty
- Sir Robert Drury was his patron
- Almost none of his poetry was published during his lifetime
- Poems circulated privately in manuscript form
- 5 satires, (probably) 20 elegies (poems of love, not of mourning), epigraphs, verse letters, Songs and Sonnets, Holy Sonnets



**Portrait of John Donne by Isaac
Oliver, before 1622**

Early poetry



- Satires
 - conventional Elizabethan topics such as corruption, mediocre poets, pompous courtiers
 - Example: Satire III “On Religion” depicts the search for religious truth in an age of religious conflict



Early poetry

- Love elegies (In Greek, elegies were written on various themes: death, love, war. In Latin, elegies were often erotic or mythological in nature)
 - Erotic
 - Avoided Petrarchan / Elizabethan conventions
 - Explored the theme of love in a variety of moods
 - Inconstancy of the mistress
 - Employs features like blazon, metaphysical conceit, neoplatonism and allusion
 - Example: Elegy 19: “To His Mistress Going to Bed” compares the fondling of the mistress to the exploration of America

“The Flea”

- The speaker speaks about a flea that has bitten him and his beloved
- Since their blood has got mixed in the flea, he argues that the flea is like their marriage-bed, and it will be no sin for them to make love
- The speaker asks his beloved not to kill the flea for it would amount to triple homicide
- The woman kills it nevertheless, and the speaker says despite losing their blood, none of them is weaker for it; hence by making love her honour will only remain undiminished



“The Canonization”

- The poet demands to be left alone to love, as he is not hurting anyone by it
- It is love that defines the lovers: they are compared to two flies, two tapers, eagle and dove, and the Phoenix
- By the Phoenix paradox, the poet asserts that though they are consumed by love, they are also resurrected by, and unified in, their love
- The poet will immortalize their love in sonnets, and by their love, which will become a model for all other love in the world, they will be canonized
- “We'll build in sonnets pretty rooms; / As well a well-wrought urn becomes / The greatest ashes”



“A Hymn to God the Father”

- Donne must have written this poem after he recovered from yellow fever
- In 3 stanzas, the speaker tells God about his sins and hopes for forgiveness
- The first two stanzas end “When thou has done, though has not done / For I have more.”
- The final line “I fear no more” might also refer to the death of Ann Donne



“The Relic”

- Chaste, Platonic love is treated in a religious framework
- The speaker addresses his sweetheart with whom he is not allowed to be intimate
 - The speaker wears a strand of his beloved’s hair around his wrist, and imagines that centuries later, when his body is dug up, the digger will take that the bone and hair to the king and the bishop and request them to declare the two as saints of love



“Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”

- The speaker has to spend time apart from his beloved, but he tells her that she should not mourn his separation
- They are not separated but one: their love will expand like gold is beaten to airy thinness, and they are united like the two legs of a compass
- “Thy firmness makes my circle just, And makes me end, where I begun”



“Sun Rising”

- The speaker chides the sun, a “busy, old fool,” for disturbing him and his beloved in bed
- The speaker compares his beloved to all the treasures of India, to all the countries of the world, and himself to every king
- Since the world has contracted on to his bed in the form of his beloved, the speaker urges the sun to make their bed “thy sphere” and shine on their bed



“Love’s Alchemy”

- The Platonists who search for spiritual love are like the alchemists who search for Elixir or philosopher’s stone and do not find it
- In a cynical manner, Donne here supports physical love



Conversion and After

- In 1615, entered Anglican priesthood upon the insistence of James I
- Illness, financial strain, death of wife and friends in later life
- Early scepticism gives way to firm faith in the traditional teachings of the Bible
- Known for moving sermons and religious poems

Holy Sonnets

- Later poetry (19 Holy Sonnets or Divine Meditations)
 - Published posthumously
 - More sombre and pious tone
 - Turns passionately to God in a very personal way, with a love forceful, yet fearful
 - Themes: temptation, sin, divine grace, redemption
 - Titles of Hemingway's For Whom the Bell Tolls and Thomas Merton's No Man is an Island taken from Donne's Meditation 17.
 - Wrote works that challenged death (typical of all his work, which shows a healthy appetite for life)



Sonnet 10: “Death, Be Not Proud”

- Argumentative in tone
- The speaker attempts to humble Death partly in an effort to dispel his own fears that he will physically die but partly to assert his spiritual faith in a greater eternal life



Sonnet 14: “Batter my Heart”

- A desperate and violent plea to God
 - To break the speaker’s heart (as if it is a pot repaired by a tinker) so that he can be made new again,
 - To seize the speaker (as if he is a town usurped by the enemy) so that he can be free again, and
 - To ravish the speaker (as if he is a woman betrothed to the enemy / Satan) so that he can be made chaste again.

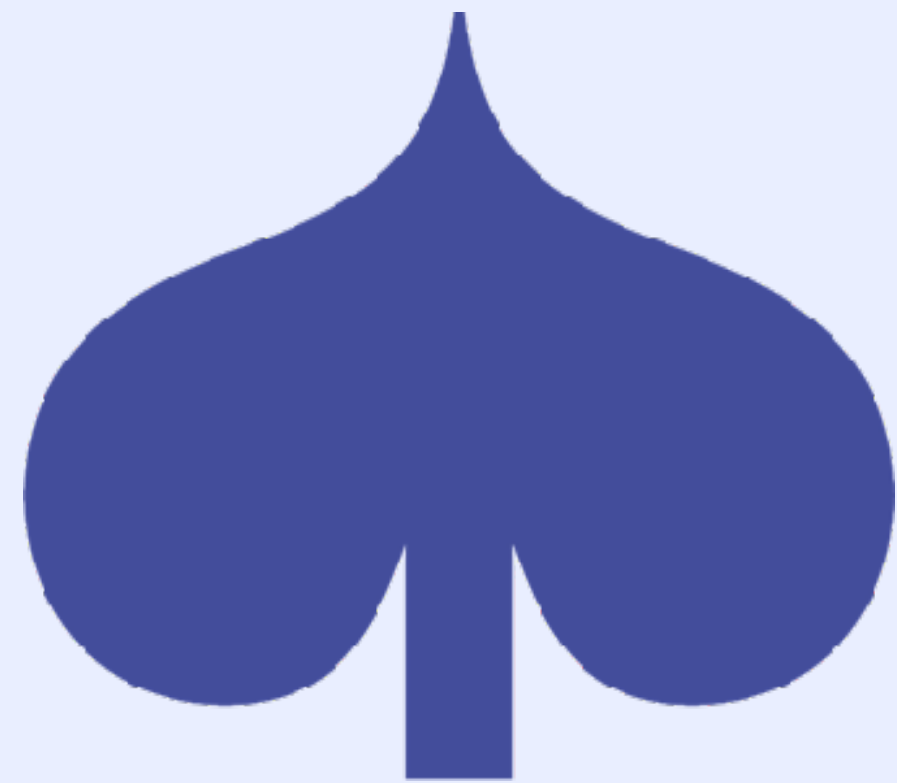




Other Works

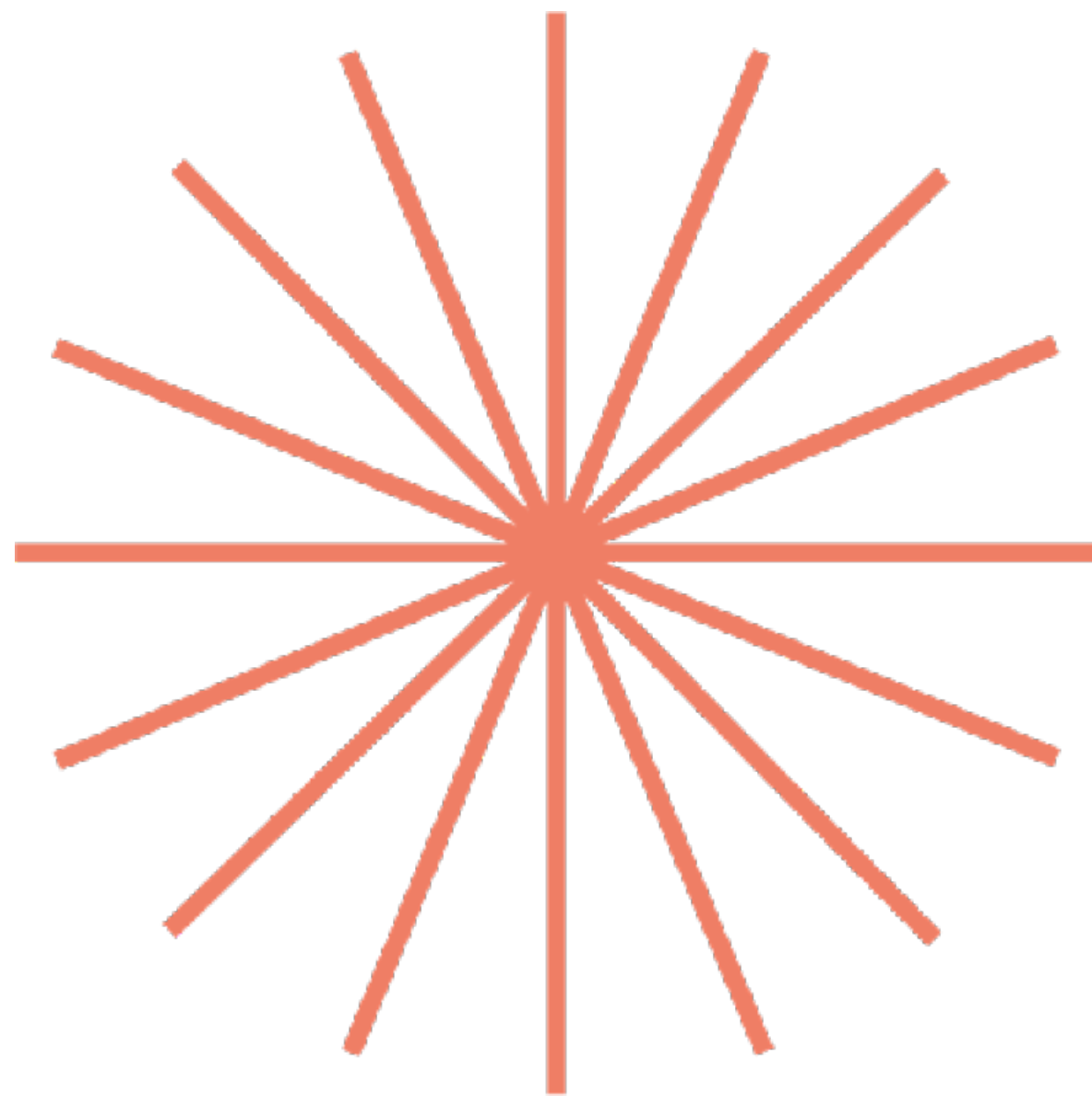
- Donne wrote the two Anniversary poems, *An Anatomy of the World* (1611) and *Of the Progress of the Soul* (1612) for his patron Robert Drury
- In 1610 and 1611 he wrote two anti-Catholic polemics: *Pseudo-Martyr* and *Ignatius his Conclave*

Donne's Style



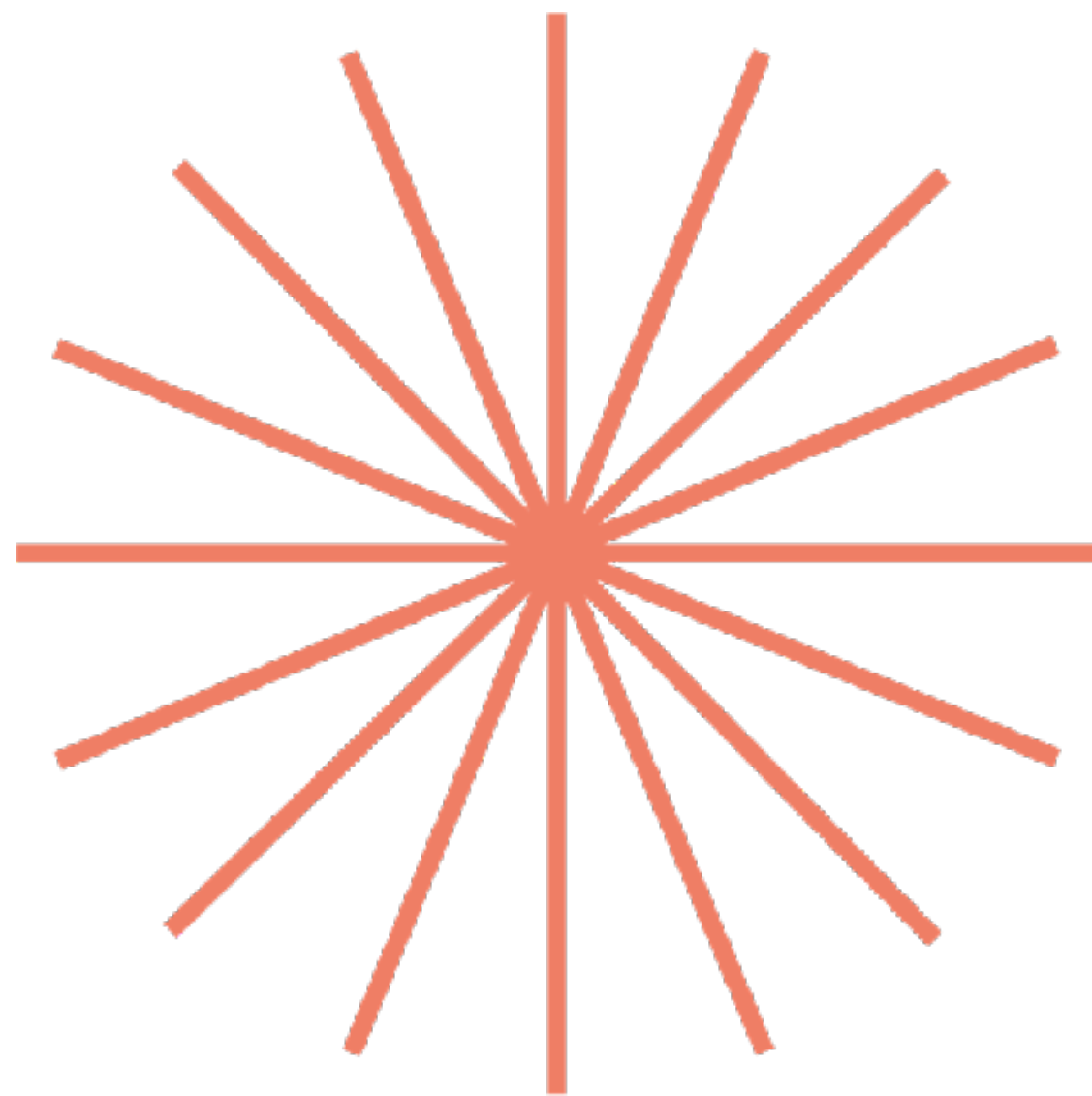
- Revolted against Elizabethan style
 - Not easy, fluent, stock imagery, pastoral conventions, like Elizabethan style
- Aimed at reality of thought, vividness of expression
- Forceful, vigorous poetry
- Dramatic rhythm, short lines, like excited talk (Ben Jonson: "Donne, for not keeping of accent, deserves hanging")
- Cynical and critical, witty
- Move from classical forms to more personal poetry
- Psychological; central concern feeling
- Holy Sonnets (intensely personal, concern with death)

Satire in the Sixteenth Century



- Satire flourished throughout the Middle Ages and the Renaissance (culminating in the golden age of satire in the late 17th and early 18th cent.)
 - beast fables, fabliaux, Chaucerian caricatures, John Skelton, Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Erasmus, Cervantes
- Elizabethan satire
 - Related to the rude and coarse satyr play
 - Therefore contains more straight forward abuse than subtle irony
- Pamphlets and rogue-tales of the 16th cent., especially those by the University Wits, employed satiric character sketches
 - Nashe's Apologie of Pierce Pennylesse

16th Century Satires



- Thomas Lodge's *A Fig for Momus* (1595)
- John Donne's satires (1590s)
- Joseph Hall's *Virgidemiarum* (1597)
- John Marston's *Scourge of Villany* (1597)
- Sir John Harington's *Metamorphosis of Ajax* (1596)
 - Did you know that Harington, in the book *New Discourse*, described a new toilet that was installed at his house, and has hence been remembered as the inventor of the flush toilet?
- Epigrams of Ben Jonson, Sir John Davies and Sir John Harington

Bishops' Ban



- 1599 – Bishops' Ban, prohibiting further publication of satires and destruction of existing works
- Middleton's *Microcynicon* and Marston's *Scourge of Villainy* burnt
- Resulted in War of the Theatres between Ben Jonson, and Marston and Dekker (Shakespeare's role disputed)

War of the Theatres



- Marston attacked Jonson in *Histriomastix*, and later, in *What You Will*
- Jonson in turn satirized Marston in *Everyman Out of His Humour*, and later, in *The Poetaster*. In *Cynthia's Revels*, Jonson attacks both Marston and Dekker.
- Later Jonson and Marston made up and collaborated with Chapman on the play *Eastward Ho*

The London Gazette

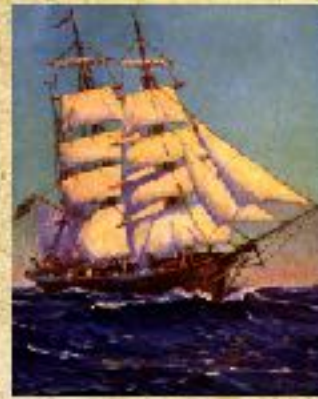
London, England

May 1, 1603
volume 3

One farthing

Thames Street Market proves to be an excellent source for fish

Many London citizens struggle with finding a good fish market in the city. The majority of the markets are unappealing to customers for reasons such as being too busy, or trying to sell rotting fish. Recently, one of the vendors here at the Gazette discovered the Thames Street Fish Market and claimed that the market is the best source for fish in the city. The market offers fish such as herring, salmon, eel, whitefish, plaice, cod, trout and pilch, and shell fish such as crabs, oysters, and mussels. If you are unsure on how to prepare your fish, the vendors are more than happy to suggest methods, many of them recommend spicing, roasting and using exotic imported spices to add flavor if you can afford it. The market is located on the north bank of the Thames River, so don't miss what we are so excited about!



Weather

Expect a typical rainy London day, and the temperature will be warm enough for leaving the jacket at home.



In Memory of Queen Elizabeth I England's greatest ruler is remembered

It has been just under a month since the passing of our greatest ruler, but it is always important to remember how much of an impact Queen Elizabeth I made on our country. Elizabeth was the daughter of King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn, which meant that she was initially born into an unhappy environment since her father longed for a son who could eventually succeed him. Elizabeth loved all sorts of activities including the theater, playing sports, riding horses, and hunting and she was also a highly educated woman. Elizabeth also granted pardons to those who had committed crimes against the crown, but she was a prisoner in the Tower of London, but she still managed to be England's finest ruler. When Elizabeth was finally crowned on January 15, 1558, she re-established England's Protestant church which her father had been the supreme head of. Elizabeth made excellent political choices for her reign and was a strong woman, but was also able to make many of the men who were interested with her. Elizabeth never married or created an heir to the throne, her current king, King James, has a very good history of his reign.

Attention Common Citizens of London!

Please be aware that should you decide to take part in crimes such as theft, begging, poaching, adultery, fraud, etc., you will be punished in ways such as being hanged, burned, whipped, branded, starvation, etc.... With that said, please join us on Sunday afternoon to watch criminals of this city who have committed crimes such as theft and murder, being hanged for the public to see. It will be quite the event!

Attention Ladies!

This season's most glamorous head coverings have just arrived at The Gazette! Come in to pick up your Goffs, French Hoods, Corbs, and Ribbons!



Superstitions of the Week!

1. Touch wood for good luck!
2. Don't spill the salt or pepper!
3. Keep your shoes off the table!
4. Don't EVER walk under a ladder!
5. Always bless one after sneezing help them keep the devil from entering them!

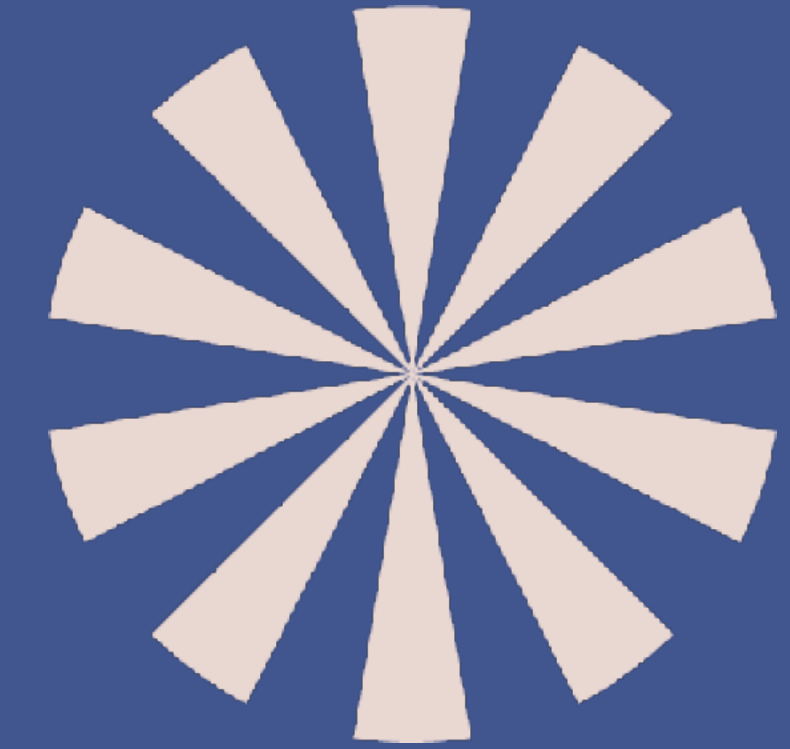


Dance Lessons

Because of the introduction of new music styles and instruments (the harpsichord, the Clavichord, and the violin) in the area, we have been constantly adopting our dancing styles to match the new music. Many of the new dance styles have come from England's upper-class travellers who have returned from countries such as Italy, Spain and France, after learning the different styles. There is a new dance studio in London where modern dances such as the Volta, the Pavane, and the Altra are being taught to upper class citizens so that you don't look foolish not knowing the steps to the new popular dances. The next time you attend an event, if you are interested, you are welcome to stop in, and the owner of the studio recommends that you bring a dance partner with you to the lessons since the majority of popular dances require partners.

A page from a newspaper,
May 1, 1603

Jacobean Period



DR. KALYANI VALLATH

25 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE



VTES IS NOW
Vallath

James I (r. 1603-25)

- Established Stuart dynasty in England
- Only son of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, the arch-enemy of Elizabeth I
- James I was a Protestant brought up in the Scottish court, which followed the manners of the French court
- Had little interest in women; preferred male company
- In 1589, married the Protestant Anne of Denmark
- His visit to Denmark may have sparked an interest in witchcraft
 - Wrote Daemonologie (1597) which opposed witchcraft and was a source for Shakespeare's Macbeth

James I

- Was James VI of Scotland before he became James I of England
- Believed in Divine Right; was called “peacemaker king” but took anti-Parliamentary decisions
- Extravagant; had favourites like Buckingham
 - His powerful chief minister, Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury tried to help him with a Great Contract with the Parliament, but Cecil died and the contract failed
- His foreign policy of helping Spain the Thirty Years War met with great criticism and resentment
- Oppressed Catholics and Puritans (the latter fled to America: known as Pilgrim Fathers)
- Colonies were established in North America and the West Indies
- Succeeded by Charles I

Gun Powder Plot (1605)



- Also called “Jesuit Treason”
- A plan made by Catholics against James I to blow up the House of Lords on 5 November 1605
- Guy Fawkes Day (Bon Fire Night) is celebrated to condemn Fawkes who was to execute the plot

Plan for a New Bible

- After his accession in 1603, James I conducted the Hampton Court Conference in Jan 1604
 - Puritans led by John Reynolds wanted to reform the Church as well as a new translation of the Bible
 - To replace the Bishops' Bible, which itself became a base text for the Authorized Version
 - Three committees were established: at Westminster, Oxford and Cambridge
 - 47 leading scholars of the country were brought together
 - They were organized into 6 companies
 - The work was overseen by high officials like Lancelot Andrewes

Authorized Version of the Bible

- A revision which respected earlier versions, especially that of Tyndale
- Retained the archaic words and phrases
- Another foundation for the Authorized Version was the Wycliff Bible of 1384
- Closely conforms to the Hebrew and Greek Bibles
- The work was published in 1611
- Came to be called King James Bible
- Tremendously influenced British and American writers and societies
- Has been called “the Miracle of English prose”



Elizabethans in the 17th century

- Many writers of the Elizabethan period continued to write in this period:
 - Shakespeare (1564-1616)
 - Wrote Great Tragedies (except Hamlet), Dark Comedies, and Romances
 - Decadent spirit of the Jacobean age
 - Spectacle and artificiality, improbable plots
 - Corruption in court, political intrigues
 - However, Shakespeare is generally associated with the Elizabethan sensibility
 - A sense of providential justice and moral harmony

Elizabethans in the 17th century

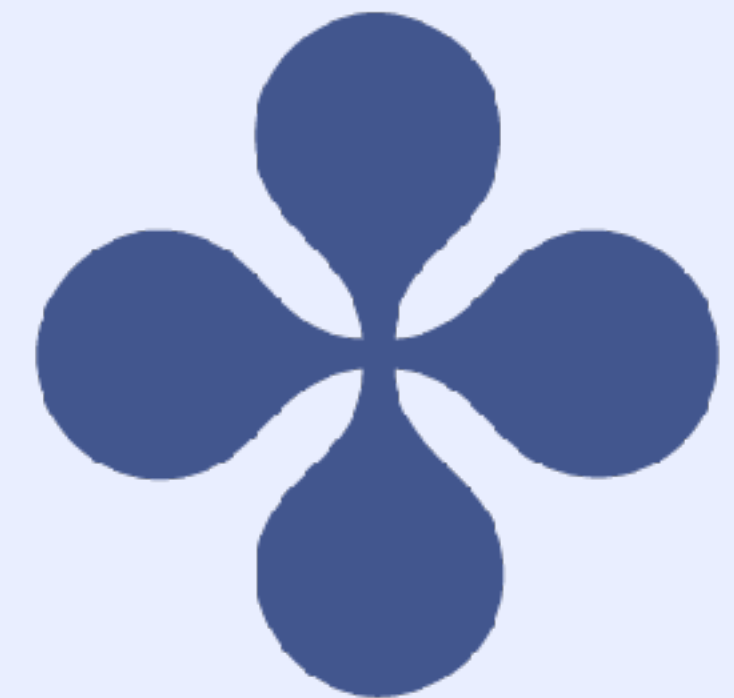
- Ben Jonson (1572-1637)
 - The earliest neo-classical writer
 - Maintained that poets must provide a high ethical ideal for the society
 - Wrote masques for James I's court
 - Influenced the Cavalier poets, who came to be called the "Sons of Ben" or "The Tribe of Ben"
 - After Shakespeare's death, there was a decline in his art
 - Play *The New Inn, or The Light Heart* met with failure
 - Deeply affected by the failure, he wrote "Ode to Himself" ("Come leave the loathed stage, / And the more loathsome age...")

Elizabethans in the 17th century

- Francis Bacon (1561-1626)
 - Attained James's favour
 - Reached the heights of his career
 - His influence on the king antagonized the Parliament
 - Career ended in public disgrace
 - His scientific and philosophical writings influenced 17th century scholars like Sir Thomas Browne
- John Donne (c.1572-1631)
 - Revolted against Petrarchan conventions in poetry
 - Wrote Holy Sonnets (written 1609-10)
 - Influenced a group of 17th century poets who have come to be called The Metaphysical Poets

Jacobean Drama

- In early Jacobean period, Elizabethans like Shakespeare and Ben Jonson at their creative height
- Their plays reflected the period
 - Metropolitan life
 - Nature of political authority
 - Intellectual doubt
 - Show the spirit of decadence: improbable plots, taste for spectacle and artificiality



Genres



- Genres in this period reflect a spiritual discord and materialism
 - Revenge Tragedy
 - City Comedy
 - Tragicomedy

George Chapman (c.1560-1634)

- More famous for his lengthy, violent translation of Homer (published together in a folio volume in 1616) than for his plays
 - The only English version before this was the heavy translation of Arthur Hall
 - Translated the Iliad, the Odyssey and The Battle of Frogs and Mice
- “Of all books extant in all kinds, Homer is the first and best”
- Keats wrote the sonnet “On First Looking Into Chapman’s Homer”
- Five tragedies which show interest in Stoic philosophy

Works by Chapman

- The Blind Beggar of Alexandria
- Historical tragedies based on recent French history:
 - Bussy D'Ambois (1604)
 - Story of an old soldier (like Othello) betrayed in a world of courtly intrigue
 - The Revenge of Bussy D'Ambois (c.1610)
- The Tragedy of Charles, Duke of Byron (1608)
- Caesar and Pompey (pub. 1631)
- All Fools is one of his comedies



Eastward Ho! (1605)

- Written by Chapman, Jonson & Marston, after the War of the Theatres ended
- City comedy on bourgeois morality
- Written in response to *Westward Ho!*, an earlier satire by Dekker and Webster
- King James had Jonson and Chapman arrested for its anti-Scottish comedy
- A city goldsmith's two apprentices –virtuous Golding and the rash and ambitious Quicksilver
- Also, the goldsmith's two daughters – one sweet and modest, the other foolish and worldly



Thomas Heywood (1573-1641)

- Had a hand (“or at least a main finger”) in 220 plays, of which only 23 survive
- Charles Lamb called him “a sort of prose Shakespeare”
- Historical and patriotic themes
- Glorified London citizenry and prentices



Heywood's Works

- A Woman Killed with Kindness (perf. 1603)
 - Happy marriage is broken when the wife is seduced by the husband's friend
 - Husband sends the wife away to live with servants
 - Sinning wife is repentant and tries to starve herself to death
 - The husband reunites with the wife, restoring the social and patriarchal order
- The English Traveller (c.1604)
 - Hero chastely in love with a woman happily married to an old man; they will marry only after the old man's death
 - Meanwhile, she is seduced by the hero's friend, and when the sin is discovered, dies repentant
- The Four Prentices of London
 - Celebrates the heroic exploits of four prentices



Thomas Dekker (c.1572-c.1632)

- Literary hack, pamphleteer and playwright
- Little known about his life
- Wrote chaotic comedies
- Involved in about forty plays for Philip Henslowe, usually in collaboration



Some Works by Dekker

- The Old Fortunatus (1599)
 - A morality play based on a German legend
 - Offered a gift by Fortune, chooses an inexhaustible purse rather than a wiser gift, leading to his own death as well as of his two sons
- Satiromastix (written in 1601, printed 1602)
- Three tragedies
 - Lust's Dominion (written with John Day, Marston, and William Haughton, 1600)
 - The Witch of Edmonton (with Ford and Rowley, 1621)
 - The Virgin Martyr (with Massinger, 1620)



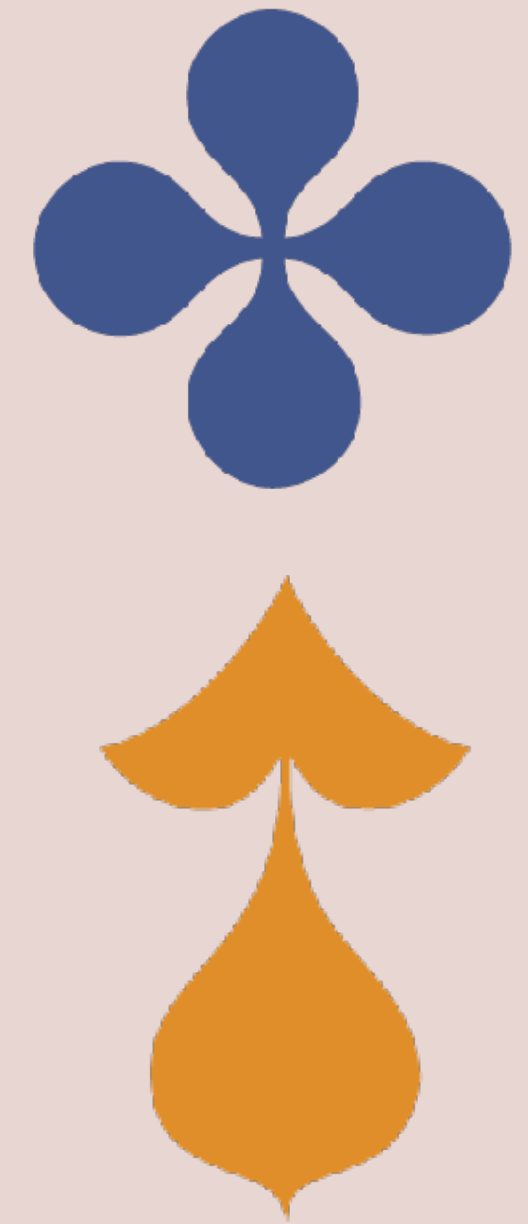
Some Works by Dekker

- The Honest Whore (a famous play in two parts; 1st part by Middleton, 2nd part by Dekker, 1630)
 - Bellafront, a prostitute, redeems herself and is married by her seducer
 - She is pressed to resume her former life by her debauched husband and by the very man who instigated her conversion
 - But she stands firm, watched over (unknown to herself) by her father Orlando Friscobaldo (very important character)
- The Roaring Girl (written with Middleton)
 - A fanciful biography of Mary Frith, a notorious pickpocket of the London underworld
- Westward Ho and Northward Ho (both with Webster)



Dekker and Jonson

- Jonson considered him a hack writer
- Jonson satirized Dekker
 - as Demetrius Fannius in *Poetaster* and
 - as Anaides in *Cynthia's Revels*
- Dekker satirized Jonson
 - as an affected, hypocritical Horace in *Satiromastix*



The Shoemaker's Holiday, or The Gentle Craft (1599)

- Boisterous comedy of London life
- A “citizen comedy” or “city comedy”
 - Set in London, portraying the everyday life of the middle classes.
- Plot taken from Thomas Deloney’s prose story of Simon Eyre, “the patron saint of prentices”
- Main plot: Rowland Lacy who loves Rose, the daughter of the Lord Mayor of London, disguises as a shoemaker
- Famous character Simon Eyre, eccentric shoemaker who becomes lord mayor of London



John Marston (c. 1576-1634)

- Began as a writer of violent and coarse verse satires
- Later turned to drama; worked for theatre entrepreneur Philip Henslowe and his Admiral's Men
 - Melodramatic tragedies of love and revenge
 - Cynical comedies which combine bitter exposure of human folly and ambition with farce
- Violent, melodramatic Senecan tragedies with exaggerated and excessive speeches
 - Twin plays: Antonio and Mellida and Antonio's Revenge
 - Set in Italy, like many other Jacobean plays (Italy was seen as the land of political intrigue and violence)

The Malcontent (pub. 1604)

- Marston's most famous play
- Dedicated to Ben Jonson
- A deposed duke returns to his dukedom in disguise as Malevole, a discontented parasite
- He vents his bitterness by cynically assisting his usurper
- Ending is unexpectedly happy, when the usurper gives the kingdom back to "the Malcontent," who then contemptuously pardons everybody
- Has a metatheatrical Induction, in which the play's actors and its onstage spectators comment on the drama that is to follow



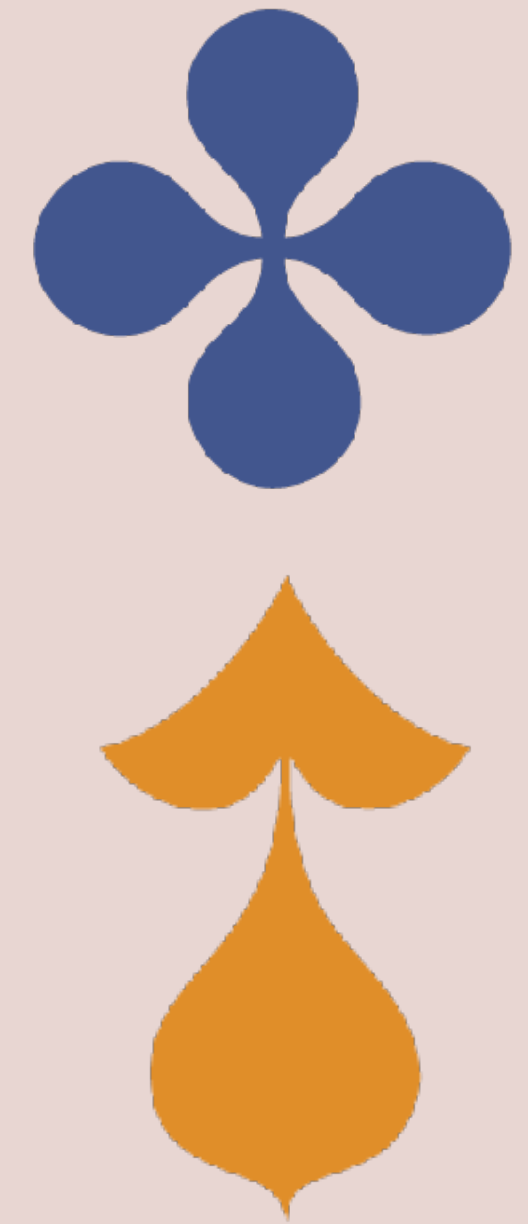
Other Works by Marston

- *Histriomastix* (1599) regarded as his first play
- *The Scourge of Villanie*, his satire was publicly burned in 1599, following the Bishops' Ban
- *Jack Drum's Entertainment* (c. 1600), a romantic comedy
- *What You Will* (1601), a comedy
- *The Dutch Courtezan* (pub. 1605)
 - A satire on lust and hypocrisy



Marston and Jonson

- In *Histriomastix* (1599), Marston satirized Jonson's pride through the character Chrisogonus
- This sparked off the War of the Theatres
- Jonson satirized Marston
 - as Clove in *Every Man Out of His Humour*
 - as Crispinus in *Poetaster*, and
 - as Hedon in *Cynthia's Revels*
- Marston in turn satirized Jonson
 - as the complacent, arrogant critic Brabant Senior in *Jack Drum's Entertainment* and
 - as the envious, misanthropic playwright and satirist Lampatho Doria in *What You Will*



Cyril Tourneur (c.1575-1626)

- His fame rests on two revenge tragedies
 - The Revenger's Tragedy (c.1607, also attributed to Thomas Middleton)
 - Echoes from Hamlet
 - The name of the famous avenger is Vendice
 - The Atheist's Tragedy (1611, probably written before Revenger's Tragedy)
 - Subtitled "The Honest Man's Revenge"
- Highly melodramatic
- Depicts the court governed by lechery and cruelty

John Webster (c.1578-c.1638)

- Details of life obscure
- Major collaborations
 - Believed to have worked to varying degrees with William Rowley, Thomas Middleton, John Fletcher, John Ford, and perhaps Philip Massinger
 - With Dekker: Two city comedies *Westward Ho* (1604) and *Northward Ho* (1605)
- Known for two macabre revenge tragedies
 - *The White Devil*
 - *The Duchess of Malfi*

The White Devil (written 1609-1612)

- Duke of Brachiano is urged by Machiavellian Flamineo to fall in love with Flamineo's sister, Vittoria Corombona, wife of Camilo
- Vittoria urges Brachiano to kill her husband and his wife, Isabella
- Famous trial scene
- Later Vittoria and Brachiano are married, but are killed by Isabella's brother Francisco and others

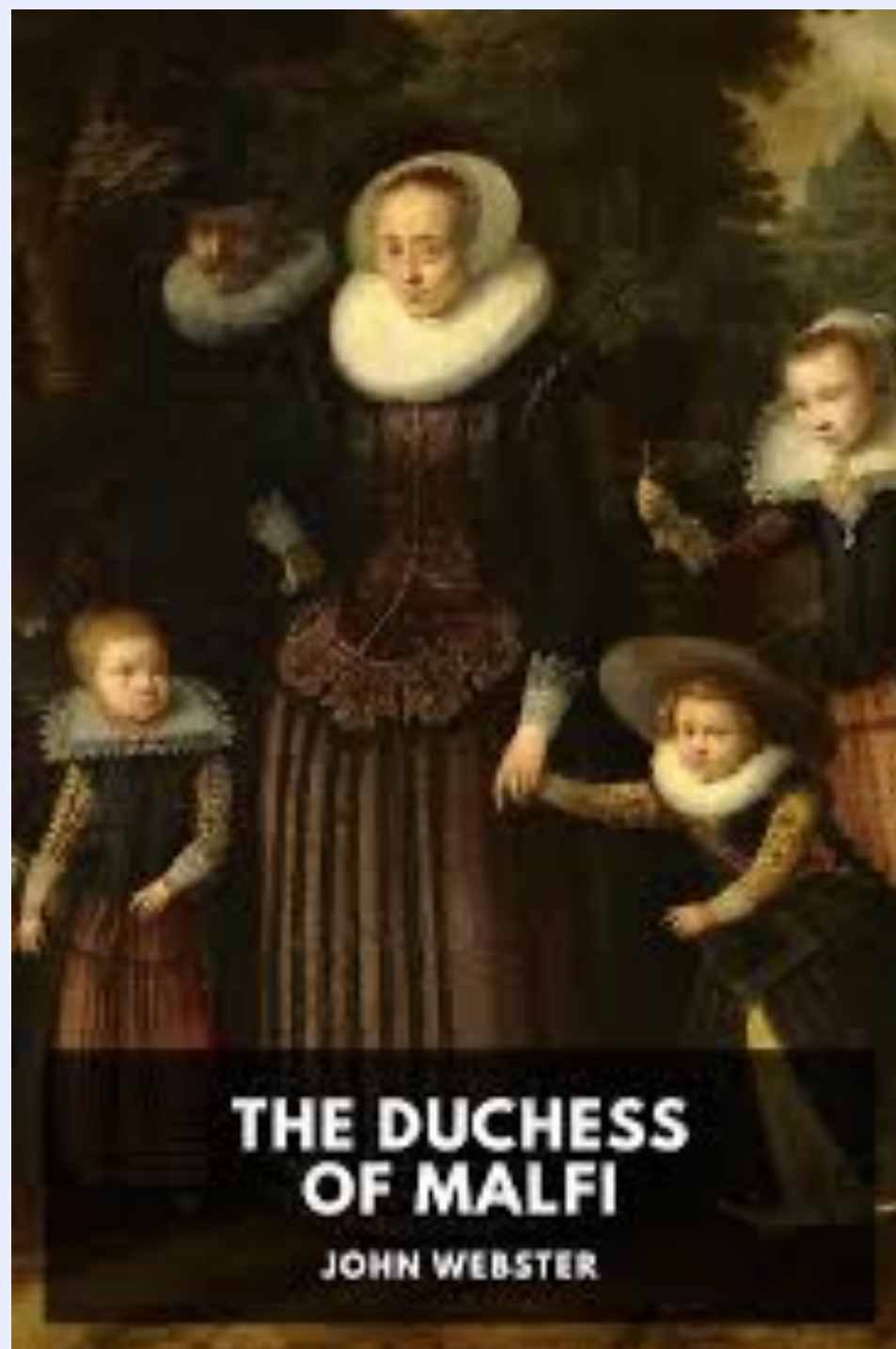


The Duchess of Malfi (pub. 1623, written c.1612)

- The Duchess, recently widowed, is in love with a lowly steward called Antonio, secretly marries him and bears his children.
- Her brothers, the incestuous Ferdinand and the corrupt Cardinal, entrust Bosola to spy on her.
- The Duchess takes Bosola into confidence and is killed with two of her youngest children, while Antonio escapes with their eldest son.
- Ferdinand looks at her body and famously says, “Cover her face; mine eyes dazzle: she died young”
- Bosola turns against Ferdinand and the Cardinal and vows revenge for the duchess.
- The play ends with the main characters killing one another.



The Duchess of Malfi as a revenge tragedy



- This is a complicated and unconventional revenge tragedy
- There is no clear avenger
- If Duchess is taken as the avenger
 - The avenger is a woman
 - The avenger dies in between the play
- The villain Bosola later turns out to be a victim

Francis Beaumont (1584-1616) and John Fletcher (1579-1625)

- Influenced by Shakespeare and Jonson
- Jointly wrote 52 plays
- John Fletcher was the cousin of
 - Giles Fletcher, the younger [poet known for long allegorical poem Christ's Victory and Triumph (1610)], and
 - Phineas Fletcher [brother of Giles Fletcher, whose important work is the poem The Purple Island or the Isle of Man (1633)]
- Francis Beaumont
 - Was a friend of Ben Jonson, to whom he wrote verse letters
 - Was also a poet

Beaumont and Fletcher: Tragicomedies

- Philaster, or Love Lies a-Bleeding (c.1610)
 - The first of the tragicomedies of Beaumont and Fletcher
 - Philaster is the heir to the Sicilian throne, whose position has been usurped
 - He is in love with the usurper's daughter Arethusa
 - Arethusa is courted by the boastful Spanish prince Pharamond, the villain
 - Reminiscent of Twelfth Night and Sidney's Arcadia
- A King and No King (1611)
 - Tragicomedy on the theme of incest, only to reveal at the end that the supposedly incestuous pair is not really brother and sister after all



Beaumont and Fletcher: Tragedies

- The Maid's Tragedy (c. 1611)
 - A sensational sex tragedy
 - A husband discovers on the wedding night that his wife Evadne is the king's mistress; their marriage is a mere cover for the affair
 - Evadne's brother awakens her conscience and she murders the king
 - Her husband does not welcome her back, and she stabs herself



Fletcher's Plays

- The Faithful Shepherdess (1608-09)
 - An adaptation of Italian writer Guarini's famous tragicomedy *Il Pastor Fido* (The Faithful Shepherd)
 - "Pastoral tragicomedy"
 - The shepherdess Clorin's lover has died, yet she remains loyal to his memory and retains her chastity.
 - Its preface contains Fletcher's famous definition of tragicomedy: "A tragicomedy is not so called in respect of mirth and killing, but in respect it wants [i.e., lacks] deaths, which is enough to make it no tragedy; yet brings some near it, which is enough to make it no comedy."
- All is True (also called *Henry VIII*, a history play, 1613)



Beaumont's Plays

- The Knight of the Burning Pestle (1608)
 - Uses the device of play-within-a-play
 - Breaks the “fourth wall” (imaginary wall between stage and audience)
 - A play called The London Merchant is about to be performed
 - A Grocer and his wife “in the audience” of the play interrupt to complain loudly that plays are always about nobility and they misrepresent common people
 - However, it is the common people, who pay for most of the tickets.
 - They suggest that their apprentice, Rafe, should have a part in the play. He gets the role of a knight (with a pestle on his shield as a heraldic device) who will “do valiant deeds.”
 - The main plot (of the play thus interrupted): Jasper Merrythought, a merchant's apprentice, is in love with his master’s daughter, Luce, and must elope with her to save her from the arranged marriage with Humphrey, a “swell” or City man of fashion
 - At the climax , the interference of the Grocer gets completely out of hand



Thomas Middleton (1580-1627)

- Worked for Philip Henslowe's Admiral's Men but remained a free agent
- Many collaborations
- T.S. Eliot, a student of Jacobean drama, admired Middleton



Comedies

- A Chaste Maid in Cheapside (c.1613; not pub. until 1630)
 - City comedy
 - Three plots centered around the marriage of Moll Yellowhammer
- A Game at Chess (perf. 1624)
 - The Prologue explains that the forthcoming stage play will be based on a game of chess, with chess pieces representing men and states
 - The Ghost of Ignatius Loyola appears in the Induction
 - The anti-Spanish tone won enormous popularity
- Michaelmas Term (perf.1604)



Tragedies

- Middleton's masterpieces are his two tragedies
 - Women Beware Women
 - The Changeling
- Various collaborations
 - The Revenger's Tragedy
 - The Second Maiden's Tragedy
 - A Yorkshire Tragedy
- Adapted Macbeth and Measure for Measure for performance
- The Witch, a revenge play
 - Charles Lamb made a famous comparative study of Middleton's witches with Macbeth's witches



The Changeling (written 1622, pub. 1653)

- Tragedy written with William Rowley
- Acquired a great deal of critical commentary
- Two plots
 - Main tragic plot involves Beatrice-Joanna, Alonzo (to whom she is betrothed), and Alsemero (whom she loves).
 - Beatrice uses De Flores (who loves her and whom she despises) to murder Alonzo.
 - Once he commits the crime, she finds that she is at his mercy and must become his mistress.
 - She dies addressing her father, and her dying words are echoed in Eliot's Gerontion



The Changeling



- The comic sub-plot involves Alibius, an old, jealous doctor (who runs a lunatic asylum), and his young wife Isabella.
- Antonio attempts to seduce Isabella disguised as an idiot.
- But Isabella resists his attempts and retains control of her life, unlike Beatrice
- The “changeling” of the title is both Beatrice (at the end, she becomes unrecognizable from what she originally been) and Antonio (changeling also means idiot)

Women Beware Women (written 1620-27, pub. 1657)

- The only tragedy that Middleton wrote by himself
- Two plots
 - Main plot loosely based on the life of the historical Bianca Cappello, who became the mistress and then the consort of Francesco de' Medici, the 2nd grand duke of Tuscany
 - Sub-plot concerns the guilty love of Hippolito for his niece Isabella
- The play ends with a bloody masque (where everyone is killed), a scene which verges on comedy
- The play famously uses the device of a game of chess to denote stages in seduction
 - Bianca's mother-in-law plays chess with Livia, a procuress, while the Duke seduces Bianca in another room
 - This is alluded to in The Waste Land



Philip Massinger (1583-1640)

- Was John Fletcher's assistant
- Many collaborations
- A New Way to Pay Old Debts (pub. 1633)
 - Sir Giles Overreach, a heartless and cunning extortioner (a man who extorts money by force), has ruined many members of the landed gentry for his own benefit
 - He is now himself caught in a trap
- The City Madam (1632)
 - Social pretensions of Lady Frugal are mocked and suitably punished

John Ford (c.1586-c.1640)

- Collaborations with Dekker, Rowley
- Interest in the psychology of frustrated and illicit love
- The Broken Heart (c.1629)
- 'Tis Pity She's a Whore (c.1631)
 - Incestuous love of Giovanni for his sister Annabella
 - Annabella's pregnancy forces her to marry Soranzo
 - Soranzo's servant searches out the truth and plans revenge for his master
 - The revenge, as was usual in Jacobean drama, takes place at a party
- Perkin Warbeck (1634, a historical tragedy)

James Shirley (c.1586-c.1640)

- Charles Lamb called him “the last of a great race”
- Has written many tragedies, tragicomedies, comedies, poems, etc
- Best tragedy: The Cardinal (1641)
- Most popular comedy: The Lady of Pleasure (pub. 1637)

Early 17th Century Poetry

Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke (1561-1621)

- One of the first English women to make a reputation for herself as a writer
- Younger sister of Sir Philip Sidney
- Was a notable literary patron
- Published Philip Sidney's works after his death
- Works: The Psalms of David, The Tragedy of Antonie (1592, closet drama)
- Aunt of the poetess Lady Mary Wroth

Samuel Daniel (1562-1619)

- Delia (1592)
 - Sonnet-cycle addressed to Delia
- The Complaint of Rosamond (1592)
 - A romance
- Cleopatra (1594)
 - A tragedy written in classical style
- The Civil Wars (8 books; 1595-1623)
 - Historical poem on the subject of the Wars of the Roses
- Musophilus (pub. 1599)
 - Long philosophical poem



Michael Drayton (1563-1631)

- Many works indebted to Holinshed's Chronicles
- Idea: The Shepherd's Garland (1593)
 - Nine eclogues
 - Influence of Spenser's The Shepheardes Calender
- Endimion and Phoebe is an epyllion
- Two historical poems based on chronicle sources
 - Piers Gaveston
 - Matilda



Other Works by Drayton

- The Barons' Wars (1603)
- Sir John Oldcastle
- The Legend of Great Cromwell (1607)
- Poems Lyric and Pastoral (1606)
- Poly-Olbion (Two parts, 1612 and 1622)
- The Battle of Agincourt
- The Miseries of Queen Margaret
- Nymphidia



Thomas Campion (1567-1619)

- Combined poetry with music
- Produced a large variety of lyrical verse
- Book of Airs (1601)
 - A songbook
- Wrote several more books of airs and masques
- Observations in the Art of English Poesie (1602)
 - A critical tract
 - Attacked rhyme
 - Campion's arguments answered by Samuel Daniel in Defence of Rhyme (1603)
 - Daniel defends rhyme on account of its universality and antiquity

Aemilia Lanier (1569-1645)

- One of the earliest women in England to be acknowledged as a professional poet
- Fourth woman in England to publish a book of original poetry
- Was the mistress of Henry Carey, the patron of Shakespeare's acting company, Lord Chamberlain's Men
- Could have been the "dark lady" of Shakespeare's sonnets
- Wrote a collection of poems *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* (1611, Hail, God, King of the Jews)

Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)

- Brother of poet Giles Fletcher
- The Purple Island (1633)
 - A poem in 12 cantos
 - Conventional pastoral opening
 - Tedious allegory of the human body, the geographical features of the island corresponding to the parts of the body, described in great anatomical detail
 - Piscatorie Eclogues included in this book
- Locusts, or Apollyonists (1627)

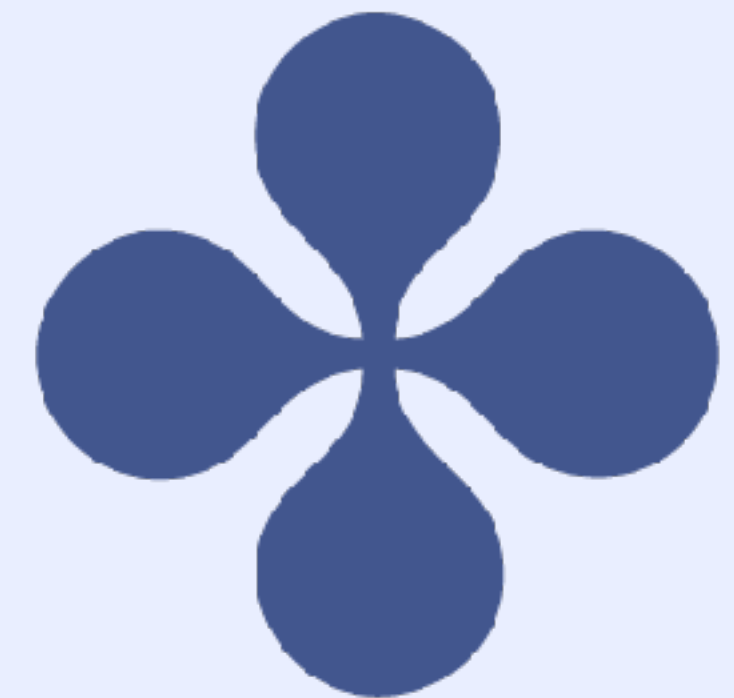
Giles Fletcher (1585-1623)

- Brother of poet Phineas Fletcher
- Cousin of playwright John Fletcher
- Best-known work: Christ's Victory and Triumph (1610)
 - Long allegorical poem
 - Four cantos
 - Spenserian
 - Inspired Milton's Paradise Regained

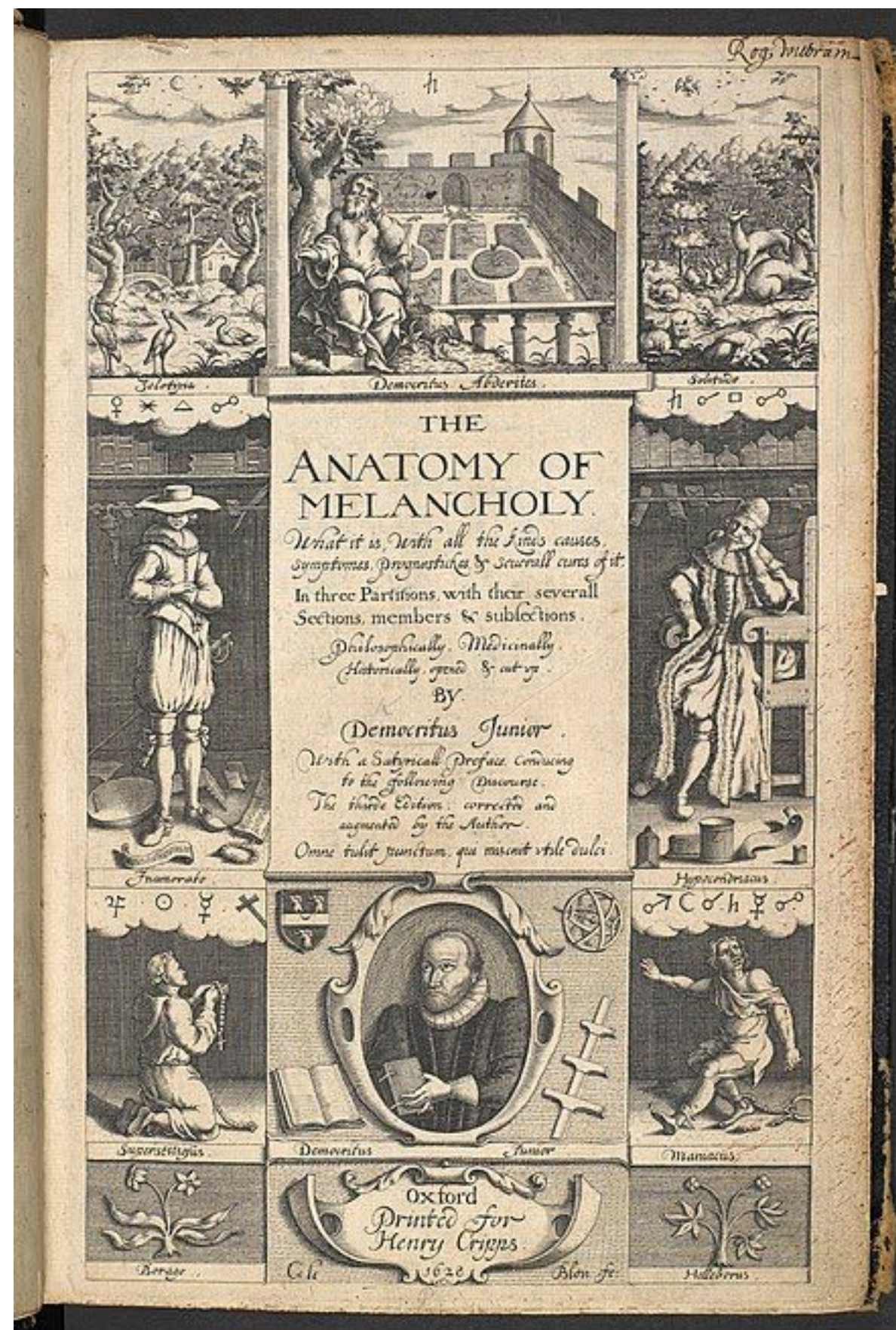
17th Century Prose

Prose: Major Figures

- The era's monumental prose achievement was the King James Version of the Bible (1611)
- Francis Bacon (scientific and philosophical, anti-humanistic prose)
- Nicholas Breton
- The "Divines"
 - Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)
 - Jeremy Taylor
 - John Donne
- Robert Burton



Cult of Melancholy



- During the early 17th century, a curious cultural and literary cult of melancholia arose in England.
- It was believed that religious uncertainties caused by the English Reformation and a greater attention being paid to issues of sin, damnation, and salvation, led to this effect.
- The melancholy man, known to contemporaries as a “malcontent,” is epitomized by Shakespeare's Prince Hamlet, the “Melancholy Dane.”

Melancholy in Literature

- Shakespeare's tragedies
- The death-obsessed later works of John Donne
- The humoural comedies of Ben Jonson
- Robert Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*
- Sir Thomas Browne's *Hydriotaphia, or Urn Burial*
- Jeremy Taylor's *Holy Living and Holy Dying*
- For a discussion of Browne and Taylor, see the chapter "The Period of the Civil War"

Robert Burton (1577-1640)

- Scholar at Oxford
- Had knowledge of diverse subjects including mathematics, astrology and humoral physiology
- His only book: *The Anatomy of Melancholy*
 - A brilliant mix of psychological speculation and allusive learning

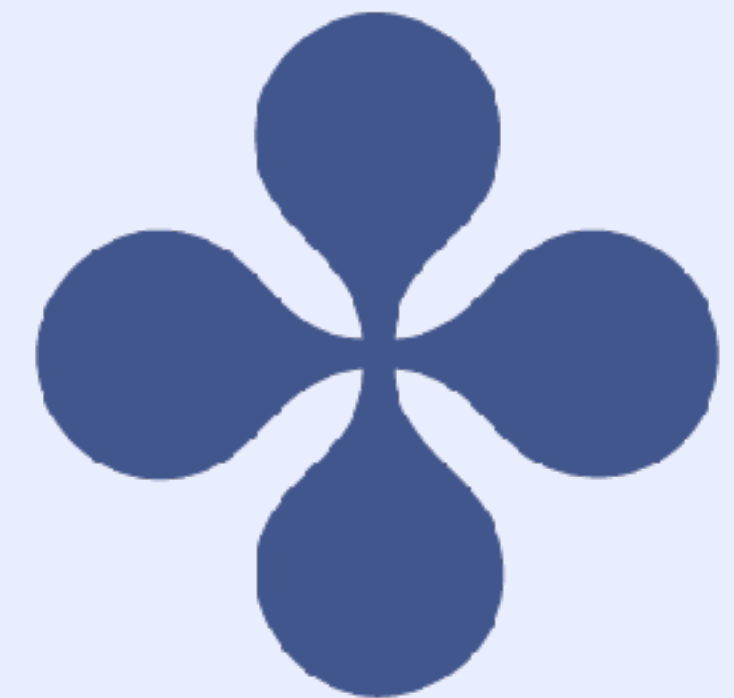


The Anatomy of Melancholy (1621, enlarged in 1651)

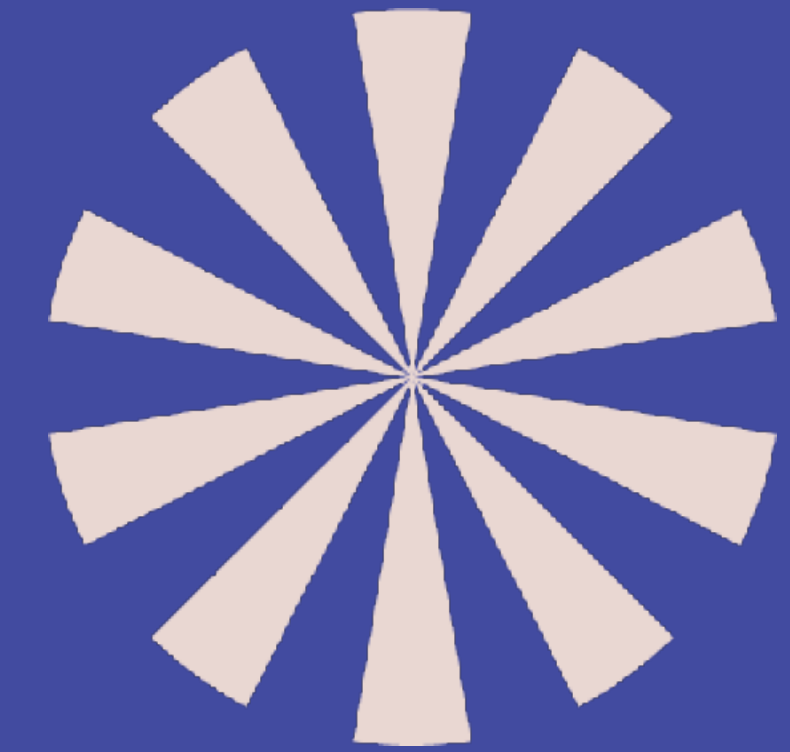
- Written under the pseudonym “Democritus Junior” (Democritus is called the “laughing philosopher” and his writing about “melancholy” is ironic)
- Satirical, pessimistic, misanthropic tone
- Two kinds of melancholy: love melancholy & religious melancholy
- Concludes that the whole world, including himself, is mad
- Technique of self-contradiction

Character Writing

- Brief prose description of a person / type
- Greek origins, in the 3rd century BC writer Theophrastus
- Two types: Type character (Theophrastan), Historical character
- Brevity, wit, irony, abstraction & reductiveness
- Popular during Restoration
- Joseph Hall (1574-1656), author of the satire *Virgidemiarum* (1597)
- Thomas Overbury (1581-1613)
- John Earle (c.1601-55), author of *Microcosmographie*, 1628



Milton & His Contemporaries



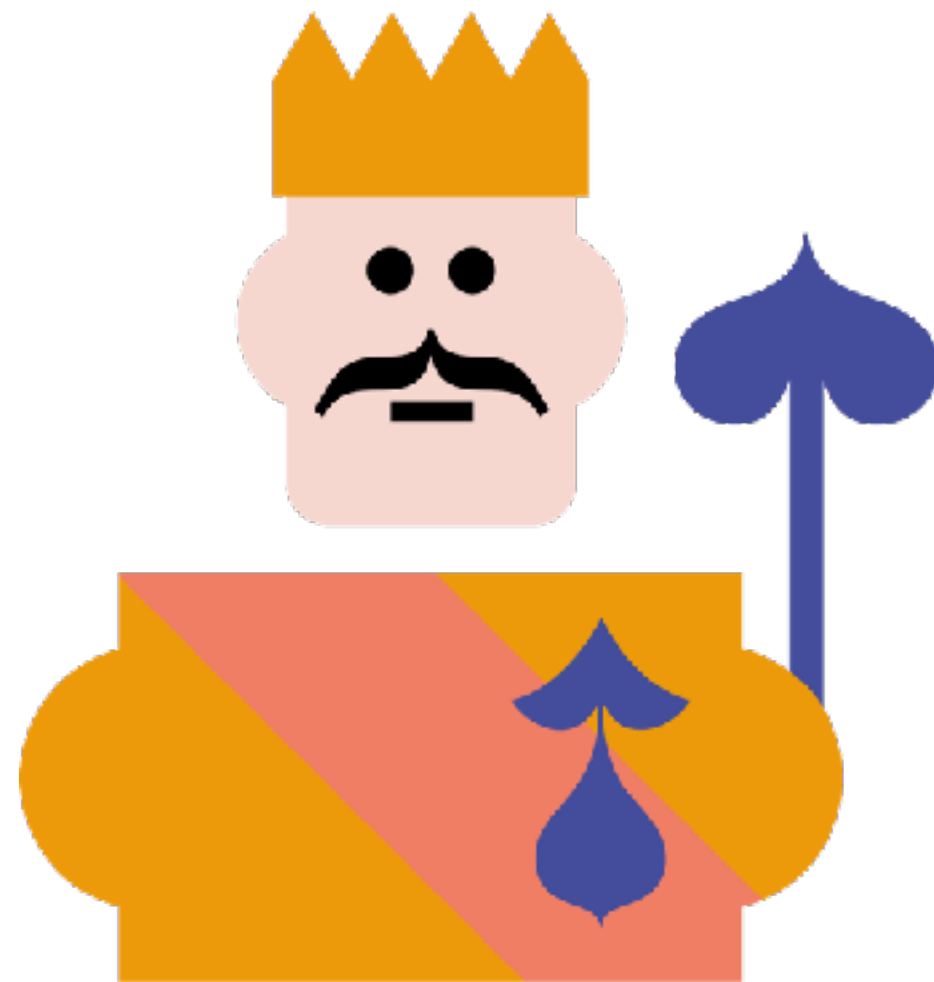
DR. KALYANI VALLATH

25 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE



VTES IS NOW
Vallath

Charles I (r. 1625-49)



- Ruled England, Scotland and Ireland
- Believed in Divine Right
- Had French Catholic queen Henrietta Maria
- Was a High Anglican, whose ideals and practices closely resembled those of the Roman Catholics
- Associated himself with controversial ecclesiasts like William Laud, whom he appointed Archbishop of Canterbury

Events Leading to the Civil War

- Introduced unpopular taxes, including the one known as ship money (1634)
- Parliament opposed Charles
- Charles refused to accept the Parliament's demands for constitutional monarchy
- Ruled without Parliament for 11 yrs (1629-40), called eleven years' tyranny
- Bishops' Wars broke out in Scotland

Bishops Wars (1639-40)

- Followed the eleven years of Charles's personal rule without the consent of the Parliament
- Prelude to the Civil War
- Result of the conflict between Charles I and the Scots
 - Charles wanted to establish an “episcopal” system of church governance in Scotland with bishops
 - The Scottish leaders wanted a “presbyterian” system of church governance without bishops
- The First Bishops' War broke out when Charles attempted to regulate liturgy in Scotland by imposing Archbishop Laud's Book of Common Prayer (1637)

The Civil War

- Civil War in two phases 1642-46, 1648-54
- Charles was held in captivity from 1647
- Put under trial from 20 January 1649
- Charles still believed in his divine authority to rule
- Over a period of a week, when Charles was asked to plead three times, he refused
- Condemned to death in his absence on 26 January
- Beheaded on 30 January 1649

Socio-Political Conditions

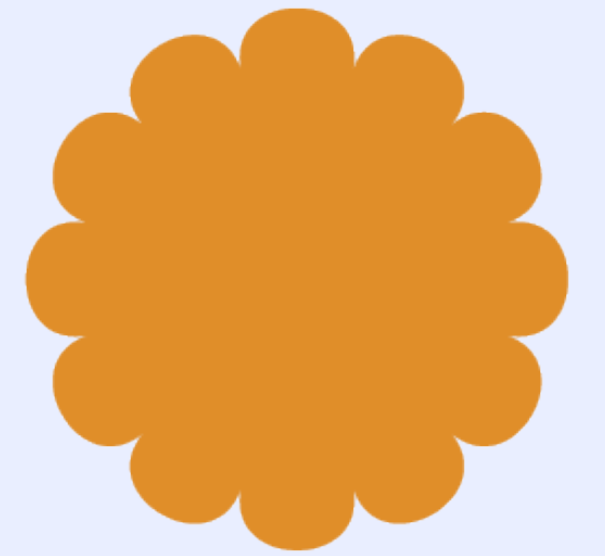
- Theatres closed 1642
 - Puritan attacks on professional theatre and female actresses— like William Prynne's *Histriomastix* 1632
 - At that time the queen Henrietta Maria herself was rehearsing a play and Prynne was sentenced to cruel punishment, which was later revoked
- King beheaded in January 1649
- 1649-1653, The first period of the Commonwealth of England
- 1653-1658, The Protectorate under Oliver Cromwell

Cavalier Poets



- Herrick, Carew, Waller, Suckling, Lovelace
- Celebrated the idealized relationship between Charles I and his queen, Henrietta Maria
- Upheld Platonism
 - In Herrick's *Hesperides* (1648) and Lovelace's *Lucasta* (1649)
- Yet, they (especially Suckling) sometimes questioned the idealized depictions of Platonic love

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)



- Friend of (and influenced by) Ben Jonson
- Took holy orders in 1623
- Wrote prolifically
- Royalist
- Died a bachelor at the age of 83
- Combined classical paganism with English folk themes
- Strove for elegance and precision of form
- Major work; *Hesperides* (1648)
- For more details, see “Robert Herrick” in the section “Metaphysical Poets”

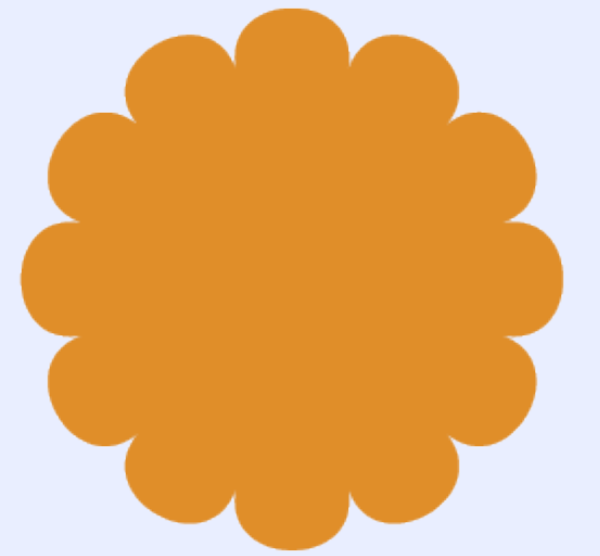
Thomas Carew (c. 1594-1640)



- Disciple of Jonson and Donne
- Accomplished poet of Charles I's court
- Wrote true Cavalier poetry – polished, gay and witty, with a tone of urbanity
- For more details, see “Thomas Carew” in the section “The Metaphysical Poets”

Edmund Waller (1606-87)

- Famous wit and poet
- Elected to Parliament when he was only 16
- Like Dryden and Pope, wrote closed couplets
- 2 well-known short poems: “On a Girdle” and “Go, Lovely Rose”
- Also wrote the topographical poem “On St James’s Park”



John Suckling (1609-41)



- Influence of Jonson and Donne
- Cavalier poet and playwright
- Worldly courtier
- The Wits, or Sessions of the Poets
- Aglaura, a tragedy
- The Goblins, a musical comedy indebted to The Tempest
- Famous poems: “Ballade, Upon a Wedding” and “Why So Pale and Wan, Fond Lover?”

Richard Lovelace (1618-58)



- Handsome son of a wealthy Kentish knight
- Gained a romantic reputation
- Petrarchan and metaphysical styles combine in
 - “To Lucasta, Going to the Wars”
 - “To Althea, From Prison”
 - The latter poem included in Thomas Percy’s Reliques of Ancient English Poetry
 - Contains the lines “Stone walls do not a prison make / Nor iron bars a cage”

English Civil War

- Effect of Reformation; against divine right theory of kings
- Response to the needs of rising middle class
- National disillusionment
- Aristocracy and its dependants were Cavaliers; commercial & trading classes (gentry) supported the Parliament

Protectorate (1649-60)

- Cromwell belonged to the gentry
- Supported authority and property and believed that class distinctions were the cornerstone of society
- Cromwell's monopoly of power was resented
- Succeeded by his son Richard, an ineffectual ruler

John Milton (1608-74)

- A lonely figure not belonging to any movement
- Polyglot, scholar
- Had broadly Protestant views (i.e., he did not fully conform to Protestant views)
- Born in Bread Street, Cheapside
- Son of a well-to-do London scrivener (copyist) and composer



St Paul's School

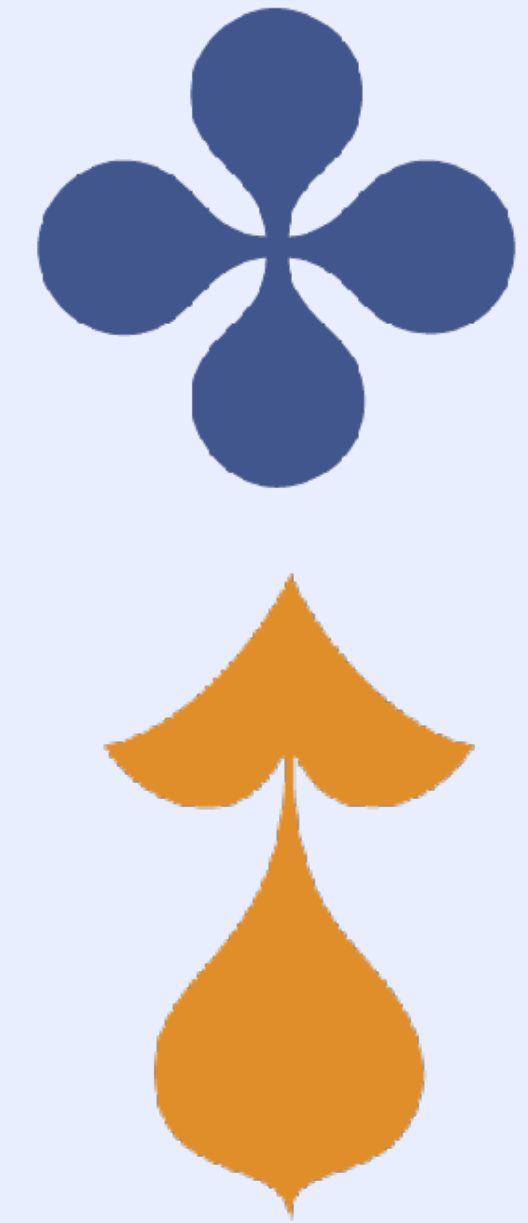
- Enrolled in St Paul's School probably in 1620
- Received a Christian Humanist education
- Had a thorough grounding in classical rhetoric

Christ's College

- Came to Christ's College, Cambridge in 1625
- Because of his hair and delicate manners he was called "Lady of Christ's"
- Already a scholar, eager to be a great poet
- Earliest formal poem is probably "Ode on the Death of a Fair Infant Dying of a Cough" written in 1628, age 20
- A disagreement with the Cambridge curriculum and his tutor William Chappell led to a brief rustication (i.e., suspension) from the university in his second year, 1627

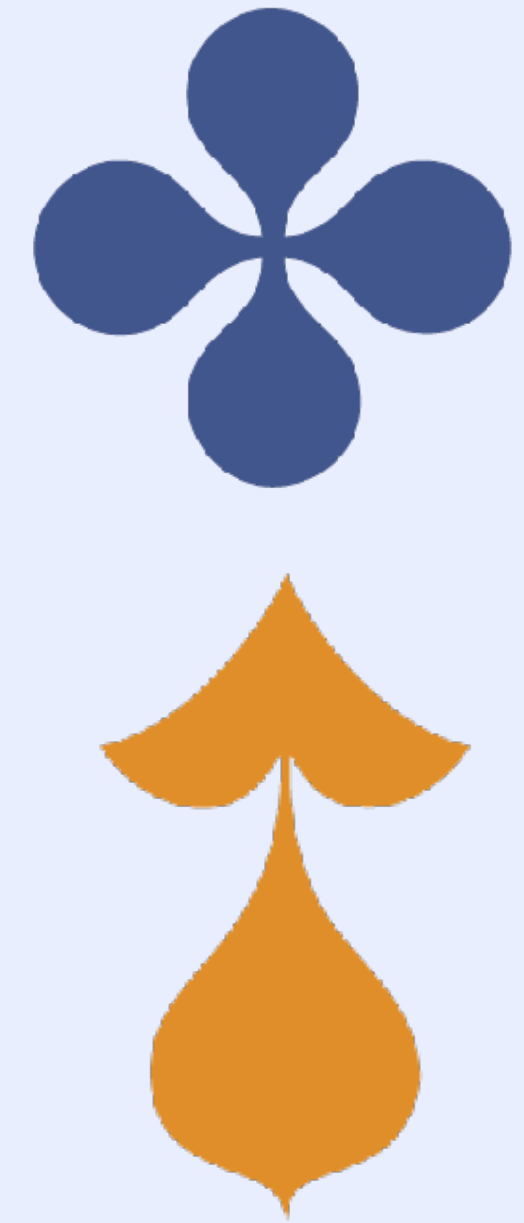
Writing at Cambridge

- At this time, he wrote the first of his Latin elegies, a verse letter to Charles Diodati, his friend from St. Paul's – *Elegia Prima*
- At Cambridge, Milton was friends with Edward King
- In 1629, he was awarded a BA degree; in 1632 an MA.
- In 1629, he wrote the nativity ode, "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity"
 - Describes Christ's birth and renunciation of worldly life, and connects it to the Crucifixion



Writing at Cambridge

- During this time, when he was 22, he wrote “The Epitaph on the Admirable Dramatic Poet, W. Shakespeare”
 - Now known as “On Shakespear”
 - This was Milton’s first published poem
 - Appeared anonymously in Shakespeare’s Second Folio (1632)
- Shortly after he left Cambridge, he must have composed the narrative poems L’Allegro and Il Penseroso and the sonnet “On His Having Arrived at the Age of 23”



L'Allegro

- Meaning “happy man”, contrasting with the companion pastoral poem, Il Penseroso, meaning “the melancholy man”
- Invokes Euphrosyne, Greek goddess of Mirth, as well as other allegorical figures of joy
- Extols the active and cheerful life in the country in a spring day
- Final lines
 - These delights, if thou canst give
 - Mirth with thee, I mean to live



II Pensive

- Depicts a similar day spent in contemplation and thought
- Offers a vision of poetic melancholy
- Dismisses joy from his imagination and invokes Goddess Melancholy, veiled in black
- Final lines
 - These pleasures, Melancholy give
 - And I with thee will choose to live



Horton Poems

- From 1635, Milton spent 6 years at Horton in intensive private study, which made him one of the most learned of English poets
- The poems written during this period are called “Horton poems”
 - “Upon the Circumcision”
 - “At a Solemn Music”
 - “On Time”
 - Arcades (probably earlier) and Comus
 - “Lycidas”



Two Masques

- In 1632 and 1634 respectively, Milton wrote the masques Arcades and Comus
- Arcades (1632)
 - Written in praise of Alice Spencer, Countess Dowager of Darby
 - Music written by Henry Lawes
- Jonson's masques served as a basis for Comus



Comus (1634)

- Published anonymously in 1637
- Upholds the virtues of temperance and chastity
- First presented on Michaelmas at Ludlow Castle
- Original music composed by Henry Lawes



The Plot

- Two brothers and their sister (“Lady”) journey through the woods
- When the brothers go off in search of food and water, the debauched god Comus (son of Bacchus) approaches her disguised as a villager and attempts to seduce her using necromancy, and binds her to a chair
- But the Lady exercises right reason (recta ratio or freedom of mind)
- The brothers, aided by the Attendant Spirit, chase off Comus, and the water nymph Sabrina releases the Lady on account of her steadfast virtue



Comus: Theme

- Shows life as a Puritan struggle for the triumph of the virtuous
 - This theme recurs in later poems
 - Adam and Eve in Paradise Lost (1667)
 - Christ in Paradise Regained (1671)
 - Samson in Samson Agonistes (1671)



Lycidas (1637)

- In 1637, he contributed the pastoral elegy “Lycidas” to a memorial collection of elegies for Edward King, Milton’s fellow student at Cambridge
- Edward King was a young man of great promise, destined for the church
- He had drowned in the Irish Sea
- Classical, Christian and personal elements fuse here
- Reflects the uncertainty and torment in Milton’s mind
- Realization that death might forestall the achievement of fame, which was his ambition
- Finally the realization that true fame is found in heaven
- Famous outburst (digression) against the Anglican clergy
- Reveals Milton’s radical Puritan politics



Foreign Tour

- In 1638, Milton left England for a tour of the continent, primarily Italy, for approximately 15 months
 - Made friends among Italian intellectuals
 - Met Galileo in house arrest (Galileo was the only contemporary mentioned by name in Paradise Lost)
 - Learned of the death of his friend Charles Diodati (1638) and of the impending Civil War

Epitaphium Damonis (1639)

- Back in England, Milton composed a Latin pastoral elegy for Diodati, Epitaphium Damonis (“Damon’s Epitaph”)
 - This was the last of Milton’s Latin pieces
 - Corresponds to the English pastoral elegy “Lycidas”
- Milton’s farewell to his friend became his farewell to Latin poetry in general



Anti-Prelatical Tracts

- Having returned from abroad, Milton turned to prose
- He began to write prose tracts against episcopacy in the Puritan and Parliamentary cause
- Wrote five anti-prelatical tracts on the reformation of church government
- Vigorously attacked the High Church Anglicans under the leadership of William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury



Of Education

- Became a private schoolmaster and wrote in 1644 a short tract Of Education
 - In the form of a letter to Samuel Hartlib, a scholar and educational reformer
 - Here he urged the reform of universities
- Christian Humanist ideal of education: “to repair the ruins of our first parents by regaining to know God aright, and out of that knowledge to love him, to imitate him, to be like him”



Turbulent Marriage

- In 1643, at the age of 35, he married 16-year-old Mary Powell
- A month later, she returned to her parents, and did not come back until 1645
- The emotional shock following her desertion provoked Milton to publish four pamphlets arguing for the legality and morality of divorce, starting with *The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce* (1643)

Concept of Women

- 16th and 17th centuries were characterized by misogyny
 - Witch hunts
 - Marriages were done solely for procreation
 - Divorces were rare and illegal, and expensive
 - There was no concept of love or sharing in marriage
 - Women were considered potential temptresses or adulteresses, and morally and intellectually inferior to men
- Milton believed that woman is certainly subordinate to man, but he was distanced from popular misogyny of the time

Divorce Tracts

Note these
points!

- Milton argued that divorce should be granted to mismatched couples
- He praised the bliss of wedded love
- He argued that the main objective of marriage is not procreation, but to bring two people together in completion
- Role of conversation, companionship in marriage
- Milton argued that the chief end God intended in marriage 'was the cheerful conversation of man with woman'
- Milton's views on marriage are relevant in the analysis of Adam and Eve

Licensing Order of 1643

- Milton's controversial views on marriage and divorce naturally provoked opposition from the authorities
- In order to silence all opposition, the Parliament passed the Licensing Order of 1643 which instituted pre-publishing censorship
- Against this, in 1644, Milton wrote *Areopagitica*, a classic defence of the freedom of the press

Areopagitica (1644)

- Titled after a speech written by the Athenian orator Isocrates in the 5th century BC.
- Areopagus is a hill in Athens, the site of real and legendary tribunals
- Areopagitica is a noble and eloquent plea, optimistic in tone
- The entire truth is inaccessible to men after the Fall
- A forceful argument against the Licensing Order of 1643
- Biblical & classical references to strengthen his argument



Poems (1645)

- A collection of Milton's poems was published in 1645
- Divided into two sections: English and Latin
- Contains all of the poems discussed so far in this chapter
- Milton identifies himself as the "future poet"
- Republished in 1673



Anti-Monarchical Pamphlets

Note these points!

- After the execution of Charles I, Milton became the official apologist for the Parliamentary regime
- At this time he wrote anti-monarchical pamphlets
 - His first pamphlet justifying the trial and execution, *The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates* (1649), was issued in a fortnight of the regicide
 - Shortly after, he was appointed Secretary of Foreign Tongues (also called Latin Secretary)

Eikonoklastes (1649)

Note these
points!

- In another anti-monarchical tract, Eikonoklastes (1649, meaning “Image Breaker”), Milton shatters the image of Charles I, as described in Eikon Basilike, as pious, contemplative and caring
- Milton accuses Charles of hypocrisy; using the example of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, in Richard III, he shows how treachery is disguised by the pretense of piety
- Led to a pamphlet war
- In this war, the anonymous Latin polemic The Cry of the King’s Blood appeared in 1654

The Cry of the King's Blood and Milton's Reply

Note these points!

- The Cry of the King's Blood asserts that Milton's blindness is God's punishment
- In Second Defence, Milton replied that his blindness is a trial he has to endure for having received special inner illumination, which distinguishes him from others. Here he also compares himself with blind heroes and sages from the past
- This dignity and fortitude with which he accepted his affliction is evident in the sonnet "On His Blindness" also
- Similarly, in Paradise Regained, Jesus meditates on his father's purpose for him, and concludes that he must trustfully await its manifestation.



Other Prose Works

- Three extraordinary prose works were written later in his career
 - History of Britain (1670)
 - Artis Logicae (1672; “Art of Logic”)
 - De Doctrina Christiana (“On Christian Doctrine”)

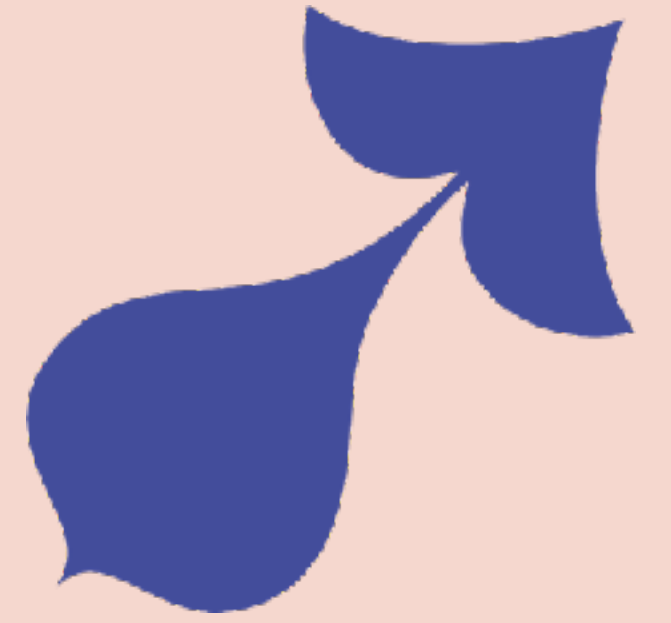
Milton's Left Hand

- Milton thought of himself primarily as a poet
- Said that his prose was written with his “left hand”
- Reserving the “right hand” for poetry
- His prose was primarily of two types: religious and political
- Milton's prose identifies him very much as a man of his time
- But Milton was ahead of his time, insisting on the separation of the church and the state

Blindness

- When he was 44, Milton's eyesight began to fail
- By 1654, Milton was totally blind, probably from glaucoma
- From then on, he dictated his verse and prose to scribes (amanuenses), who included Andrew Marvell
- During this time, he wrote the sonnet "On His Blindness"
- Milton's wife Mary Powell died in childbirth, and he married Katherine Woodcock in 1656
- This marriage was more successful than the former, but just over a year later Katherine also died in childbirth
- In his blindness, Milton raised three daughters

Major Poems



- Milton's poetry has social, philosophical, and religious purposes
- Paradise Lost
- Samson Agonistes
- Paradise Regained

Paradise Lost (1667)

“Of Man’s first disobedience, and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world, and all our woe,
With the loss of Eden, till one greater Man
Restore us, and regain the blissful seat”

“Sing Heav'nly Muse, that on the secret top
Of Oreb, or of Sinai, didst inspire
That Shepherd, who first taught the chosen Seed,
In the Beginning how the Heav'ns and Earth
Rose out of Chaos: Or if Sion Hill”

Paradise Lost (1-10)

BOOK I

- **Main Theme: Satan and his followers build their House of Parliament called “Pandemonium”**
- Satan, the most highly favored angel in heaven, rebels against God. He is helped by some angels.
- God defeats the rebels, and throws them down from heaven to the burning lake of Hell. The fallen angels lie there for nine days.
- Satan and then Beelzebub recover, and he flies away from Hell The fallen angels follow.
- They are Moloch, Chemos,, Astoreth, Thammuz, Dagon, Rimmon, Isis, Osiris, Belial and a host of other pagan deities.
- Satan directs them to build a great city of gold on the fiery land. Under the architect Mulciber, Pandemonium is built.



BOOK II

- **Main Theme: Satan opens the debate in Pandemonium**
- The city of Pandemonium is constructed
- The Fallen Angels hold a council there to plan their strategy against God.
- Satan's lieutenant Beelzebub tells them of a newly created world given to Man.
- He suggests that they should target Man to gain their revenge
 - By corrupting mankind rather than in open warfare against God, in which they have already failed.
- Satan volunteers to undertake this mission. He flies through the abyss that divides hell from the new world.



BOOK III

- **Main Theme: God foresees the imminent danger to Man by Satan and creates a remedy for Man's fall: His Son (Jesus Christ) will conquer death. Uriel directs Satan to earth.**
- God and his Son see Satan flying towards the new world.
- God knows that Satan will first succeed in his plan to corrupt mankind
 - But God intends to be merciful to humans and allow them the possibility of redemption.
- The Son volunteers to die in order to redeem mankind
 - He will not remain dead, as God has granted him eternal life.
- Meanwhile, Satan, disguised as a cherub, tricks Uriel into showing him the way to Paradise.



BOOK IV

- **Main Theme: Satan enters the Garden of Eden**
- Satan finds Adam and Eve in Paradise
 - He is surprised by their beauty and grace.
- In the guise of a cormorant, Satan hears them talk about the Forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge.
 - He decides that this is what he will use to bring about their downfall.
- Satan finds Eve sleeping.
 - In the form of a toad, he begins whispering corrupting thoughts in Eve's ear while she slept.
 - She dreams of eating the Forbidden fruit.
- Satan sees a pair of golden scales in the sky.
- Satan is discovered and expelled from the garden by the angels



BOOK V



- **Main Theme: Raphael, the guardian angel, warns Man of the danger by Satan**
- God sends the archangel Raphael to Eden to warn Adam and Eve
 - That Satan has come to earth
 - To remind them that they have free will and can resist his temptation
- Adam and Eve receive Raphael as a guest
 - They ask him many questions, and request that he tell them about Satan's rebellion.
- Raphael speaks
 - Satan first defied God when God revealed his Son to the angels
 - God announced that he and the Son would rule heaven as equals.
- Satan felt that he deserved this position
 - He ordered those angels under his command to revolt against God in open war. They were one third of the entire angel community.
 - One angel called Abdiel refused. And flew over to God's side

BOOK VI



- **Main Theme: The Fallen Angels are defeated by Son in the war in heaven**
- Abdiel flew back to the throne of God, where he found the loyal angels preparing for war.
- Under the command of the archangels Michael and Gabriel, the good angels fought against Satan's forces.
 - They were matched evenly.
 - Michael injured Satan, who experienced pain for the first time, but healed immediately.
 - Satan invented gun powder and the cannon against God.
- The Son now entered and easily defeated the rebel angels.
- The fallen angels hurled themselves into the abyss and fell for nine days until they reached the fires of hell.
- Raphael hopes that Adam appreciates the consequences of disobeying God.

BOOK VII

- **Main Theme: The creation of the New World and of Adam and Eve is described.**
- Milton invokes Urania, the Muse of Astronomy.
- Adam wants to know more. Raphael compares his appetite for knowledge with physical appetite which should be controlled.
- After the war in heaven, God decided to create a new world, populated by a new race of Man.
 - Man would live on earth until they prove themselves worthy of heaven
- It was the Son who created the new world out of Chaos
 - He created day, land, the sun, moon, stars, oceans, rivers, trees, and all creatures
 - God and the Son created Adam, the first man, to rule over the new world. All this happened in an instant (but mankind can understand it as occurring in six days)
 - The Father and the Son created Eve.



BOOK VII

- Adam and Eve
 - Were forbidden from eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge.
 - Were asked to fill the earth with their progeny.
- The Son placed the earth just below heaven so that angels could reach it easily, and then God rested on the seventh day.
- Finally, Raphael asks if Adam wants to know anything that it is permitted for mortals to know.



BOOK VIII

- **Main Theme: Adam inquires about the Heavenly bodies and Raphael answers as far as he can. Raphael warns Adam once again and leaves.**
- Eve leaves to tend to the flowers and Adam asks Raphael about the other planets and the stars.
 - Why do such gigantic planets orbit tiny earth? (Milton uses the Ptolemaic Theory, or the Geocentric Model)
 - Raphael replies that God has not revealed the answers to these questions; mortals were not meant to know everything.
- Adam then tells Raphael what he remembers of his own creation
 - Adam says he awoke suddenly, sweating, in the sunlight, looked up to heaven
 - He found that he knew the names of the plants and animals and then began to praise his creator.



BOOK VIII

- God appeared to Adam in a vision
 - God explained why he was created and put everything in Eden within his care.
 - Only the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge was forbidden to him.
- Adam is lonely and asks for a companion.
 - God tells him he himself was without equal in the universe. However, God created Eve from one of Adam's ribs.
- Adam fell in love with Eve.
 - She is beautiful, but not as wise or as virtuous as he is.
 - Adam and Raphael realise that Adam gives too much importance to Eve's beauty.
 - Adam tells Raphael that his love for Eve is more spiritual than physical.



BOOK IX

- **Main Theme: In spite of all the warning, Eve and Adam fail and so fall.**
- The next day, Adam and Eve are working separately in the garden
- Satan, in the form of a serpent, approaches Eve with praises.
 - Eve is amazed that the snake can speak like a human.
 - Satan says eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge gave him great mental power and speech.
- Satan speaks with hypocrisy, posing as a friend, but Eve is not tempted.
- Then Satan uses reason and argues that rationally it seems proper that Eve should eat the fruit.
- She eats the fruit and takes some to Adam, who is horrified by her disobedience.
 - However, he also eats the fruit, because he wishes to remain with Eve and share her fate.
- After eating the fruit, he is overcome with lust, and the two of them have sex and then fall asleep
- When they awaken, they feel ashamed, and are aware of their fallen nature. Then they begin to argue.



BOOK X

- **Main Theme: The Son of God comes down to Eden and pronounces the infliction of the punishment on Man.**
- The Son comes to Paradise to judge the sins of Adam and Eve.
 - He condemns the serpent to crawl on its belly
 - He punishes women for Eve's sin with the pains of childbirth
 - He condemns men with a lifetime of toil, followed by a return to the dust.
- Satan returns to hell
 - He gives a triumphant speech to the other fallen angels about his success in corrupting humanity,
 - But the Fallen Angels have all been turned into hissing snakes.
 - At this time, Sin and Death are ravaging the earth



BOOK X

- Adam laments the consequences of his sin
 - He does not understand why his children will be punished, since they are blameless.
 - Adam and Eve are reconciled but miserable
 - They confess their sins and implore God for forgiveness.



BOOK XI



- **Main Theme: Adam is tormented by the knowledge of the consequences of sin.**
- The Son seeks God's mercy on Man. The Son would make up for any inadequacies in Man through his own incarnation and death.
- God sends the archangel Michael down to earth
 - To lead the two sinners out of Paradise, since they can no longer live there.
- Adam is sad to leave Eden, but Michael tells him that God is everywhere
 - In describing all the regions of the earth, Michael mentions Agra and Lahore

BOOK XI

- Michael shows Adam a vision of the future
 - First he sees Cain's murder of Abel and continues with the horrible ways in which people will die.
 - Then he sees children of Cain who discovered metalwork. They live a life of pleasure and their art becomes more important to them than God.
 - Women, whom Michael calls "Atheists", lure men away from their Godly lives. The men give up their superiority to women and yield to sin.
 - Then Adam sees a scene of terrible battle. Enoch, the one man who spoke with reason, is punished by death.
 - Then Adam sees all his children except Noah killed in a flood. Noah is obedient to God and survives, which gives Adam a rainbow of hope. The rainbow that Milton describes is the only hopeful sign in the entire epic.



BOOK XII

- **Main Theme: Michael leads Adam and Eve to the gates of Eden; and they go forth sad, yet consoled with the hope of salvation at the end.**
- Adam is fatigued by the vision
- Michael tells him the rest of the story starting from Nimrod the hunter and the Tower of Babel..
- Mankind will grow more sinful and God will turn away from them, with the single exception of Abraham, whose descendants will be the Israelites.
- Among them, the Son will be born as the Messiah
 - He will die for the sins of mankind and then rise from the dead, defeating Satan, Sin, and Death.
- Adam is comforted by this, and says his mistake is fortunate.
- Michael tells him that he has attained wisdom and will carry Paradise within him.
- Then, Adam and Eve depart from Paradise and make their way out into the new world.



Paradise Lost: Structure

Note these
points!

- Literary epic poem in blank verse divided into verse paragraphs
- Originally in 10 books, later rearranged in 12 (in the manner of the strict unity of the classical epic, Aeneid)
- Printed 1667, with explanatory notes (the first poem to be published in that manner)
- Subject – Fall of Man
- Classical echoes mingle with stark English simplicities and a Christian purpose
- Shows Milton as a Christian Humanist

Paradise Lost: Themes

Note these
points!

- Professed aim is “to justify the ways of God to men”
- Reinstates the importance of Obedience to God
- Hierarchy of Universe – spatial, social (to obey God is to obey this hierarchy)
- Depicts the Fall as inevitable and partly fortunate
 - Adam, in Book XII, calls it “felix culpa” or fortunate mistake
- At the end, Adam turns to the “paradise within”
 - As Milton himself turned away from grandiose political ambitions
 - Content with the prospect of “with good / Still overcoming evil, and by small / Accomplishing great things”

Satan in Paradise Lost

Note these points!

- From the early 19th c., Satan has been regarded as the protagonist of Paradise Lost
- First major character introduced in the poem
 - At the beginning of the poem, war in heaven has been over for two weeks.
 - For nine days, Satan and those who fought God alongside him have been lying in Hell, stunned at the outcome.
 - The first character to move is Satan, who begins by speaking to Beelzebub, Satan's closest ally.
- Ambitious and proud; resents dependence on the Creator
- Powerfully persuasive rhetoric
- Precursor of the Byronic hero
- A humanistic portrayal; a classical hero at the beginning, later reduced to a base creature, the serpent

Paradise Regained (1671)

- Published together with Samson Agonistes
- Theme of temptation (as in Comus and Paradise Lost)
- Didactic and quasi-allegoric
- The Plot
 - In the wilderness, Satan tempts Jesus to the public life
 - Jesus rejects public life (associated with evil), with all its accompanying splendours
 - Jesus remains a private man (associated with virtue) and submits himself patiently and quietly to God's purpose



Paradise Regained: Features

Note these
points!

- Re-enactment of the Original Fall
- Reinstates the importance of withstanding temptation for man's restoration
- Christ (second Adam) faces temptation as a heroic man
- The heroism of Satan in Paradise Lost is absent here
- This "brief epic" is more limited than Paradise Lost in scope

Samson Agonistes (1671)

- Tragic closet drama
- Published along with Paradise Regained
- “Only successful Greek tragedy in English,” says David Daiches
 - Though the theme is purely Biblical, the structure is entirely Hellenic
 - The bare story from Judges in the Bible is dramatized in the form of a classical allegory



Plot: The Plight of Samson

- The heathen Philistines have imprisoned blind Samson in a temple
- At first he laments his present state “Eyeless in Gaza at the mill with slaves” contrasted with his former heroic exploits and life in dedicated service of God
- As Samson verges on despair, Dalila, decked in all finery, enters and explains that she betrayed Samson for love of him, hoping that the Philistines would simply cut his hair to remove his great strength and leave him to her care; but now they have blinded and imprisoned him.



Plot: Samson Discovers His Strength

- Samson now savagely forbids Dalila from approaching him, and as his hair grows, his strength returns
- Samson now makes it clear to the Philistines that they can no longer subjugate him.
- A messenger reports at the end of the play that Samson has torn down the heathen temple upon the Philistines, killing all, including himself.



Samson Agonistes: Features

Note these
points!

- “Agonistes” means wrestler or champion
- Unity of Time is maintained
- In the form of a series of dialogues between Samson and the various people who visit him, one at a time, with intervening monologues by Samson, comments by the Chorus, and the final reported account of Samson’s death in pulling down the heathen temple of the Philistines
- Aeschylus’ Prometheus Bound and Sophocles’ Oedipus at Colonus are models
- Allegorical of Milton’s own life

Milton's Sonnets

Note these points!

- 23 sonnets written intermittently throughout his career
- Adopted the Petrarchan style (not Shakespearean), and in doing so gave new vitality to the English sonnet
- Hazlitt said in the essay, "On Milton's Sonnets": "Compared with Paradise Lost, they are like tender flowers that adorn the base of some proud column or stately temple."
- Best: "When the assault was intended to the city," "On the Late Massacre in Piedmont," "On His Blindness"

On His Blindness (Sonnet 19)

- Opens “When I consider how my light is spent”
- Ends “They also serve who only stand and wait.”
- Shows Milton’s jealous watchfulness over the use of his high gifts
- Satisfies himself with the idea that virtuous thoughts and patient intentions are more important than action



After Cromwell

- Oliver Cromwell's death created havoc in Milton's personal and political life
- Milton rebelliously held on to his ideals which antagonized the Parliament, soldiers and the people
 - Advocated freedom of worship
 - Upheld republicanism
 - Attacked the concept of the state-dominated church
 - Denounced corruption in church governance

Restoration and Death

- In the wake of the Restoration, Milton wrote several proposals to retain a non-monarchical government
 - On the eve of Restoration, *The Ready and Easy Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth* defended republicanism against the growing tide of royalism
- The restoration brought all of Milton's political hopes to an end.
- In 1660, Milton went into hiding, was briefly arrested and threatened with possible execution
- In 1663, Milton remarried a third time 24-year-old Elizabeth Minshull
- He retired to a cottage in Buckinghamshire and spent the last years of his life quietly
- He is believed to have died of gout on 8 November 1674

Unconventional Views

- Many scholars believe that Milton had been unpopular in his lifetime due to his unconventional beliefs:
 - Absolute freedom of individual
 - In theory, believed in strict hierarchy (where people obeyed their leaders)
 - Republicanism: nation should be governed by a leader whose legitimacy is based not on heredity.
 - Superior virtues of a leader
 - Despised corruption in Church
 - Each individual is his own church
 - Organized church is an obstacle to faith

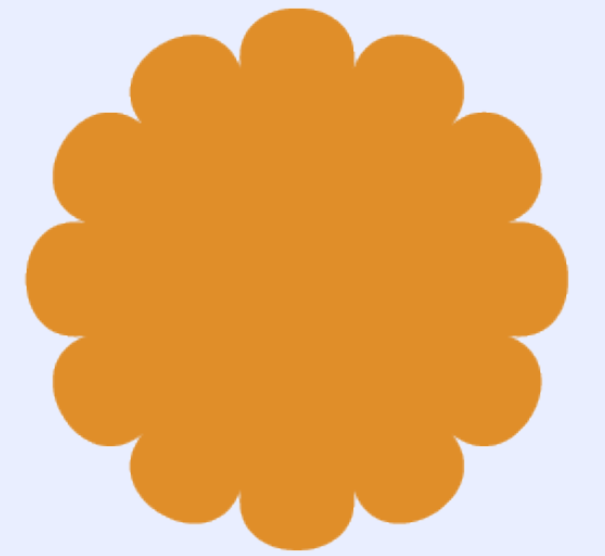
Milton's Grand Style

- Poet of the sublime
 - Dryden was the first to describe him as a poet of the sublime
- Numerous allusions and references, leading to comparisons; many of them obscure
- Archaic and Latinized vocabulary, esoteric expressions
- Use of Latinate syntactical structures that are atypical in English. Such inverted, convoluted syntax denies easy comprehension but creates a sonorous effect.
- Extended similes (epic similes or Homeric similes)
- Recurring images or motifs such as the maze or labyrinth, which convey layers of meaning
- Milton's Grand Style is the title of a famous book by Christopher Ricks (1967)

Prose Writers

- During the period of the Civil War, prose was mainly of the following types:
 - Philosophical
 - Religious and Political
 - Pamphlet Wars
 - Revolutionary and controversial
 - Literary

Thomas Browne (1605-82)

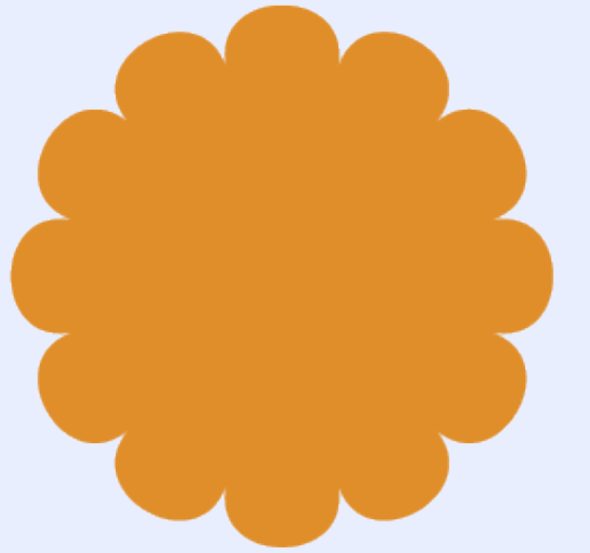


- Scientific and religious writer
- A fervent royalist and anti-Puritan
- Knighted by Charles II
- Religio Medici (“The Religion of a Doctor”, pub. 1642)
 - An examination of his religious views
 - Reflections on the mysteries of God, nature, and man
 - Magnificently sonorous yet intimate prose
 - Lack of prejudice, tolerance for other religions, self-doubt
- Pseudodoxia Epidemica, Or Vulgar Errors (1646)
 - A criticism of the errors and superstitions of his age
 - One of the pioneering works of scientific thought in the 17th century
 - Shows his admiration for Francis Bacon



Other Works

- The Garden of Cyrus (pub. 1658 along with Hydriotaphia)
 - A philosophical discourse on the interconnection of art, nature and the Universe
 - Explained through numerous symbols
- Hydriotaphia, or Urn Burial (1658)
 - A response to the discovery of Roman burial urns in Norfolk
 - Survey of ancient and current burial customs
 - In chapter five, famously discusses man's struggles with mortality and melancholy
 - Sceptical meditation on human vanity
- Baroque prose



Thomas Fuller (1608-81)

- Antiquarian, theologian and prolific writer
- Royalist who fought in the Civil War against the Puritans
- *Andronicus, or the Unfortunate Politician* (1646) is a satire against Oliver Cromwell
- *History of the Worthies of England*
 - Unfinished collection of biographies (dictionary of national biography)
 - Published posthumously in 1662
- Fuller was the friend of the other great biographer of the age, Izaak Walton
- Other works: *The Church-History of Britain* (also a collection of excellent biographies), *The History of the University of Cambridge*, *The History of the Holy War* (about the Crusades)

Jeremy Taylor (1613-67)



- Clergyman and devotional writer
- Fought for Charles in the Civil War; imprisoned several times during Puritan rule
- Spiritual counsellor to the diarist John Evelyn, in whose Diary, Taylor is repeatedly mentioned
- His excellent style earned him the title “Shakespeare of Divines”
- Chief adversary of Milton
- Style combined simplicity and grandeur



Works by Taylor

- Most important works: The Rule and Exercises of Holy Living (1650) and The Rule and Exercises of Holy Dying (1651)
 - These are devotional handbooks of Christian practice meant to help Anglicans who were deprived of a regular ministry during the disturbances of the Commonwealth
- A Discourse of the Liberty of Prophesying (1646)
- Discourse of the Nature, Offices and Measures of Friendship (1657, dedicated to Mrs Katherine Phillips)
- Ductor Dubitantium, or the Rule of Conscience . . . (1660)
- Several Sermons

Izaak Walton (1593-1683)



- Biographical and piscatorial (concerning fishing) writer
- Royalist
- The Compleat Angler (pub. 1653)
 - Sub-titled “the Contemplative Man’s Recreation”
 - Walton continued to add more chapters to it at least for another 25 years
 - A celebration of the art and spirit of fishing in prose and verse
 - Discusses techniques of fishing
 - Describes a life that values serenity and appreciation for creation
 - A second part added by his friend Charles Cotton

Walton's Lives

Note these
points!

- Full title: Lives of John Donne, Henry Wotton, Rich'd Hooker, George Herbert, &c
- Walton seems to have chosen these subjects because of
 - Their gentleness of disposition and cheerful piety
 - Their love of angling, especially in the case of Donne, Wotton and Herbert
- These biographies were written with great love, in the same leisurely style as *The Compleat Angler*

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)

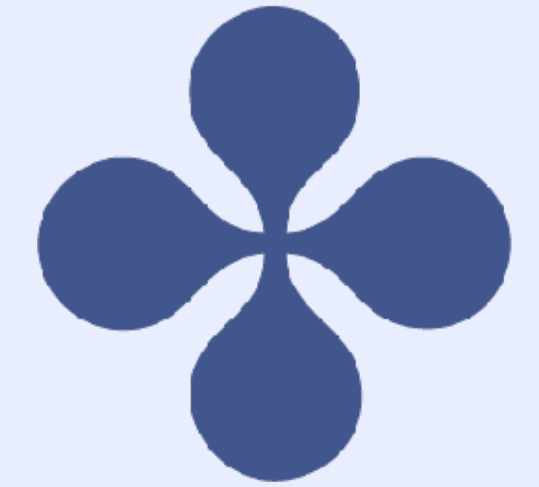


- Political philosopher
- Leviathan was to 17th century prose what Paradise Lost was to its poetry
- Man is in a “state of nature” in which he is drawn towards fulfilling his natural desires, leading to conflict and war
- The only solution is an absolute sovereign who comes to power by social contract
- Without a binding social contract between man and the state, human life would be in disorder – “solitary poor, nasty, brutish and short”
- The absolute monarch’s body, symbolizing the state or commonwealth, is depicted as consisting of many human bodies bound within the king’s body to constitute this body
- This is related to the theory of the king’s “two bodies” – a body natural and a body politic, the latter being mystical and immutable

The Term Metaphysical Poets

- The term refers to loose group of 17th century poets who were influenced by Donne
 - “Loose group” because there were similarities, but also many differences
- The term had derogatory use in the neoclassical period
- Dryden was the first to use the term “metaphysics” in the context of Donne’s poetry: Donne’s poetry “affects the metaphysics” (Donne pretends to write in the style of medieval scholastic philosophers)
- Before Dryden, in Donne’s own lifetime William Drummond of Hawthornden had referred scornfully to poems in which “metaphysical” diction is employed.
- Johnson applied the term “metaphysical” to the group of poets including Cowley, and analyzed metaphysical imagery in his Life of Cowley

Metaphysical Poetry: Features

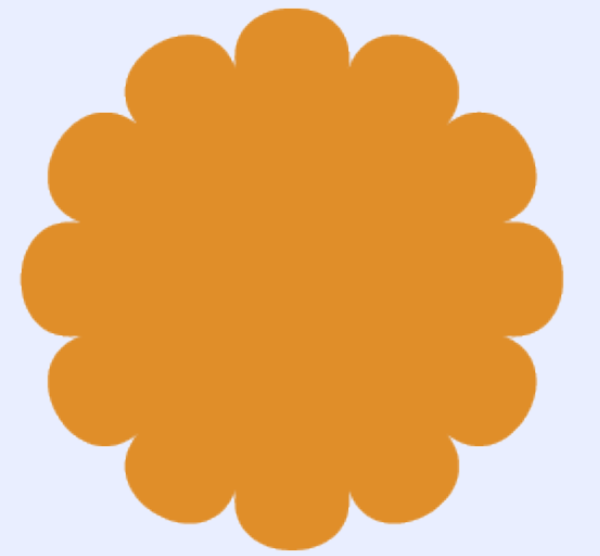


- Rough rhythms of speech
- Heated arguments (syllogism)
- Witty, cynical, metaphysical conceit as opposed to the romantic, idealized Petrarchan conceit
 - Both types of conceits are far-fetched comparisons
- Shocking, dramatic style
- Carpe diem philosophy
- Critiqued in 18th century for false wit
- Praised in the 20th century, following Herbert Grierson's edition of *Metaphysical Lyrics and Poems of the Seventeenth Century* (1912), which Eliot reviewed in 1921.
- Eliot's term "Unified sensibility" refers to their ability to "feel their thoughts and think their feelings"

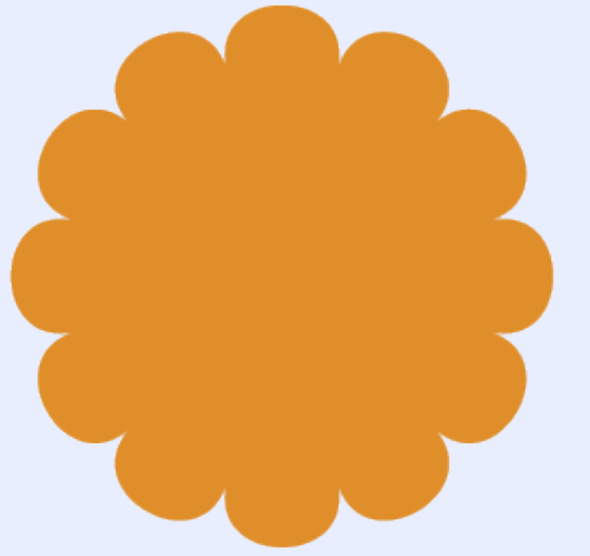
Metaphysical Poets

- John Donne (an Elizabethan / Jacobean poet) influenced the group
- Abraham Cowley
- Andrew Marvell
- The Metaphysical Cavaliers
 - Robert Herrick
 - Thomas Carew
- The Religious Metaphysicals
 - George Herbert
 - Richard Crashaw
 - Henry Vaughan
 - Thomas Traherne
- The last of the Metaphysicals
 - John Cleveland

John Donne (c.1572-1631)



- Donne made strikingly original departures from conventions of 16th century verse
 - No images of nature
 - No allusions to classical mythology
 - Mellifluousness replaced with a speaking voice reflecting the emotional intensity of a confrontation
 - No idealized view of human nature as in Elizabethan literature
 - Classical Latin models combined with daring experiments in genre, form and imagery
 - Transformed the conceit into a vehicle for multiple, even contradictory, feelings and ideas
 - Introduced the presence of a listener (The speaker directly addresses the lady / listener)
 - In the Elizabethan love lyric, the listener / lady is absent
 - Opposed to the fluid, regular verse of Cavaliers



Abraham Cowley (1618-67)

- Child prodigy of calm spirit who read *The Faerie Queene* twice before he was sent to school, and composed 2 epic romances before his 15th year
- Royalist and secretary to Queen Henrietta Maria in France during the Civil War
- Imprisoned and released upon his return
- Studied medicine
- The poet's reputation earned him a splendid funeral and burial beside Chaucer and Spenser, but later his fame quickly dwindled
- "Life of Cowley" is the first in Dr Johnson's Lives



Major Works by Cowley

- The Mistress (1647) collection of poems; violent expression of love-affectation
 - Subtitled “Several Copies of Love Verses”
 - Dr Johnson criticized The Mistress as having “no power of seduction”
- The Davideis (pub. 1656)
 - A dreary unfinished religious epic on King David
 - Originally Latin, later translated into English



Other Works by Cowley

- Classicist who imitated Pindar
- Set the style for 18th century Pindaric ode in his collection, Pindarique Odes
- Modified the Pindaric ode to form the irregular ode
- Wrote verse essays including “Of Myself” and some plays
- In 1660, he wrote “Ode Upon the Blessed Restoration”
- The Civil War
 - Unfinished royalist epic
 - Fully published only in 1973, because in the preface to his 1656 Poems, Cowley had wrongly indicated that he had destroyed all manuscripts of the epic

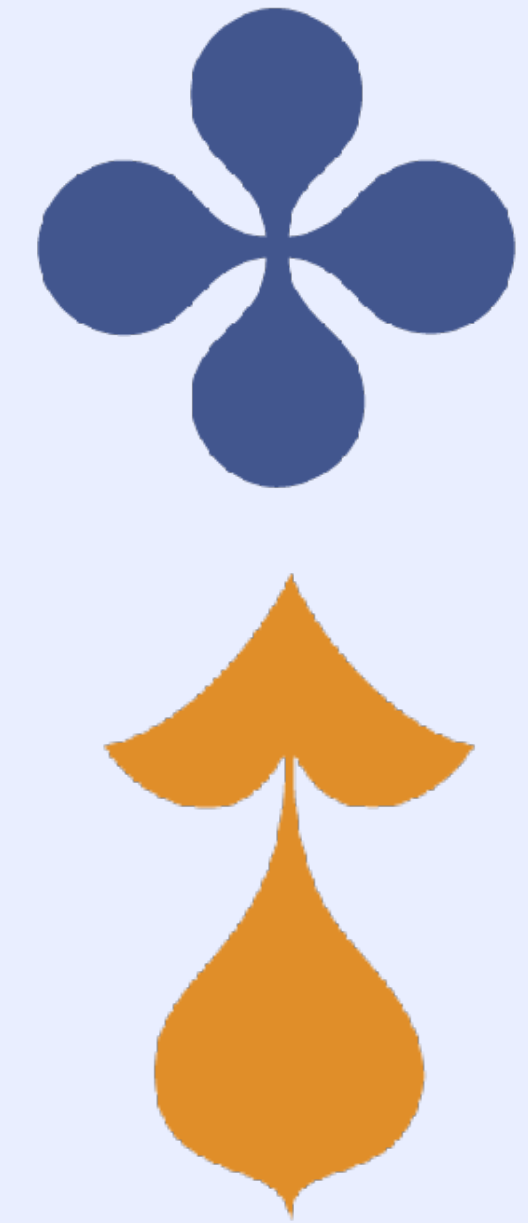
Andrew Marvell (1621-78)



- Moderate republican and liberal Puritan
- Poet and satirist
- Classical reading
- Travelled in the continent in the early years of the Civil War
- In Rome he met Richard Flecknoe, immortalized as Shadwell's predecessor in "Mac Flecknoe", whom he lampooned in a poem
- His travels and broad cultural interests contributed much to the civilized and urbane tone of his works

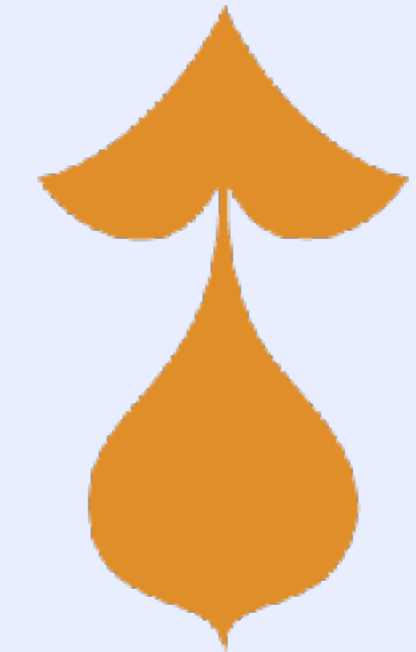
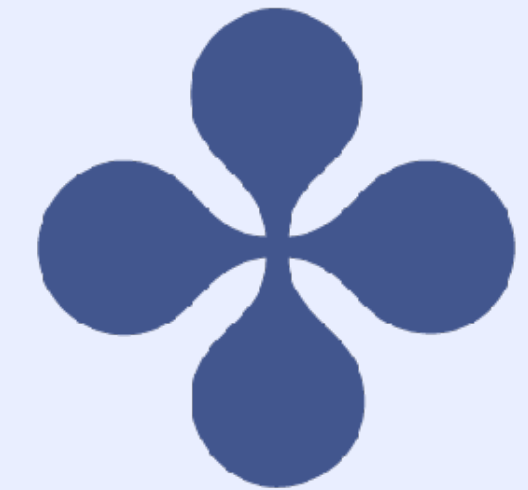
Marvell's Life

- In 1648, contributed commendatory verses for Lovelace's Lucasta
- Entered politics, praised Lord Protector in "An Horatian Ode Upon Cromwell's Return from Ireland" (1650)
 - Both straightforward praise of Cromwell and ironic deprecation
 - Stresses the condition upon which such a leadership must be maintained
- His finest poetry composed during the two years (1651-52)
Marvell resided at Appleton house as tutor to the daughter of Lord Fairfax.



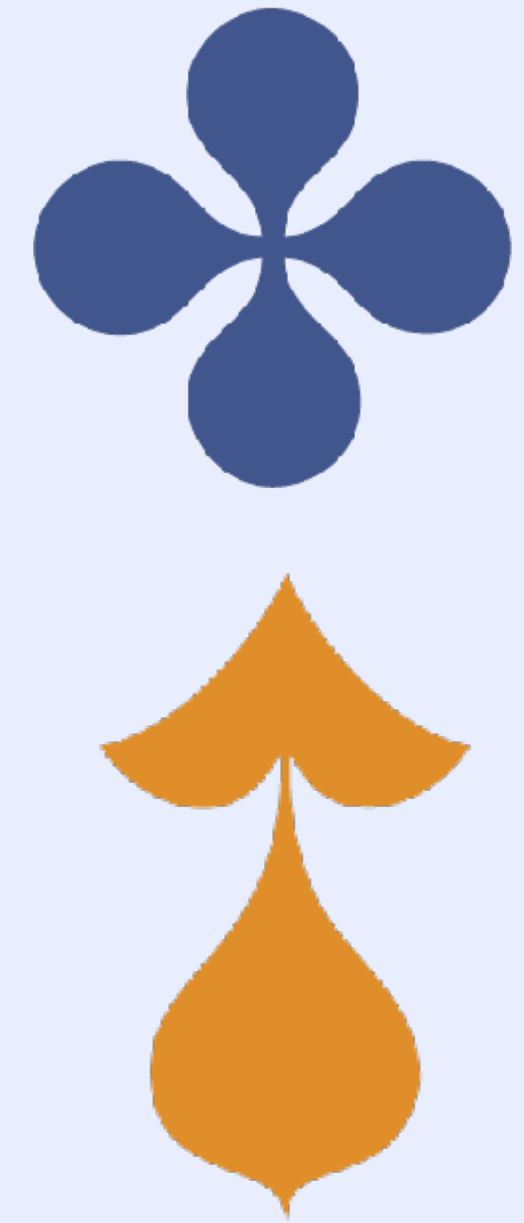
Political Involvement

- Became a friend of Milton and in 1657 was appointed as Latin Secretary to the Council of State
- Became a Member of Parliament (1659), a post he held rest of his life
- At the Restoration he accepted monarchical stability but rapidly became an outspoken opponent of Charles II's government
- Travelled in Holland for two months and criticized England's mismanagement of the naval war with the Dutch



Post-1660 Writing

- After Restoration, wrote satirical poems such as “The Last Instructions to a Painter,” (written in 1667, but not published until 1689), a catalogue of verse portraits of politicians
- Became increasingly satiric and bitter
- In this last period, wrote The Rehearsal Transpros'd (published in two parts, 1672-3), against Reverend Samuel Parker and censorship, defending Milton
- At the time of his death he was well-known for other political and religious satires as well as The Rehearsal Transpros'd



To His Coy Mistress

- Perhaps his most famous poem
- “To His Coy Mistress” illustrates the metaphysical blend of passion and conceits
- Expression of carpe diem philosophy, or “seize the day”
 - This clashes with other 17th century ideologies (especially religious) like Puritanism, which emphasized the importance of denying personal pleasures
- Use of humorously exaggerated fantasies in opposition to traditional conventions of love poetry
 - An hundred years to praise thine eyes
- Images of death and decay are used
 - To convey an appetite for life and love
- Makes references to speed, urgency and passion
 - To convey the speaker’s impatient desire



Upon Appleton House

- Addressed to Lord Fairfax
- A country-house poem.
- A reply to the royalist epic poem Gondibert by D'Avenant



The Garden

- One of the early quiet and reflective poems
- Romantic subject matter; metaphysical techniques
- Themes
 - Poet's emotional feelings about life and nature
 - Nature is the appropriate place for true luxury
 - Criticism of the busy worldly life
- Use of conceit; forceful argument; Biblical and classical allusions and dramatic situations



Bermudas

- Begins with an introduction
- Followed by a song of thanksgiving sung by the rowers of a boat
- Concludes with the identification of these rowers with the English
- Brilliantly rhythmic
- Indebted to Edmund Waller's "The Battle of the Summer Island" set in the Bermudas



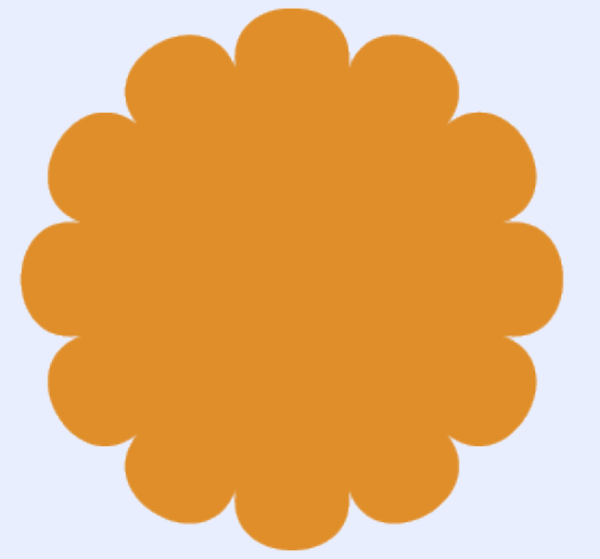
Mower Poems

Note these
points!

- A series of four pastoral poems
- Written in the voice of Damon, the mower
- Discusses his relationship with both humanity and nature
- Themes
 - Theme of rejection (by his sweetheart Juliana)
 - Atypical love towards nature (the mower lays his life in the hands of his beloved nature)
 - Inability to care about ultimate renunciation of life

John Cleveland (1613-58)

- Mixture of metaphysical ingenuity and lusty vulgarity
- Political satirist, royalist viewpoint, lively verbal tricks
- Sometimes called the last metaphysical poet.
- His verse has been called “strong lines”



Metaphysicals and Cavaliers

- Many of the Metaphysical poets wrote during the Caroline age (reign of Charles I) and were contemporaries of the Cavaliers
- Both Metaphysicals and Cavaliers wrote about love, but the Metaphysicals often gave it an intellectual treatment and wrote religious verse as well
- Some Cavaliers like Lovelace and Carew were influenced by Petrarch, but all the Metaphysical poets wrote in an anti-Petrarchan style
- Metaphysical Cavaliers like Herrick wrote about nature, but Donne and other Metaphysicals drew their metaphors from philosophy, theology and science rather than nature

Metaphysicals and Cavaliers

- The Cavaliers wrote smooth, conventional, rhythmic verse with stock phrases, but the Metaphysical poets wrote rugged and difficult verse with conversational, even shocking, rhythms (they avoided regular metres and rhyme schemes) and unconventional turns of phrases
- The Cavalier poets sometimes imitated the highly intellectual metaphysical conceits
- The Metaphysical poets were all influenced by John Donne, and the Cavalier poets by Ben Jonson
- The Metaphysical Cavaliers are Robert Herrick and Thomas Carew

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)



- A Cavalier poet as well as Metaphysical poet
- 83 years of his life spans from Shakespeare to Dryden
- A country parson by profession
- Never married
- None of his love poems is addressed to a specific woman
- Cavalier poet inspired by Ben Jonson
- Wrote over 2,500 poems, half of which appears in *Hesperides*
- Earlier works erotic, with frequent references to lovemaking and the female body
- Later works are spiritual and philosophical in nature

Hesperides (1648)

- Consists of 1,200 poems including elegies, epitaphs, epigrams, hymns, songs, etc
- Employs Carpe Diem theme of Horace, Catullus
- Poems celebrating seasons and nature
- Subtitle “The Works Both Humane and Divine of Robert Herrick”
- Dedicated to the Prince of Wales
- Opens with “The Argument of His Book”
- Contains his spiritual pieces, called Noble Numbers

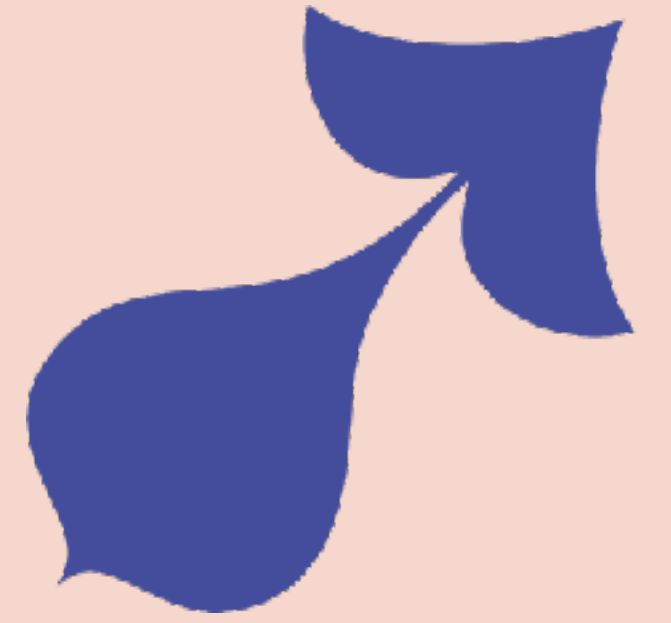


Noble Numbers

- Collection of devotional poems
- Unlike his secular verses, not visually brilliant or rich in conceits
- Show none of the conflicts or deeper perception of the “religious metaphysicals”

Note these points!

Major Poems



- “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time” (Gather ye rose buds while ye may”)
- “Oberon’s Feast”
- “To Daffodils”
- “To Violets”
- “To Electra”
- “To the Western Wind”
- “Corinna’s Going a-Maying”
- “The Funeral Rites of the Rose”
- “Upon Julia’s Clothes”

Thomas Carew (c.1594-1640)



- A Metaphysical Cavalier
- Wrote sensuous lyrics
- Admired Jonson and Donne
- Polished and modified the traditional Petrarchan conceit with vivid diction, elegant variation and surprising turns of phrases
- A master of the game of love
- Many of his poems addressed to his mistress Celia



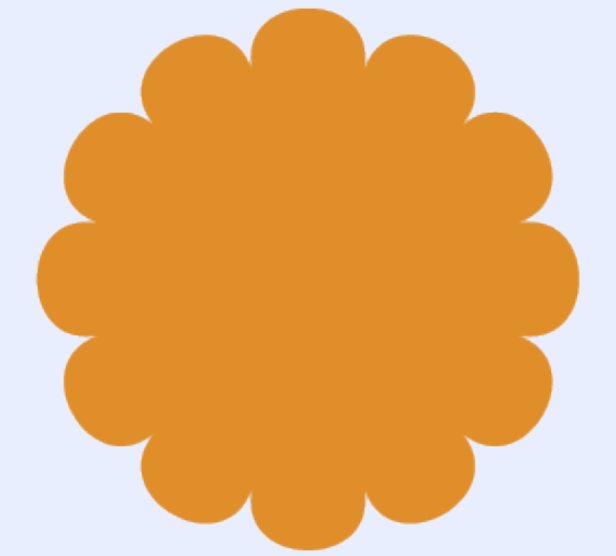
Carew's Major Works

- Notorious erotic poem “A Rapture” where he depicts Celia as a landscape
 - “A Rapture” attracted a lot of censure and was denounced by name in the Parliament
- Accomplished Caroline masque: Coelum Britannicum (“The British Heavens”, 1634)
- Wrote “To Ben Jonson” consoling the aging poet over the failure of his play The New Inn
- Elegy for John Donne
 - In the form of a series of questions and answers
 - Towards the end are the famous lines: “Here lies a King, that ruled as he thought fit / The universal monarchy of wit”
- “To Saxham” is a country-house poem

Religious Metaphysicals

- John Donne
 - Established what has come to be known as the Metaphysical style of poetry
 - Wrote both love poetry and religious poetry
 - The two were not mutually exclusive in Donne
- The “religious Metaphysicals”, like Donne, applied the techniques of love poetry to religious themes

George Herbert (1593-1633)



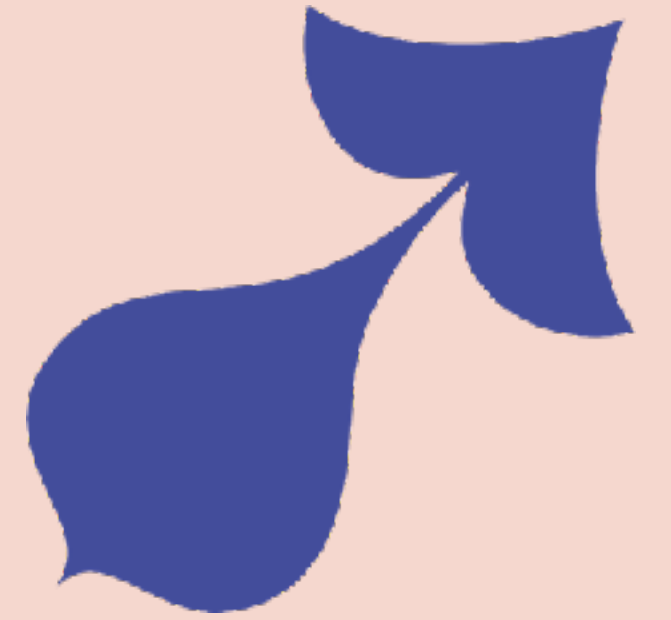
- Contemporary of John Donne
- The finest of the religious metaphysicals
- Born into an aristocratic family
- Initially led a worldly, academic and public life
- In the last three years of his short life, turned to the religious vocation
- Became a priest in 1630
- Considered a saint by his contemporaries
- No poetry published in his lifetime
- Poems are simple, quiet, modest (all unlike Donne) and honest
- Wrote no love poetry



Herbert's Works

- Metaphysical traits of his poems are colloquial manner, the blend of thought and feeling and, to some extent, conceits
- The Temple: Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations
 - Collection of 160 religious poems
 - Handed over the manuscript to Nicholas Ferrar in his death bed, asking him to publish it if it might help some poor soul, or to burn it.
 - Published in 1633
 - Shows zeal for Church of England and practical theology

Herbert's Works



- Major poems
 - “Redemption”
 - “Church Monuments”
 - “The Altar”
 - “Virtue”
 - “The Bunch of Grapes”
 - “The Collar”
- Occasionally used “pattern poetry” as in “Easter Wings”
 - Two stanzas in the shape of wings
 - The sense expands and contracts as the line lengthens and shortens
- A short prose work, A Priest to the Temple (1652)
- Izaak Walton wrote his biography

The Collar

- Begins with characteristic colloquial violence

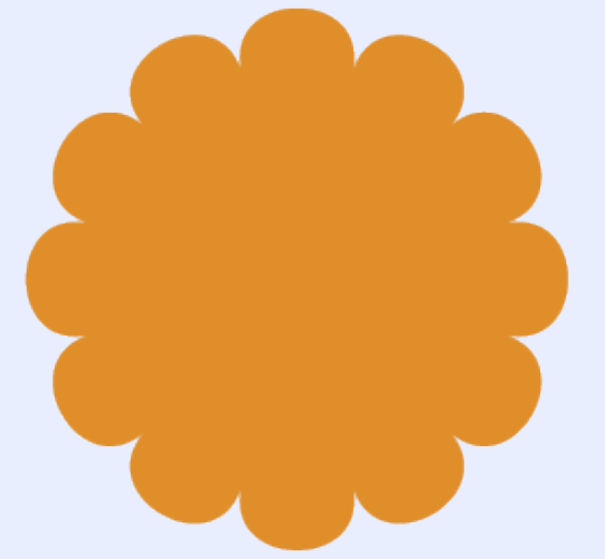
I struck the board, and cried, “No more;
I will abroad!...

- Violent rebellion against God’s beneficent discipline
- Sudden anticlimactic change at the close
- He hears the voice of God calling “Child”, to which he responds “My Lord”
- The mere presence of God removes his discontent

But as I raved and grew more fierce and wild
At every word,
Methought I heard one calling, Child!
And I replied My Lord.



Richard Crashaw (c. 1612-49)



- Revolted against his father's religion, Puritanism, and converted to Catholicism
- Spent the latter part of his life in exile in the Continent
- Considered "metaphysical" for his fondness for conceits
- Crashaw did not have the perfection in blending the sensuous and the spiritual as in Donne
- Had none of Herbert's quietly controlled ease in developing a Christian theme
- Lacks other features like complexity of mind, colloquial manner, intellectual imagery



Works

- Steps to the Temple (1646)
 - Title is a reference to Herbert's The Temple, which he admired
 - The preface introduces the author thus: "Here's Herbert's second, but equall."
- Delights of the Muses (initially published along with Steps to the Temple)
- Also wrote Latin poetry
- Wrote secular poems also

Henry Vaughan (1621-95)

- Fought on the Royalist side in the Civil War
- Made his living as a physician
- Early verse showed elements of Cavalier and pastoral poetry
- Showed a complete change with *Silex Scintillans*
- Inspired by George Herbert
- His love poems are inferior to religious poems



Silex Scintillans (1650)

- Best work
- Silex Scintillans means “The Flashing Flint”
- Refers to the stony hardness of his heart from which divine steel strikes fire
- Preface to Silex condemns the poetry of contemporary wits as well as his own earlier love poems as vain; attributes his change in perception to the influence of George Herbert
- Turned to religious contemplation also because of personal misfortunes, the civil troubles of the time and the influence of his mystical twin brother Thomas Vaughan
- Religious fervour, imagination, powerful, beautiful ideas



The Retreat

- A long poem that shows spiritual optimism
- Loss of the heavenly glory experienced during the childhood and expresses a fanciful desire to get back that original stage
- A consistent theme in Vaughan's poetry
- Inspired Wordsworth's Immortality Ode



The Waterfall

- Two distinct sections: an affectionate address to water, meditation on its mystical significance
- The flowing of water paralleled with the journey of the soul
- Wordsworthian in its treatment of nature



Thomas Traherne (1637-74)



- Poems lost after his death and found in 20th century
- Reveal an ardent, childlike love of God
- Centuries of Meditations
 - Religious prose
 - Joyce quotes from this book in Ulysses
 - Gives a clear view of his quest for innocence and joy
 - A mood of joyful primitivism and idealization of childhood

John Denham (c.1615-69)



- Another important poet of this period is John Denham
- Member of Parliament and Royalist
- Fellow of Royal Society
- Increasing mental instability leading to dementia
- Along with Edmund Waller, exerted a tremendous influence on contemporary poetry
- Together they have been called “Sons of British poetry”

Cooper's Hill (1642)

- John Denham's best work
- First English poem devoted to a local description
- Dryden praised it as "an exact pattern of good writing"
- Description of Thames valley scenery in the neighbourhood of his house in Surrey combined with historical and moral reflections
 - Similar poems in the 18th century: Pope's Windsor Forest, John Dyer's Grongar Hill
- Denham wrote several versions of this poem
- Conciseness is an important feature

