

Chronology 1476–1685

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Literary events</i>	<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Cultural and religious events</i>
1476			Francesco Petrarch 1304–1374 Establishment of Caxton's printing press in England Thomas More 1477–1535
1483		Edward V	
1483		Richard III	
1485		Henry VII	
1492			Columbus in the Americas
1500		England annexes Ireland	
1503			Thomas Wyatt 1503–42
1509		Accession of Henry VIII	
1513	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>		
1516	Thomas More's <i>Utopia</i> Ariosto, <i>Orlando Furioso</i> (first edition)		
1517			Luther's 95 'Theses'; start of the Reformation Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey c.1517–47

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Literary events</i>	<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Cultural and religious events</i>
1520		Meeting between Henry VIII and Francis I on the Field of Cloth of Gold	
1524			Pierre de Ronsard 1524–85
1528	Castiglione, <i>The Courtier</i>		
1533	Thomas Wyatt, <i>Satires</i> written	Henry VIII divorces Catherine and secretly marries Anne Boleyn Birth of Princess Elizabeth	Elizabeth I 1533–1603
1534		Act of Supremacy	England's final break with Rome More's refusal to take the Oath of Supremacy The Pope's powers taken over in England by Henry VIII
1535		Union of England and Wales	Henry VIII named Supreme Head of Church Trial and execution of Thomas More
1542		Henry assumes title of King of Ireland	
1545			The Council of Trent: beginning of the Counter-reformation
1547		Henry VIII dies; Edward VI succeeds to throne	Surrey executed for treason
1549	Thomas Wyatt, <i>Certaine Psalmes</i> published		
1552			Walter Raleigh c.1552–1618

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Literary events</i>	<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Cultural and religious events</i>
1552			Edmund Spenser 1552–99
1553		Death of Edward VI Lady Jane Grey proclaimed Queen, later executed Mary I proclaimed Queen	
1554	Elizabeth I, 'Woodstock' poems	Roman Catholicism re-established in England by Parliament	Princess Elizabeth imprisoned in Woodstock John Lyly 1554–1606
1557	Earl of Surrey's translation of Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i> (Books II and IV) Publication of <i>Tottel's Miscellany</i> , including poems by Wyatt and Surrey		
1558		Mary I dies, Elizabeth I succeeds to throne	
1559		Act of Supremacy and Act of Uniformity; Protestant faith re- established	
1560			Geneva Bible translated
1561	Thomas Hoby translates <i>The Courtier</i>		Mary Sidney 1561– 1621
1562			Philip Sidney 1562–86
1563	John Foxe's <i>Acts and Monuments</i> (Foxe's Book of Martyrs)		The plague in London kills many thousands Michael Drayton 1563–1631 Robert Sidney 1563– 1626
1564			Christopher Marlowe 1564–93

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Literary events</i>	<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Cultural and religious events</i>
1564			William Shakespeare 1564–1616
1565	Arthur Golding translates Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> (Books I–IV)		
1566	William Painter, <i>The Palace of Pleasure</i>		James VI of Scotland and I of England 1566–1625
1567	Red Lion playhouse built Geoffrey Fenton, <i>Tragicall Discourses</i>	Abdication of Mary Queen of Scots	Thomas Nashe 1567– c.1601
1569			John Davies 1569–1626
1570	Roger Ascham, <i>The Scholemaster</i>		
1572		St Bartholomew's Day massacre of the Protestants in Paris	John Donne c.1572– 1631
1574			Joseph Hall 1574–1656
1576	The Theatre playhouse built George Pettie, <i>Petite Pallace</i> David Rowland translates <i>Lazarillo</i>		
1577	Blackfriars and Curtain playhouses built		Francis Drake begins his circumnavigation of the globe
1578	John Lyly, <i>Euphues: the Anatomy of Wit</i> Philip Sidney, <i>The Lady of May</i>	James VI takes over the government of Scotland	
1579	Thomas North translates Plutarch's <i>Lives</i> Edmund Spenser, <i>Shepherd's Calendar</i>		

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1580	John Lyly, <i>Euphues and his England</i> Philip Sidney, completes manuscript of <i>Apologie for Poetrie</i> and <i>The Old Arcadia</i>		Performance of plays on Sunday forbidden Francis Drake returns to England William Herbert, 1580–1630 Thomas Middleton 1580–1627
1581	Joseph Hall, <i>Ten Books of Homer's Iliads</i> Philip Sidney begins work on <i>Astrophil and Stella</i>		Harsh laws against Roman Catholics passed
1583		Discovery of the Catholic Somerville Plot to assassinate Elizabeth I Discovery of the Throgmorton Plot for the Spanish invasion of England	
1584	Philip Sidney begins to revise the <i>Arcadia</i>		
1585			William Drummond 1585–1649 Walter Raleigh establishes a colony in Roanoke, Virginia
1586	Christopher Marlowe's <i>Doctor Faustus</i> (acted; published in 1604)	The Star Chamber court condemns Mary Queen of Scots to death	
1587	Abraham Fraunce translates Tasso's <i>Amyntas</i>	Execution of Mary Queen of Scots	Philip Sidney's funeral Mary Wroth c. 1587–c. 1651
1588		Defeat of the Spanish Armada	
1589	George Puttenham, <i>The Art of English Poesie</i>		

Dates	Literary events	Historical events	Cultural and religious events
1590	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Tamburlaine</i> Parts I and II published Philip Sidney's <i>The New Arcadia</i> published Edmund Spenser, <i>The Faerie Queene</i> , I–III		
1591	John Harington translates Ariosto's <i>Orlando Furioso</i> William Shakespeare, <i>Henry VI</i> Parts I and II acted; <i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> acted Philip Sidney posthumous publication of <i>Astrophil and Stella</i> Edmund Spenser, <i>Complaints</i>		
1592	William Shakespeare, <i>Henry VI</i> Part I acted John Lyly, <i>Galatea</i> Christopher Marlowe, <i>Edward II</i> acted Rose theatre opens		Establishment of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland
1593	Mary Sidney begins translating the Psalms William Shakespeare, <i>Comedy of Errors</i> , and <i>Richard III</i> acted; <i>Venus and Adonis</i>		George Herbert 1593–1633
1594	William Shakespeare, <i>Titus Andronicus</i> acted; <i>Lucrece</i> Michael Drayton, <i>Ideas Mirrour</i> John Davies, <i>Gullinge Sonnets</i> Thomas Nashe, <i>The Unfortunate Traveller</i>		

Dates	Literary events	Historical events	Cultural and religious events
1595	Mary Sidney, <i>The Tragedy of Antonie</i> William Shakespeare, <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i> , <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , <i>Richard II</i> and <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> acted Edmund Spenser, <i>Amoretti</i> , <i>Epithalamion</i> , <i>Colin Clout's Come Home Again</i>		Death of Francis Drake
1596	Ben Jonson, <i>Everyman in his Humour</i> acted William Shakespeare, <i>Merchant of Venice</i> , and <i>King John</i> acted Edmund Spenser, <i>The Faerie Queene</i> IV–VI and <i>Four Hymnes</i>		
1597	Francis Bacon, <i>Essays</i> Joseph Hall, <i>Virgidemiarum</i> I–III		Rachel Speght 1597–c.1630
1598	George Chapman translates Homer's <i>Iliad</i> I–II and VII–XI; Chapman also completes Christopher Marlowe's poem, <i>Hero and Leander</i> William Shakespeare, <i>Henry IV</i> Parts I and II acted Batholomew Young translates Montemayor's <i>Diana</i>		
1599	Ben Jonson, <i>Every Man Out of his Humour</i> acted		

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1599	William Shakespeare, <i>Julius Caesar</i> , <i>Henry V</i> and <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> acted Joseph Hall, <i>Virgidemiarum</i> completed		
1600	Mary Sidney translates Petrarch's <i>Triumph of Death</i> and composes the Psalms William Shakespeare, <i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> , <i>As You Like It</i> acted		
1601	William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> and <i>Twelfth Night</i> acted	Essex Rebellion and execution of the Earl of Essex	
1602	John Marston, <i>Antonio's Revenge</i> acted William Shakespeare, <i>Troilus and Cressida</i> acted	Reconquest of Ireland commences	Bodleian Library founded
1603	Ben Jonson, <i>Sejanus</i> acted William Shakespeare, <i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> acted; <i>Hamlet</i> first Quarto Michael Drayton, <i>The Barons Warres</i>	Queen Elizabeth I dies and is succeeded by James VI of Scotland as James I	
1604	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Doctor Faustus</i> earliest surviving edition William Shakespeare, <i>Othello</i> acted; <i>Hamlet</i> second quarto	James I proclaimed King of 'Great Britain, France and Ireland'	
1605	Michael Drayton, <i>Poems</i> Ben Jonson, <i>Volpone</i> acted	The Gunpowder Plot	

Dates	Literary events	Historical events	Cultural and religious events
1606	William Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i> and <i>Macbeth</i> (c.1605–6) acted		Suppression of Roman Catholics by English Parliament
1607	William Shakespeare, <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> written		English colony founded in Virginia
1608	Thomas Heywood, <i>Rape of Lucrece</i> William Shakespeare, <i>Coriolanus</i> and <i>Timon of Athens</i> written, and <i>King Lear</i> two quartos published		John Milton 1608–74
1609	Ben Jonson, <i>Epicoene or the Silent Woman</i> acted William Shakespeare, <i>Pericles</i> acted; <i>Troilus and Cressida</i> two quartos published; <i>Sonnets</i> published		
1610	George Chapman continues <i>Iliad</i> Ben Jonson, <i>The Alchemist</i> acted William Shakespeare, <i>Cymbeline</i> and <i>The Winter's Tale</i> possibly written John Donne, <i>Pseudo-Martyr</i>		Thomas Gates publishes an account of the Bermuda shipwreck
1611	Complete translation of <i>Iliad</i> by George Chapman published Thomas Dekker and Thomas Middleton, <i>The Roaring Girl</i> published William Shakespeare, <i>Macbeth</i> first recorded performance; <i>The Tempest</i> probably written	The colonisation of Ulster	

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1612	Michael Drayton, <i>Poly-Olbion</i> I John Webster, <i>The White Devil</i> published		Anne Bradstreet 1612–72
1613	William Shakespeare, <i>Henry VIII</i> acted		Globe theatre burns down Poisoning of Sir Thomas Overbury
1614	George Chapman translates the <i>Odyssey</i> I–XII Ben Jonson, <i>Bartholomew Fair</i> acted Walter Raleigh, <i>The History of the World</i>		
1615	George Chapman, translates the <i>Odyssey</i> XIII–XXIV		
1616	Ben Jonson, <i>The Devil is an Ass</i> acted, and <i>Underwoods</i> John Webster, <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> acted William Drummond, <i>Poems</i> II		
1617	Rachel Speght, <i>A Mouzell for Melastomus</i> Joseph Swetnam, <i>Arraignment of Women</i>		
1618	Ben Jonson visits William Drummond, who records their conversations (manuscript)	Start of the Thirty Years War	Execution of Walter Raleigh

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1620	Mary Wroth, <i>Love's Victory</i> (possibly completed)		Freedom of worship granted to Roman Catholics in England in terms of marriage treaty between England and Spain Pilgrim Fathers depart from Plymouth, England, on the <i>Mayflower</i>
1621	Robert Burton, <i>Anatomy of Melancholy</i> Mary Wroth, <i>Pamphila to Amphilanthus</i> published; <i>Urania I</i> published; <i>Urania II</i> completed in manuscript Rachel Speght, <i>Mortality's Memorandum</i>		
1622	Michael Drayton, <i>Poly-Olbion</i> Part II Thomas Middleton and William Rowley, <i>The Changeling</i> acted		
1623	William Shakespeare, <i>Comedies Histories and Tragedies</i> (the First Folio) published John Webster, <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> acted		Margaret Cavendish 1623–73
1624	Thomas Middleton, <i>A Game at Chess</i> acted		
1625		Accession of Charles I Marriage of Charles I and Henrietta Maria	
1627			First atlas compiled by an Englishman, John Speed

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Literary events</i>	<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Cultural and religious events</i>
1628			John Bunyan 1628–88
1631	Ben Jonson, <i>The Devil is an Ass</i> and <i>The Staple of News</i> published		
1633	John Donne, <i>Poems</i> (published posthumously) John Ford, <i>'Tis Pity She's a Whore</i> published George Herbert, <i>The Temple</i> published		
1634	John Milton, <i>Comus</i> acted		
1637	John Milton, <i>Lycidas</i>		
1641	John Milton, <i>Of Reformation</i>		
1642	Thomas Browne, <i>Religio Medici</i> John Milton, <i>Apology for Smectymnuus</i>	Civil War begins Battle of Edgehill	
1644	John Milton, <i>Areopagitica</i> Jane and Elizabeth Cavendish, <i>The Concealed Fancies</i> and <i>Poems</i> completed in manuscript		
1645			Prohibition of the Prayer Book by Parliament Execution of Archbishop Laud
1648	Robert Herrick, <i>Hesperides</i>		
1649		Execution of Charles I Abolition of the monarchy Declaration of the Commonwealth	

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1650	Anne Bradstreet, <i>The Tenth Muse</i>		
1651	John Cleveland, <i>Poems</i> William Davenant, <i>Leviathan</i>	Battle of Worcester	
1653	Izzak Walton, <i>The Compleat Angler</i> Margaret Cavendish, <i>Poems and Fancies</i>	Long Parliament expelled by Cromwell Establishment of Protectorate: Oliver Cromwell made Lord High Protector	
1654		Union of England, Scotland and Ireland	
1656	Margaret Cavendish, <i>A True Relation</i>		
1658		Death of Oliver Cromwell; succeeded by Richard Cromwell, his son, as Lord Protector	
1659	Samuel Pepys begins diaries	Long Parliament restored	John Bunyan imprisoned
1660	John Milton, <i>The Readie and Easy Way</i>	Restoration of the monarchy; Charles II succeeds to the throne	
1662		Act of Uniformity Licensing Act Royal Society founded	
1664		Conventicle Act outlaws meetings of nonconformists	
1665	John Bunyan, <i>The Holy City</i>		Great Plague
1666	Margaret Cavendish, <i>The Blazing World</i> John Bunyan, <i>Grace Abounding</i>		The Great Fire of London

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1667	John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i>		
1671	John Milton, <i>Paradise Regained</i> and <i>Samson Agonistes</i>		
1674			Rebuilding of Theatre Royal, Drury Lane
1678	John Bunyan, <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> , Part I Anne Bradstreet, <i>Several Poems</i> (published posthumously)		
1681	Andrew Marvell, <i>Miscellaneous Poems</i> (published posthumously)		
1684	John Bunyan, <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> Part II		
1685		Death of Charles II, succeeded by James II	

Annotated Bibliography

Bakhtin, Mikhail *Rabelais and His World*, translated by Helene Iswolsky. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1984.

An important and influential theoretical treatment of Early Modern European literature. The name 'Bakhtin' has been adopted to describe the work of a group of Russian critics who looked at the way in which social and cultural inversions were negotiated by literary texts. The concepts of carnivalesque and the grotesque have been particularly useful for understanding the radical texts of the Early Modern period.

Dollimore, Jonathan and Alan Sinfield (eds) *Political Shakespeare. New Essays in Cultural Materialism*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1985.

The *Foreword* to this volume provided British critics of the Early Modern period with a politicised version of the American New Historicism. The book combines this new form of theory with historical enquiry and close readings of Shakespeare's plays. It is useful both in terms of describing a new methodology as well as giving examples of how that theory works in practice.

Dutton, Richard and Richard Wilson (eds) *New Historicism and Renaissance Drama*. London: Longman, 1992.

An informed and scholarly collection of essays which serve to introduce readers to a range of Early Modern drama. The work also provides key analyses and examples of new historicist and cultural materialist methodologies.

Foucault, Michel *Madness and Civilization. A History of Insanity and the Practice of Social Ornament*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1961; repr. 1980.

Foucault's theoretical texts have provided important insights into literatures in English generally. *Madness and Civilisation* has, however, been

applied more in the field of Early Modern studies. The book traces the change in approach to madness, from the Medieval idea of demonic possession through to a sense of insanity as illness. The processes described prove invaluable for readings of Early Modern literature that focus upon the role of the insane, the outsider and any marginal figure in society.

Greenblatt, Stephen *Renaissance Self-Fashioning. From More to Shakespeare*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1980.

Greenblatt's polemical work altered the face of criticism on the Early Modern period. It heralded a period of chronological, cultural and political contextualisation of texts that became identified as New Historicism. Even now it is essential reading for an understanding of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English literature.

Gurr, Andrew *The Shakespearean Stage 1574–1642*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

In its third edition, Andrew Gurr's book describes the acting companies, theatres, stagings and audiences of Early Modern London. An invaluable account for understanding the way in which dramatic space interacted with text.

Hawkes, Terence *That Shakespeherian Rag*. London: Methuen, 1986.

This collection of essays on Shakespeare's plays contextualises the works in terms of the way in which different societies process dramatic meaning and cultural production. Hawkes excavates the way in which Shakespeare has been used as an ideological tool, but he points out in successive readings of the text, that no authoritative or final reading of the plays can exist.

Howard, Jean E. *The Stage and Social Struggle in Early Modern England*. London: Routledge, 1994.

A path-breaking work that explores the role of theatre in the social transitions of the period. Jean Howard incorporates contemporary materialist and feminist criticism to investigate the way in which gender, class, and sexual conflict were represented on stage.

Maslen, R. W. *Elizabethan Fictions*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997.

A thorough and scholarly treatment of an often neglected topic. Maslen analyses the prose fictions of the sixteenth century chronologically, providing detailed textual analyses alongside a sense of the developing genre. Complex material is dealt with sensitively, doing full justice to the fascinating works of the period.

Pooley, Roger *English Prose of the Seventeenth Century, 1590–1700*. London: Longman, 1992.

One of the Longman Literature in English Series, Pooley's work is a comprehensive and invaluable account of a huge and diverse field of literature. This study offers a clear and careful categorisation of a neglected area, allowing us to appreciate the excitement and variety of seventeenth-century prose.

Waller, Gary *English Poetry of the Sixteenth Century*. London: Longman, 1993.

This work also belongs to the Longman Literature in English Series and so offers a comprehensive coverage of sixteenth-century poetry, from the lyric, through Raleigh, Donne, Sidney and Spenser. However, it also offers radical rereadings of canonical texts in terms of gender, race and class, in which Waller uncovers the acute ideological struggles of the age.

Wilcox, Helen *Women and Literature in Britain, 1500–1700*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

This was the first introduction to the writings and social contexts of early Modern English women. The essays included deal with an array of genres, concepts, and histories. It also has an invaluable chronology that details important events from a female perspective.

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