

Augustan poetry

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Augustan poetry defined • 18th Century English poetry
(Neo-Classical)

- Marked by the end of the Restoration era
- English Literature: Augustan poetry is a branch of Augustan Literature.
- Latin literature: Augustan poetry flourished during the reign of Caesar Augustus as the Emperor of Rome.
- English Augustan poets emulated Virgil, Ovid, and Horace, who were notable Latin poets.
- Inspired by their political and philosophical verses
 - Typically long verse narratives or mock epics, often satirical classical models
 - Take features found in classical epics: Divisions into cantos, lavish speeches, and battles.

Techniques and themes • Commonly known for its rhymed, heroic-couplet satire. • Iambic Pentameter: Unit of rhythm in poetry. • Ten syllables in each line where there is an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable. • Example: (da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM). • Heroic Couplet: A verse unit consisting of two rhymed lines in iambic pentameter. • One can find wit, irony, paradox, and brevity = Satire. • Wit: Natural aptitude to quickly create humor. • Irony: An expression that normally signifies the opposite. • Paradox: A statement that is illogical. • Brevity: Concise words in speech • EX: Poems can be long but observations can be quite obvious.

Alexander Pope (1688-1744) • Raised as a Roman Catholic during a period in England's history where holding public office and obtaining a university education was exclusive to Protestants. • Developed tuberculosis of the spine at age 12 as a result of drinking contaminated milk. • Hindered his growth, never grew more than four feet • Reduced the amount of physical activity he could do ☐ contributed to his interest in reading in writing. • By the time he was 17, his poems were noted by some of the best literary critics in England

Notable works • The Rape of the Lock (1712) • Translated Homer's Illiad and Odyssey • Essay on Man (1734)

Jonathan Swift(1667-1745) • Irish Cleric, political pamphleteer, satirist • Father died 7 months before he was born and rarely saw mother because she was poor and the nurse that took care of him took him along wherever she went • Was diagnosed with Meniere's Disease

[Jonathan swift \(cont.\)](#) • Received a BA at Trinity College; wanted an MA but couldn't due to political unrest from the Glorious Revolution and lack of financial support • Became a priest, and later on was awarded Doctor of Divinity from Trinity College-Had satirical views of religion and wanted to do away with taxation imposed by Irish clergy • Joined the Whig/Tories in hopes of making political change • Became even more sick with Alzheimer's or Meniere's and died

John Dryden (1631-1700) • Born at the vicarage of Aldwinkle, Northamptonshire on August 9th • Attended Westminster School as a King's scholar under Richard Busby • Entered Trinity College in 1650 and took a BA in 1654 • Theatres reopened– he began to write plays (1662) • “Year of Wonders” (1667) Position of Poet Laureate, degree of M.A. by Archbishop of Canterbury, and was made Historiographer Royal

[John dryden \(cont.\)](#) • Success brought along enemies— Ridiculed in Buckingham's *The Rehearsal* (1671), attacked brutally in *Rosa Alley*, Covent Garden (1679) • Ruffians were possibly hired by Lord Rochester • Unsuccessful playwrights had him lean towards satire • Died on April 30th, 1700 due inflammation caused by his gout • Style: Lucid professional style, relied on patterns and rhythms of everyday speech, combination of methods; historical, analytical, evaluative, and dialogic • Heroic couplet, judicious enjambments, triplets, and metric variations

Notable works • The Conquest of Granada (1670, 1671) (Greatest heroic play of the century) • Marriage A-la-Mode (1671) (Greatest Tragicomedy) • All for Love (1677) (Greatest Tragedy of the Restoration) • Don Sebastian (1689) (Greatest Comitragedy) • Amphitryon (1690) (Greatest Comedy)

Isaac watts • Isaac's writing of poetry and prose was widely read and used for at least 150 years. • Isaac's work of congregational song, and hymn, remains in use throughout the English world • He had a great interest in promoting education and scholarship than preaching for any particular ministry. • Watts died in Stoke Newington in 1748, and was buried in Bunhill Fields • On his death, Isaac Watts left his work and were given to Yale University • The use of his hymn has extended to all English-speaking countries, and it has been translated into many languages.

The End