

THE WILEY-BLACKWELL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF
**Eighteenth-Century
Writers and Writing**

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PAUL BAINES

JULIAN FERRARO

PAT ROGERS



WILEY-BLACKWELL

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The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Eighteenth-Century Writers and Writing

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Timeline

- 1660** Restoration of King Charles II after 11 years of Interregnum. Theaters reopened. Dryden, *Astraea Redux*. Samuel Pepys begins his diary. Probable date of Defoe's birth.
- 1661** Corporation Act aimed at weakening influence of Nonconformists in local government. Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea, born.
- 1662** Charles II marries Catherine of Braganza. Samuel Butler, *Hudibras*, part 1. Revised Book of Common Prayer sets out liturgy of Church of England. Act of Uniformity requires clergymen to conform to or leave the Church of England. First charter of the Royal Society. Licensing Act passed.
- 1663** Butler, *Hudibras*, part 2.
- 1664** Conventicle Act against Nonconformist meetings. Dryden, *The Rival Ladies*. Vanbrugh born. Prior born.
- 1665** The Great Plague. Second Anglo-Dutch War, over trade and territory, begins. Royal Society begins publishing *Philosophical Transactions*.
- 1666** Great Fire destroys central London.
- 1667** Dutch burn British fleet at Chatham docks. War with the Dutch ends. Dryden, *Annus Mirabilis*. Milton, *Paradise Lost* (10-book version). Thomas Sprat, *History of the Royal Society*. Abraham Cowley dies. Swift born. Arbuthnot born.
- 1668** Triple Alliance (England, Holland, Sweden) against France. Dryden made Poet Laureate. Dryden, *Of Dramatick Poesie*. Etherege, *She Wou'd if she Cou'd*.
- 1669** Dryden, *The Wild Gallant* published (first performed 1663). Pepys stops writing his diary.
- 1670** Charles makes secret Treaty of Dover with Louis XIV, with the intention of restoring Catholicism as the state religion. Congreve born. Probable date of Manley's birth.

- 1671** Milton, *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes*.
- 1672** Declaration of Indulgence suspends penal laws against Catholics and Nonconformists. Third Dutch War begins. Dryden, *Marriage à-la-Mode* performed. Addison born. Steele born.
- 1673** Second Declaration of Indulgence withdrawn. Test Act passed in order to debar Catholics from public office.
- 1674** Third Dutch War ends. Milton, *Paradise Lost*, 12-book version. Milton dies.
- 1675** Wycherley, *The Country Wife*.
- 1676** Etherege, *The Man of Mode*. Shadwell, *The Virtuoso*.
- 1677** Behn, *The Rover*, part 1. Wycherley, *The Plain Dealer*. Probable date of Farquhar's birth.
- 1678** Popish Plot, a largely fictional conspiracy by Catholics to murder Charles II and place his brother James on the throne, is "discovered." Disabling Act bars Catholics from parliament. John Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*, part 1. Butler, *Hudibras*, part 3. Dryden, *All for Love*. Andrew Marvell dies. Bolingbroke born.
- 1679** Exclusion Crisis caused by introduction of bill to remove Charles's Catholic brother James from the line of succession. Charles dissolves parliament before it can be passed. Party divisions begin to be named "Whig" and "Tory." Jacob Tonson begins business relationship with Dryden. Parnell born.
- 1680** Samuel Butler dies; John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, dies.
- 1681** Exclusion Bill reintroduced. First Earl of Shaftesbury indicted for treason. Dryden, *Absalom and Achitophel*, part 1. Behn, *The Rover*, part 2. John Oldham, *Satires upon the Jesuits*.
- 1682** Dryden, *The Medal*, *Religio Laici*, and *Mac Flecknoe*. Behn, *The City Heiress*.
- 1683** Rye House Plot, a conspiracy to assassinate Charles II by ultra-Whig faction. Young born.
- 1684** Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*, part 2. Dryden's poem on the death of John Oldham. Series of Dryden–Tonson *Miscellanies* begins. Behn, *Love-Letters between a Nobleman and his Sister*, begins.
- 1685** Charles II dies. James II succeeds. Duke of Monmouth's rebellion fails to install Monmouth as Protestant monarch and is brutally suppressed. Dryden, *Threnodia Augustalis*; he becomes Roman Catholic. Gay born. Berkeley born.
- 1686** Anne Killigrew, *Poems*, includes Dryden's ode. Behn, *The Luckey Chance*.
- 1687** Dryden, *The Hind and the Panther*. Behn completes *Love-Letters*.
- 1688** Second Declaration of Indulgence suspends penal laws against Catholics and Nonconformists in an attempt to re-establish Catholicism. James II's

son born. Amid widespread alarm at James's autocratic style of government and militant Catholicism, the Protestant William of Orange lands at Torbay; James II flees to France, precipitating the "Glorious Revolution" whereby James is deemed to have abdicated. Civil war in Ireland. Dryden deprived of court posts. Behn, *Oroonoko*. Bunyan dies. Pope born.

- 1689** Accession of William and Mary. Bill of Rights limits power of the sovereign and protects rule of parliament. Toleration Act allows freedom of worship for Protestant dissenters. The requirement that holders of office swear oaths of allegiance to William creates the category of "non-juror." War with France. James II lands in Ireland. Shadwell made Poet Laureate. Behn dies. Samuel Richardson born.
- 1690** William defeats James II at Battle of the Boyne. John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* and *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Dryden, *Don Sebastian*. Sir William Temple, "Essay upon Ancient and Modern Learning."
- 1691** Irish rising suppressed. Etherege dies (date uncertain).
- 1692** French attempt to invade England in support of James defeated. Congreve, *Incognita*. Dryden, *Satires* of Juvenal and Persius. Tate made Poet Laureate.
- 1693** National Debt established to pay for war. Congreve, *The Old Batchelour*.
- 1694** Death of Queen Mary; William reigns alone. Foundation of Bank of England. Triennial Bill limits parliamentary terms to three years. Congreve, *The Double Dealer* published (first performed late 1693).
- 1695** British take French stronghold of Namur. Lapse of Licensing Act removes pre-publication censorship. Congreve, *Love for Love*. Blackmore, *Prince Arthur*.
- 1696** Plot to assassinate King William fails. Southerne, *Oroonoko*.
- 1697** Treaty of Ryswick ends war with France. Dryden, *The Works of Virgil*. Vanbrugh, *The Relapse* published (first performed 1696) and *The Provoked Wife*. Defoe, *Essay on Projects*. Bentley, "Dissertation upon the Epistles of Phalaris." Blackmore, *King Arthur*.
- 1698** J. Collier, *Short View of the Immorality and Prophaneness of the English Stage*.
- 1699** Garth, *The Dispensary*. Dyer born.
- 1700** Second Partition Treaty attempts to legislate for the future of the Spanish empire. Congreve, *Way of the World*. Blackmore, *Satyr Against Wit*. Motteux, translation of *Don Quixote*. Prior, *Carmen Sæculare*. Dryden, *Fables*. Dryden dies. Thomson born.
- 1701** Grand Alliance of England, Holland, and Austria, against French territorial ambitions. Louis XIV violates Treaty of Ryswick by supporting the son of James II as claimant to English throne. Act of Settlement to secure Protestant rule in England. Society for Propagation of the Gospel founded. James II dies. Steele, *Christian Hero*. Dennis, *Advancement and Reformation of Modern Poetry*.

- 1702** War of Spanish Succession begins, with British forces under the command of the Duke of Marlborough. Death of William III; accession of Queen Anne. *Daily Courant*, first daily newspaper, commences. Defoe, *Shortest Way with Dissenters*.
- 1703** Great Storm. Defoe, *Hymn to the Pillory*. Ned Ward, *The London Spy* published in volume form. Steele, *The Lying Lover*. Boyer begins *The History of the Life and Reign of Queen Anne*. John Wesley born.
- 1704** Marlborough's victory at the Battle of Blenheim. Gibraltar captured. Robert Harley and the Henry St. John, later Viscount Bolingbroke, both in office. Swift, *Tale of a Tub* and *Battle of the Books*. Defoe begins *Review*. Dennis, *Grounds of Criticism in Poetry*. Wycherley, *Miscellany Poems*. Colley Cibber, *The Careless Husband*.
- 1705** British capture Barcelona. Whig victory in general election. Vanbrugh's Haymarket opera house. Addison, *The Campaign* and *Remarks on Italy*. Steele, *The Tender Husband*. Mandeville, *The Grumbling Hive*.
- 1706** British victory at Ramillies. Act of Succession confirms Protestant succession to throne. Steele edits *London Gazette*. Farquhar, *The Recruiting Officer*.
- 1707** Union of England and Scotland. Farquhar, *The Beaux' Stratagem*. Colley Cibber, *The Lady's Last Stake*. Watts, *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*. Curll's unauthorized collection of Prior's *Poems*. Farquhar dies. Henry Fielding born. Charles Wesley born.
- 1708** British victory at Oudenarde. Harley and St. John out of office. Swift, *Bickerstaff Papers*. John Philips, *Cyder*. Theobald, *Persian Princess*. Shaftesbury, *Letter Concerning Enthusiasm*.
- 1709** British victory at Malplaquet. "Copyright Act" provides 14-year protection of authors' rights. Addison and Steele commence *The Tatler*. Ambrose Philips and Pope, *Pastorals*. Prior, authorized *Poems*. Nicholas Rowe's edition of Shakespeare. Manley, *New Atalantis*. Berkeley, *New Theory of Vision*. Defoe, *History of the Union of Great Britain*. Henry Sacheverell's High Tory sermon, *The Perils of False Brethren*. Samuel Johnson of Lichfield born. Lyttelton born.
- 1710** Fall of Earl of Godolphin's Whig ministry after prosecution of Sacheverell. Tory ministry run by Harley and St. John. Swift supports ministry in *The Examiner* and other writings. Curll, *Complete Key to the Tale of a Tub*. *Tale of a Tub*, fifth edition with "Apology." Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge*. Congreve, *Collected Works*.
- 1711** Occasional Conformity Act passed to prevent Nonconformists from taking occasional communion according to Church of England rites in order to qualify for public office. Marlborough dismissed from office, ostensibly for peculation. Harley created Earl of Oxford. Addison and Steele end *Tatler* and begin *The Spectator*. Pope, *Essay on Criticism*. Shaftesbury, *Characteristicks*. Hume born.
- 1712** Stamp Act, designed to limit political periodicals. St. John created Viscount Bolingbroke. Pope, *Rape of the Lock* (two-canto version). Swift,

Proposal for Correcting ... the English Tongue. Arbuthnot, *History of John Bull*. *Spectator* ceases.

- 1713** Treaty of Utrecht ends War of Spanish Succession and grants Britain territory in North America and the West Indies, with the right to trade in slaves to the Spanish empire in America. Swift made Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin. Pope, *Windsor-Forest*. Addison, *Cato*. Gay, *Rural Sports*. Parnell, *Essay on the Different Stiles of Poetry*. Winchilsea, *Miscellany Poems*. Defoe's *Review* and Boyer's *History* cease publication. Steele begins *The Guardian*. Anthony Collins, *Discourse of Free-Thinking*. Shaftesbury dies. Sterne born.
- 1714** Death of Queen Anne. Accession of George I. Fall of Tory ministry; Whigs take power for next four decades. Schism Act debars the keeping of schools by those outside the Church of England communion. Meetings of the "Scriblerus" group in first half of year; Swift returns to Dublin after death of the queen. Pope, *Rape of the Lock* (five-canto version). Gay, *Shepherd's Week*. Manley, *Adventures of Rivella*. Mandeville, *Fable of the Bees*. Shenstone born.
- 1715** Bolingbroke flees to France; Harley imprisoned on treason charges; Jacobite rising. Nicholas Rowe made Poet Laureate. Pope, *Temple of Fame* and first volume of translation of Homer's *Iliad*. Gay, *The What d'ye Call It*. Watts, *Divine Songs for Children*.
- 1716** Jacobite rising defeated. Riot Act to discourage large-scale political meetings. Septennial Act requires seven-year parliaments. "Sinking Fund" to reduce national debt. Pope poisons Curll. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu leaves for Constantinople. Gay, *Trivia*. Wycherley dies. Gray born.
- 1717** Pope, *Works*. Pope, Gay, Arbuthnot, *Three Hours after Marriage*. Colley Cibber, *The Non-Juror*. Horace Walpole born. Garrick born.
- 1718** Quadruple Alliance (England, France, Holland, and Austria) formed to resist territorial ambitions of Spain. Spanish fleet defeated. Transportation Act begins process of shipping convicts to North America. Occasional Conformity and Schism Acts repealed. Society of Antiquaries founded. Return of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu from Turkey. Parnell dies. Nicholas Rowe dies. Eusden becomes Poet Laureate.
- 1719** Peerage Bill divides Addison and Steele. Pope leases land and begins to build villa at Twickenham. Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*. Haywood, *Love in Excess*. Watts, *Psalms of David*. Jacob, *Poetical Register*. Addison dies.
- 1720** Peace with Spain. South Sea Bubble, stock market crash. Last volumes of Pope's *Iliad* published. Defoe, *Captain Singleton*. Gay, *Poems on Several Occasions*. Winchilsea dies. White born.
- 1721** Sir Robert Walpole assumes main role in government (to 1742). Pope's edition of Parnell's *Poems on Several Occasions*. Prior dies. Akenside, William Collins, and Smollett born.
- 1722** Death of Marlborough. Steele, *The Conscious Lovers*. Defoe, *Moll Flanders*, *Colonel Jack*, and *Journal of the Plague Year*. Smart born. Joseph Warton born.

- 1723** Francis Atterbury implicated in Jacobite plotting and exiled. Pope edits Duke of Buckinghamshire's *Works*. Centlivre dies. Adam Smith born. Joshua Reynolds born.
- 1724** Swift's "Drapier's Letters" incite revolt against "Wood's Halfpence." Defoe, *Roxana*; begins *Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain* (completed 1726). Ramsay, *Ever Green*. Oldmixon begins *Critical History of England* (completed 1726). Manley dies.
- 1725** Bolingbroke returns from exile. Pope's edition of Shakespeare; first volumes of his version of Homer's *Odyssey* (completed 1726). Ramsay, *Gentle Shepherd*.
- 1726** Swift visits England. Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* and *Cadenus and Vanessa*. Theobald, *Shakespeare Restored*. Thomson, *Winter*. Dyer, *Grongar Hill*. Opposition journal *The Craftsman* begins in December. Vanbrugh dies. Charles Burney born.
- 1727** Death of George I and accession of George II. Swift's final visit to England; two volumes of Pope–Swift *Miscellanies*, with a third in 1728. Gay, *Fables*. Thomson, *Summer*. Wilkes born.
- 1728** Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*. Pope, *The Dunciad*. Swift, *Short View of the State of Ireland*. Thomson, *Spring*. Ephraim Chambers, *Cyclopædia*. Vanbrugh–Cibber, *The Provok'd Husband*. Gay's *Polly* banned by Lord Chamberlain. Thomas Warton the younger born. Probable date of Goldsmith's birth.
- 1729** Treaty of Seville ends war with Spain. Wesley brothers found Methodist Society. Pope, *The Dunciad Variorum*. Swift, *Modest Proposal*. Congreve dies. Steele dies. Burke born. Percy born.
- 1730** Eusden dies; Colley Cibber appointed Poet Laureate. Duck, *Poems* (unauthorized). Henry Fielding, *Tom Thumb*, *The Author's Farce*. Thomson completes *Seasons*. *Grub-street Journal* begins.
- 1731** Lillo, *London Merchant*. Pope, *Epistle to Burlington* (first version). *Gentleman's Magazine* begins. Defoe dies. Cowper born.
- 1732** Academy of Ancient Music founded. Gay, libretto for *Acis and Galatea* (Handel). Henry Fielding, *Covent-Garden Tragedy*. Swift, *The Lady's Dressing-Room*. Gay dies. Atterbury dies. Churchill born.
- 1733** Walpole suffers defeat over Excise crisis. Pope, *Epistle to Bathurst* and *Essay on Man* (epistles I–III). Pope, *Epistle to Bathurst*; he begins series of *Imitations of Horace*; attacked by Lord Hervey and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. Swift, *On Poetry* and *To a Lady*.
- 1734** Pope, *Essay on Man* (epistle IV) and *Epistle to Cobham*. Swift, *A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed*.
- 1735** Bolingbroke returns to France. Pope, *Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot*, *Epistle to a Lady* and *Works*, volume 2. Curll begins publishing Pope's letters. Johnson, *Voyage to Abyssinia*. Somerville, *The Chace*. Thomson, *Liberty* (completed 1736). Lyttelton, *Letters from a Persian*. Arbuthnot dies.

- 1736** Attempts to repeal Test and Corporation Acts defeated. Haywood, *Adventures of Eovaai*. Lillo, *Fatal Curiosity*. Henry Fielding, *Pasquin*, *The Historical Register for 1736*. Macpherson born.
- 1737** Prince of Wales expelled from court for fomenting opposition. Death of Queen Caroline. Theatre Licensing Act subjects plays to pre-performance censorship. Glover, *Leonidas*. Pope, *Epistle to Augustus*. Shenstone, *Poems Upon Various Occasions*. *Grub-street Journal* ceases. Suicide of Eustace Budgell. Gibbon born.
- 1738** John Wesley experiences personal “conversion.” Pope, *One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty-Eight*. Johnson, *London*. Gay, second collection of *Fables*. Swift, *A Complete Collection of Genteel and Ingenious Conversation*.
- 1739** War of Jenkin’s Ear begun over commercial conflict with Spain. Horace Walpole and Gray leave for Grand Tour (to 1741). Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*. Wesley brothers, *Hymns and Sacred Poems*. Swift, *Verses on the Death of Dr Swift*. Lillo dies.
- 1740** War of Austrian Succession. Commodore Anson circumnavigates the globe. Samuel Richardson, *Pamela*. Colley Cibber, *Apology for the Life*. Dyer, *Ruins of Rome*. Thomson, *Alfred* (includes “Rule, Britannia”). Boswell born.
- 1741** Pope v. Curll lawsuit in Chancery establishes major rule of copyright. Henry Fielding, *Shamela*. Pope, Arbuthnot, and others, *Memoirs of Martinus Scriblerus*. Shenstone, *The Judgement of Hercules*. Watts, *Improvement of the Mind*. Malone born.
- 1742** Walpole resigns office and becomes Earl of Orford. Samuel Richardson completes *Pamela*. Pope, *The New Dunciad*. Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews*. William Collins, *Persian Eclogues*. Young begins *The Complaint, or Night-Thoughts*. Shenstone, *The School-Mistress*. Bentley dies.
- 1743** Battle of Dettingen, George II commanding the army in person. Pope, *The Dunciad in Four Books* (with Colley Cibber as hero). Henry Fielding, *Jonathan Wild*. Robert Blair, *The Grave*.
- 1744** “Broad Bottom” ministry begins. First Methodist conference. Johnson, *Life of Savage*. Akenside, *Pleasures of Imagination*. Joseph Warton, *The Enthusiast*. Pope dies.
- 1745** British defeated at Battle of Fontenoy. Major Jacobite rising: England invaded by army under the command of Charles Edward Stuart, grandson of James II. Robert Walpole dies. Chesterfield becomes Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Akenside, *Odes on Several Subjects*. Swift dies. Nichols born.
- 1746** Jacobite armies heavily defeated at Culloden; severe reprisals and beginnings of a concerted attempt to pacify the Highland regions. William Collins, *Odes on Several Descriptive and Allegoric Subjects*. Joseph Warton, *Odes on Various Subjects*. Young completes *Night-Thoughts*. Robert Blair dies.
- 1747** Gray, *Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College*. Samuel Johnson, *Plan of a Dictionary of the English Language*. Samuel Richardson begins *Clarissa* (completed 1748). Joseph Warton, *The Pleasures of Melancholy*. Spence, *Polymetis*. Warburton’s edition of Shakespeare. Wortley Montagu, *Town Eclogues*.

- 1748** Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle concludes the War of Austrian Succession and ends French support for the Jacobite cause. Dodsley begins *Collection of Poems, by Several Hands*. Thomson, *Castle of Indolence*. Smollett, *The Adventures of Roderick Random*. Hume, *Philosophical Essays Concerning Human Understanding*. Shenstone, revised version of *The School-Mistress*. Leapor, *Poems*. Laetitia Pilkington, *Memoirs*. Thomson dies. Watts dies.
- 1749** Horace Walpole takes out a lease on Strawberry Hill, Twickenham. Henry Fielding, *Tom Jones*. Samuel Johnson, *Vanity of Human Wishes*; his *Irene* performed. Cleland, *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*. Hartley, *Observations on Man*. *Monthly Review* commences.
- 1750** *Rambler* begins.
- 1751** Death of the Prince of Wales. Gray, *Elegy written in a Country Church-Yard*. Henry Fielding, *Amelia*. Haywood, *Betsy Thoughtless*. Smollett, *Peregrine Pickle*. R. B. Sheridan born.
- 1752** Lennox, *Female Quixote*. Smart, *Poems on Several Occasions*. *Rambler* ends. Chatterton born. Frances Burney born.
- 1753** British Museum founded. Abortive Jewish Naturalization Bill. Shiels and Theophilus Cibber, *Lives of the Poets*. Samuel Richardson, *The History of Sir Charles Grandison* (completed 1754). Smollett, *Ferdinand, Count Fathom*. Lennox, *Shakespear Illustrated*. Edward Moore, *The Gamester*. Berkeley dies.
- 1754** Pelham dies; Newcastle ministry. Duncombe, *The Feminiad*. Hume begins *History of Great Britain* (retitled *History of England*, 1762). Henry Fielding dies. Crabbe born.
- 1755** Henry Fielding, *Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon*; Samuel Johnson, *A Dictionary of the English Language*. Charke, *Narrative*. *Poems by Eminent Ladies*, edited by Colman and Thornton.
- 1756** Newcastle resigns; Pitt–Devonshire ministry. Seven Years War begins (Britain and Prussia against France, Russia, and Austria, vying for territory in Europe, India, and America). Black Hole of Calcutta followed by British defeat of Indian forces. Joseph Warton, *Essay on the Writings and Genius of Pope*, volume 1. *Critical Review* commences. Duck dies.
- 1757** Pitt–Newcastle ministry. British ascendancy in India re-established at Battle of Plassey. Horace Walpole sets up a private press at Strawberry Hill. Dyer, *The Fleece*. Burke, *Philosophical Enquiry into our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful*. Gray, *Odes, by Mr. Gray*. Smollett begins *A Complete History of England* (completed 1758). Colley Cibber dies. Dyer dies. William Whitehead appointed Poet Laureate. William Blake born.
- 1758** *Idler* begins. Shebbeare pilloried for libel. Allan Ramsay dies.
- 1759** British capture of Quebec and other military victories. British Museum opened. Goldsmith, *Inquiry into the Present State of Polite Learning in Europe*. Young, *Conjectures on Original Composition*. Samuel Johnson, *The Prince of Abissinia [Rasselas]*; Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*. Sterne, *Political Romance*; he begins *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy*. William Collins dies. Burns born. Mary Wollstonecraft born.

- 1760** George II dies: accession of George III. *Idler* ends. Sterne publishes first volumes of *Sermons of Mr. Yorick*. Macpherson, *Fragments of Ancient Poetry. Collected in the Highlands*. Beckford born.
- 1761** Pitt resigns. Churchill, *The Rosciad* and *The Apology*. Hume completes *History of England*. Samuel Richardson dies.
- 1762** Bute ministry. War against Spain; capture of Manila and Havana. Macpherson, *Fingal, an Ancient Epic Poem*. Goldsmith, *Citizen of the World*. Hurd, *Letters on Chivalry and Romance*. Churchill, *The Ghost*. Smollett, *Adventures of Sir Launcelot Greaves*. Walpole, *Anecdotes of Painting*. Young, *Resignation*. Wilkes starts *North Briton*. Johnson's pension granted. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu dies.
- 1763** Peace of Paris ends war with France: India and Canada formally designated British colonies. Bute resigns; Grenville ministry. Wilkes arrested for seditious libel. Johnson meets Boswell. Macpherson, *Temora*. Hugh Blair, *A Critical Dissertation on the Poems of Ossian*. Smart, *Song to David*. Churchill, *Prophecy of Famine*. Macaulay begins *History of England*. Shenstone dies.
- 1764** Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*. Goldsmith, *The Traveller* and *An History of England in a Series of Letters*. Evans, *Specimens of the Poetry of the Antient Welsh Bards*. Grainger, *Sugar-Cane*. Samuel Johnson's Club founded. Churchill dies.
- 1765** Grenville ministry. Stamp Act taxes colonies to help pay for war. Johnson's edition of Shakespeare. Percy, *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*. Smart, *Psalms of David*. Macpherson, *Works of Ossian*. Young dies.
- 1766** Rockingham ministry repeals Stamp Act. Goldsmith, *The Vicar of Wakefield*. Anstey, *The New Bath Guide*. Smollett, *Travels through France and Italy*.
- 1767** Revenue Bill reintroduces American taxation. Jago, *Edge-Hill*. Sterne completes *Tristram Shandy*.
- 1768** Grafton ministry. James Cook's first voyage begun. Royal Academy of Arts founded, with Reynolds as President. Sterne, *A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy*. Horace Walpole, *The Mysterious Mother*. Goldsmith, *Good-Natur'd Man*. Boswell, *Account of Corsica*. Gray, *Poems by Mr. Gray*. Sterne dies. Spence dies.
- 1769** Wilkes prevented from entering parliament despite being elected. "Junius Letters" of political comment begin. Lawsuit upholds "perpetual" copyright of booksellers. Reynolds' *Discourses* begun. Garrick's Shakespeare jubilee. Smollett (probable author), *Adventures of an Atom*.
- 1770** Grafton resigns; North ministry. Increasing resentment among American colonists about taxation; all duties except that on tea rescinded. Falkland Islands crisis and continued agitation from Wilkes prompt political pamphlets by Samuel Johnson. Goldsmith, *Deserted Village*. Percy, *Northern Antiquities*. Beattie, *Essay on ... Truth*. Akenside dies. Chatterton dies. William Wordsworth born.
- 1771** Cook returns from first voyage. Smollett, *Humphry Clinker*. Mackenzie, *The Man of Feeling*. Beattie, *The Minstrel*, part 1. Smollett dies. Gray dies. Smart dies.

- 1772** Cook's second voyage begun. Slavery declared illegal inside England. "Junius Letters" cease. Mason, *The English Garden*. Samuel Taylor Coleridge born.
- 1773** Boston Tea Party: American colonists protest at taxation. Johnson tours Scotland. *Voyages*, edited by Hawkesworth. Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*. Barbauld, *Poems*. Graves, *The Spiritual Quixote*.
- 1774** American Declaration of Rights against British authority. House of Lords overturns "perpetual" copyright. Thomas Warton the younger begins *History of English Poetry*. Goldsmith, *Retaliation*. Burke, *On American Taxation*. Chesterfield, *Letters to his Son* published. Goldsmith dies.
- 1775** American War of Independence begins near Boston. Cook's second voyage concluded. Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The Rivals*. Johnson, *A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland*. Jane Austen born.
- 1776** American Declaration of Independence. Cook's third voyage begins. Gibbon begins *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*. Hume dies.
- 1777** British defeated at Saratoga. Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *School for Scandal*. Chatterton's "Rowley Poems" published by Tyrwhitt. Langhorne, *The Country Justice*. Reeve, *Champion of Virtue* (republished 1778 as *The Old English Baron*). Execution of Dodd.
- 1778** Britain at war with France, which supports American independence. Attempts at conciliation of colonists fail. Repeal of some anti-Catholic measures in Britain. Frances Burney, *Evelina*.
- 1779** Spain joins war against Britain. Samuel Johnson begins *Lives of the Poets*. Cowper and Newton, *Olney Hymns*. Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The Critic*.
- 1780** Gordon Riots in London; widespread protest against liberation of Catholics.
- 1781** British defeat at Yorktown brings the American War of Independence to an end. Samuel Johnson completes *Lives of the Poets*.
- 1782** End of North ministry. British defeat French fleet at St. Lucia. Joseph Warton, *Essay on Pope*, part 2. Renewed controversy over Chatterton's Rowley poems. Frances Burney, *Cecilia*. Sancho, *Letters*.
- 1783** Treaty of Versailles recognizes American independence and restores some territory to France and Spain. Pitt the younger in power. Crabbe, *The Village*. Day, *The History of Sandford and Merton*. Macaulay, last volume of *History of England*. Beckford, *Dreams*, *Waking Thoughts and Incidents*. William Blake, *Poetical Sketches*.
- 1784** India Act regulates power of East India Company. First balloon flights. Methodist Church begins to secede from Church of England. Charlotte Smith, *Elegiac Sonnets* (first collection). Samuel Johnson dies.
- 1785** Boswell, *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*. Cowper, *The Task*. Reeve, *Progress of Romance*. Yearsley, *Poems*. Thomas Warton the younger becomes Poet Laureate on the death of Whitehead.

- 1786** Burns, *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*. Beckford, *Vathek*. Piozzi, *Anecdotes of the Late Samuel Johnson*.
- 1787** Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade founded. Hawkins, *Life of Samuel Johnson*.
- 1788** Colonization of Australia by British. Impeachment of Warren Hastings over administration of India. William Wilberforce's first motion to abolish the slave trade. Gibbon completes *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Charles Wesley dies. Lord Byron born.
- 1789** Fall of the Bastille begins the French Revolution. Blake, *Songs of Innocence, Book of Thel*. White, *Natural History of Selborne*. Thomas Warton the younger concludes *History of English Poetry*.
- 1790** Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. Blake, *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. Adam Smith dies. Henry James Pye becomes Poet Laureate on the death of Thomas Warton the younger.
- 1791** Boswell, *Life of Johnson*.

Introduction

Scope

Amongst the many conversations with Samuel Johnson recorded by James Boswell in his *Life of Johnson* (1791), this one, dated 18 September 1777, has a particular resonance for this volume:

We talked of a collection being made of all the English Poets who had published a volume of poems. Johnson told me “that a Mr. Coxeter, whom he knew, had gone the greatest length towards this; having collected, I think, about five hundred volumes of poets whose works were little known; but that upon his death Tom Osborne bought them, and they were dispersed, which he thought a pity, as it was curious to see any series complete; and in every volume of poems something good may be found.”

Earlier in the year, Johnson had signed a contract with a group of leading publishers to supply biographical and critical prefaces to a poetry series they were in the process of publishing; his part of this work is generally known now as *Lives of the Poets* (1779–81). Johnson’s series included only 52 poets, all male, mostly relatively familiar to a modern audience, beginning with Abraham Cowley (1618–67); it was, in commercial and critical terms, a kind of exercise in canon-formation. The project begun by the antiquary Thomas Coxeter (1689–1747) and dispersed by the hard-nosed book dealer and publisher Thomas Osborne (c.1704–1767), one of Johnson’s own former employers, was an attempt at a more comprehensive study of English poetic writing, taking as its cue the mere achievement of appearance in print.

We have been slightly more selective than this, not least because the *Encyclopedia* includes many more branches of writing than poetry. Nonetheless, the Coxeter idea represents a typically eighteenth-century conception of information-gathering within the dominant medium of print: where once it had been an aristocratic preserve, culturally confined to manuscript circulation and “scribal publication,” poetry now aspired (in most, but not all, cases) to the public domain of print. Having got there, it was easily supplanted by the next volume, and Coxeter was not alone in trying to preserve an archive of the apparently stable and durable but actually quite fugitive output of the publishing industry. Coxeter’s work was later partly recovered in the indefatigable researches of the printer and antiquary John Nichols, with whom Johnson worked quite closely on the *Lives of the Poets*. Johnson drew, additionally, on

earlier collective biographies such as *The Lives of the Poets of Great Britain and Ireland, to the Time of Dean Swift* (1753), compiled by one of his assistants, Robert Shiels, with editorial influence from Theophilus Cibber. Before that there was Giles Jacob's *The Poetical Register* (1719–20), a listing of English poets alive, dead, and, on occasion, fictional, promoted by the rogue bookseller Edmund Curll. It was an encyclopedic age, and it is appropriate to offer a modern encyclopedia of its writers, though the canon of inclusion is neither quite Johnson's literary-canonical selection nor Jacob's cheerful ragbag.

This *Encyclopedia* presents succinct accounts of the lives and careers of almost 500 British individuals active in the production of literature during the “long eighteenth century,” here presented as the period 1660 to 1789. Each entry contains basic biographical data: parentage, education, publications, death, and posthumous reputation. We have tended to produce accounts and narratives in chronological order, rather than in the more conventional discrete thematic sections, on the theory that this provides a clearer sense of how a writer's career developed in the public eye, that is, through the medium of print. In designating individuals we have used, where appropriate, aristocratic titles for headwords, so that Philip Dormer Stanhope appears as “Chesterfield, Philip Dormer Stanhope, fourth Earl of,” and Henry St. John as “Bolingbroke, Henry St. John, first Viscount.” The situation is more complex for married women, who normally changed their name at marriage and may thus be known by several names (Sarah Fyge can also be Sarah Egerton or Sarah Field); here we have chosen whatever seems to be common usage, inserting cross-references where there might be confusion. In addition to authors, we have included some 25 of the most prominent members of the book trade, because it is at this period that publishing becomes itself a matter of scrutiny for literature. Indeed, several of these individuals, such as Robert Dodsley, Edmund Curll, and Thomas Davies, normally thought of as publishers (or “booksellers” in eighteenth-century parlance), were also to some extent writers, just as one of the most prominent novelists, Samuel Richardson, started out as a printer and continued that business alongside his career as a writer. In addition to the biographical entries, some articles refer to collaborative ventures, mostly periodicals such as *The Spectator* and *The Gentleman's Magazine*, treated separately because they do not belong exclusively to individual authors.

The first aim of the *Encyclopedia* is to give reliable and accessible information about these individuals and texts. The second is to offer a kind of browsing sense of interconnection between writers, and indeed a sample of the collective variety of the period. Though we have not included any American writers, we have used “British” in a relatively full sense. Of the individuals listed here, more than 60 were either Scottish or had strong Scottish connections, over 30 were Irish or Anglo-Irish, and 10 were either born or lived in Wales. In some cases the connection is tenuous: many Scottish writers headed for London, carefully editing out “Scotticisms” of style and anglicizing their name (as with David Mallet), and many writers based in London were Irish only in the sense that they had been born or brought up there. But there were highly active centers of writing in Dublin and Edinburgh, and in Scotland there was a nationalistic revival of writing in Scots dialect and also in Gaelic. We have tried to give some sense of that range, alongside the growth of provincial and non-metropolitan culture in England.

Though traditionally canonical writers (Dryden, Defoe, Pope, Swift, Fielding, Richardson, Johnson) bulk heavily in the list, and especially in the timeline above, we have tried to include many figures once marginal who have emerged into prominence once more because of the widening of focus of eighteenth-century studies over the past two decades. Over 90 of the writers represented here are women, an indication of the greatly enhanced visibility of the female writer in the period, despite the limiting effects of differential education and sociological standing at the time. Twenty of the authors were aristocrats by birth or were ennobled during their careers: this includes several women writers, such as Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

and Anne Finch, Countess of Winchelsea. Ten of the men were knighted during their careers. On the other hand, about 20 of the writers included here have been claimed as laboring-class (though that is hardly a straightforward category, even in the eighteenth century); of these, about a third are women. Some of the names we have included may seem decidedly minor, and some may have been retained at the expense of others better known; nonetheless, if the *Encyclopedia* is not completely comprehensive, it is offered as to some extent representative. It would not have been difficult to offer a further 500 writers, since one of the features of the eighteenth-century marketplace of print was, as Coxeter and Johnson both knew, that it appeared to have become possible for more or less anyone who wanted to appear in print to do so, one way or another.

Most of the writers represented here fall reasonably easily into the category of what we would call “literary”: that is, they wrote plays, novels, or poems. We have included several writers who might more strictly be thought of as historians (Edward Gibbon) or philosophers (David Hartley, David Hume, George Berkeley). But these categories were much more fluid in the eighteenth century than now: histories of England were compiled by John Oldmixon, a poet and political journalist; by Hume; by Oliver Goldsmith (a “literary” writer); by Tobias Smollett (a novelist and journalist); and by Catherine Macaulay (a republican writer of independent means), amongst many others. Hume and Gibbon both ventured into literary and cultural criticism, and Smith was involved in various non-philosophical writing projects, including a biography of Hume and the publication of Scottish poetry. We have included many writers of what is often called the “Scottish Enlightenment,” that is, the series of philosophical and historical studies of the nature of humanity produced in Edinburgh and Glasgow during this period, because of such interactions. There is no directly corresponding “English Enlightenment,” though Gibbon might qualify, and Johnson’s encyclopedic interests, if not his tragic sense, have something of the same flavor. Nonetheless several of the English authors listed here spent a good deal of time studying at the newly founded British Museum; some were at once members of the Royal Society, the scientific body founded in 1662, and the Society of Antiquaries, instituted for what we might now call the study of archaeology in 1718: the divide between literature and other disciplines cannot be made watertight. While booksellers were beginning to categorize publications in terms of subject area (divinity, poetry, novels, history), writers themselves could easily straddle several categories, and we have chosen those that seem on balance closest to what is admittedly a retrospective characterization of “the literary.”

The chronological range is both arbitrarily sharp and necessarily vague. The oldest writer represented here is John Dryden, who was born in 1631, lived through the English Civil War, began publishing under the Interregnum, flourished under the patronage of the restored Charles II, was ousted at the “Glorious Revolution” of 1688, and spent his last years working as a commercial writer for the bookseller Jacob Tonson before dying in 1700. Dryden is one of several writers normally thought of as “Restoration” whom we have included here, especially those whose careers took them nearer to the verge of or into the historical eighteenth century, such as Aphra Behn, William Congreve, Sir George Etherege, George Farquhar, and William Wycherley. We have not tried to include all writers active after 1660, such as Cowley (who died in 1667) or John Milton (1671), as this would have stretched the term “eighteenth century” beyond its meaningful value. The year 1789 has been chosen as the other cut-off point for the conventional reason that the French Revolution was the most important historical event of the time and that writers could not but change their attitude to the world after that. We have included only writers whose career was firmly established before that date, omitting others whose stories belong more naturally with the history of Romanticism. So Charlotte Smith, who began publishing in 1784 and continued through to her death in 1806, is included, but William Blake, who published the relatively conventional *Poetical Sketches* in 1783, but whose definitive works

only began in 1789 and who carried on publishing to 1827, is not. George Crabbe and Henry James Pye are included, and Jane West, Erasmus Darwin, and William Sotheby excluded, on the same principles. Where one of the selected authors continued to write beyond the 1789 limit, we have continued our account of their career through to its natural end, however far into the nineteenth century that lies.

In the sections that follow we offer a contextual commentary on those historical and cultural issues and themes that recur repeatedly throughout the individual entries.

History, Politics, and Writing

The Restoration of Charles II and the French Revolution make convenient brackets for the period as they embody the biggest political debates of the time: the sovereignty of the king as against the sovereignty of parliament or “the people”; the meaning of political representation; and the rule of law. In the timeline above we present in sequence some of the main points of contention in that 130-year history; here it will be appropriate to summarize some of the key nodal points which define the kinds of involvement that writers had in political events.

The return of Charles II in 1660 certainly enhanced the possibilities for literary writers, since the theaters were once more open, with strong court patronage and new representational possibilities thanks to the replacement of boy actors with women. Many writers (Dryden, Wycherley, Etherege, Behn) benefited from the new dispensation. Nonetheless, as Charles aged, with no legitimate male heir from his marriage, political tensions sharpened in ways which forced writers to adopt a stance. Charles had re-established Anglican doctrine, or the Church of England, as the state religion, ejecting those Protestant ministers who refused to “conform” to Church of England rites as “Nonconformists” and making political life difficult for other “Dissenting” groups: Quakers, Baptists, Independents. At the other end of the religious spectrum stood the Roman Catholics, who were more tolerated under Charles (a crypto-Catholic himself) than they had been during the Interregnum. In the late 1670s certain pressure groups in parliament sought to exclude Charles’s openly Catholic brother James, his male heir, from the succession, and to settle the Duke of Monmouth, Charles’s illegitimate son, on the throne. At the same time the “Popish Plot,” supposedly a conspiracy by leading Catholics to murder Charles and install James on the throne, was “discovered” and used to drive the political agenda. The opposing groups became known as Whig and Tory, terms which resonate right through the period covered by this *Encyclopedia*. Tentatively (since the terms are hardly scientific), we might suggest that “Whig” suggests belief in the sovereignty of parliament rather than of the king; a basic adherence to the Church of England with some sympathy for Protestant dissenters; a distrust of Catholics and “absolute” styles of monarchical government; and a tendency to be committed to trade, finance, and the interests of the City of London as the source of national prosperity. “Tory” suggests the opposite values: the sovereignty of the king and necessity of obedience; adherence to the “high” Anglican elements within the Church of England and a warmer attitude towards Catholics; suspicion of the mercantile class; and hostility towards the semi-independent power of the City of London. Whig theory was often based on the “social contract” idea popularized by John Locke; Tory theory often cited Sir Robert Filmer’s *Patriarcha* (published 1680) for its defense of the “fatherly” power of kings.

These elements are all played out in major poems such as Dryden’s *Absalom and Achitophel*, written while the Whig leader the Earl of Shaftesbury was awaiting trial for treason over his involvement in the “Exclusion Crisis,” which also pervades the theater of the time, albeit normally under coded settings in ancient Rome or Greece. While in the short term the Tory side was in the ascendant, and James duly followed his brother as king in 1685, crushing the short-lived popular rebellion in favor of the Duke of Monmouth (in which Defoe, a dissenter, took

part), these tensions were exacerbated by James's autocratic style of ruling and in 1688 he was forced out in the so-called "Glorious Revolution," which once again polarized writers. Dryden was stripped of his court posts, which went to the Whig (and Protestant) Shadwell. William and Mary, as Protestant monarchs, were duly greeted by many loyal odes and other poems, but for the next 60 years the threat of a "Jacobite" (from Jacobus, or James) plot to restore the Stuart family was a given fact of political debate, with Whigs always ready to point the finger at Tories suspected of colluding with Jacobites in exile. Those who refused on grounds of conscience to swear the loyal oaths to William were known as "non-jurors," a problematic Tory group. Many of the writers included in this *Encyclopedia* were active in or sympathetic to the Jacobite cause.

Writers like Behn and Dryden stuck to their Tory guns, though Behn in fact scarcely outlived the revolution of 1688. Whig-inclined writers had a good deal of opportunity to celebrate the new dispensation, as print was increasingly used for the purpose of political image-making, and there was no shortage of loyal odes and pro-William pamphleteering. After William's death in 1702, Queen Anne, a Protestant member of the Stuart dynasty, ascended the throne, for a while offering something for both sides of the political divide to celebrate, especially during a run of military victories in the long-running War of Spanish Succession. But all Anne's children died in infancy, opening up once more the possibility of a Jacobite restoration, carefully guarded against by one Act of Parliament after another but still a real possibility. The four last years of Anne's reign were marked by renewed political polarization among writers, with Swift, Arbuthnot, and Pope supporting the Tory ministry of Robert Harley and Viscount Bolingbroke, against Whig writers such as Addison and Steele. These writers had been on good terms and had collaborated on various literary projects, but party lines were hardened and confirmed by events at the end of Anne's reign, especially the Tory efforts to bring to an end the war on terms regarded as a national betrayal by the Whig party.

At the death of Anne in 1714, the Protestant succession was confirmed (despite the short-lived successes of a Jacobite rising) in the shape of the Hanoverian monarchs, George I and his successors. This was a Protestant monarchy, largely Whig in sympathy, and the Tories remained in the wilderness for 40 years. Catholics such as Pope found themselves once more under suspicion and subject to punitive laws limiting their places of residence and their rights to hold and bequeath property. Others – including many of Pope's friends, it should be noted – prospered under a Whig dispensation: among these were Garth, Congreve, and Nicholas Rowe. The Whig character of government was accentuated under the administration of Sir Robert Walpole, the "prime minister" (not actually his official title), who secured power during the aftermath of a major stock market crash, the South Sea Bubble (1720) and the ensuing panic about a new Jacobite plot led by Francis Atterbury. Walpole's ministry was associated with vehement resistance to Jacobitism, enforcement of anti-Catholic regulations, consolidation of power in the City of London, and (according to its opponents), management by bribery, coercion, careful use of political favors, and general "corruption." Among the many writers who from the beginning defined themselves in opposition to Walpole were Bolingbroke, Swift, Pope, Gay, Fielding, and the young Samuel Johnson; on the other side were ranged Colley Cibber, Oldmixon, Welsted, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Lord Hervey, and a host of minor writers seeking a "place" or government sinecure. As Walpole's reign wore on, several discontented Whigs of high social standing (Chesterfield and Lyttelton, in particular) formed a new opposition with Frederick, Prince of Wales, as a figurehead. Pope was again courted by this group, which also had James Thomson, Mallet, and Richard Glover among its chief writers.

Walpole eventually resigned in 1742. The Jacobite threat once more broke out in 1745 and was once more crushed, this time with brutal comprehensiveness, in 1746. There was no figure to rival Walpole's dominance of the political scene for the rest of the period, and various short-term ministries continued to manage the imperial wars to which Britain

was increasingly committed. However, government policy continued to generate literary opposition, especially during the early 1760s under the Scottish minister Lord Bute, when the group of poets around the rebel MP John Wilkes once more resumed the cry of “Liberty,” albeit under opposite circumstances. Samuel Johnson, a Tory who had received a state pension from Bute in 1763, wrote significant anti-Wilkes pamphlets, and also supported government policy on taxation and representation in the American colonies. This was another issue on which Whig and Tory groups became increasingly at odds as tensions led to war and finally to independence for America. Britain’s role in the government of India, and, perhaps most significantly, its involvement in the slave trade, also drew extensive comment from writers such as Hannah More, Richard Brinsley Sheridan (himself later a Member of Parliament), and William Cowper. These issues, concerning as they do fundamental human rights, were absorbed into the political discussions which erupted around the final major event of our period, the French Revolution. That was an event more fully represented in the body of writing known as Romanticism, but several of the writers included in this *Encyclopedia* (Charlotte Smith, Burke, Helen Maria Williams) commented directly or indirectly, on the radical or conservative side, on events as they were played out.

Political writing carried major risks. In 1662 the government passed a Licensing Act, which required any book presented for publication to be “licensed” before it was published by an appointed officer, in effect imposing pre-publication censorship. Various versions of this measure were re-enacted until 1695, when the system finally lapsed, leaving censorship to post-publication prosecution on grounds of blasphemy, obscenity, or the political offense of “seditious libel.” A form of licensing returned in 1737 when Walpole’s government enacted that plays (which had become increasingly a vehicle for political comment) had to be passed by a censor before performance. Writers commonly adopted codes and allegories to circumvent prosecution; Pope somehow managed to avoid arrest and the penalties generated by Swift’s work often fell on the printers rather than on Swift himself. Nonetheless many writers fell foul of these provisions, and several were subjected to a spell in the pillory, an old-fashioned but potentially fatal punishment. Among these were Defoe, a dissenter who had impersonated a high Tory persecutor of dissenters in ways which political readings could not successfully decode; Ned Ward, a Tory whose outspokenness was punished in this way in 1706; Edmund Curll, a bookseller whose ostensible Whig credentials often covered some surprising Jacobite connections; and John Shebbeare, one of the last men to be pilloried for political libel, in 1758. Smollett was fined and imprisoned for a personal libel and Wilkes, his bitter political opponent, was outlawed for a libel against the king.

The Publishing Industry and the Profession of Letters

With the exception of the university presses of Oxford and Cambridge, which brought out mainly approved academic works, publishing was not carried out by large companies but by individual “booksellers,” sometimes acting in small-scale partnerships with other booksellers, sometimes in large-scale groups known as “congers” for particular projects such as Johnson’s *Dictionary* and *Lives of the Poets*. Booksellers were normally apprenticed under the aegis of the Stationers’ Company, one of the ancient trade guilds, and their activities (and copyrights) were regulated by that organization. As the period went on, however, there was something of a shift towards a less regulated and more openly commercial market in books, partly driven by the absence of pre-publication censorship, which removed one block on publication. Booksellers would in general buy a manuscript from the author for a one-off fee: royalty agreements were very rare, though not completely unknown. The book trade was dominated by those who could accumulate the most lucrative copyrights, since

the booksellers tended to regard themselves as perpetual owners of any copyright they had bought; Tonson's fortune was founded as much on Shakespeare and Milton as it was on Dryden. The so-called "Copyright Act" of 1709 (in force 1710) actually protected the rights of authors, rather than booksellers, for an initial period of 14 years, but the booksellers proceeded as if all new copyrights that they had bought were still perpetual. This led to a number of increasingly high-profile legal challenges, eventually resolved in the House of Lords in 1774, where copyright was ruled to be limited to statutory terms rather than perpetual. Nonetheless, the copyright debate focused attention sharply on literary property and financial reward.

The eighteenth century is often presented as the period in which writing was professionalized and commercialized, and there is clearly some truth in this. The reopening of the theaters afforded writers the opportunity to engage in the one traditional arena of commercial writing, that is, for the stage. The normal expectation was that if a play lasted until the third night (runs being generally very much shorter then than now), then that third night, and every third night thereafter, would be a benefit night in which the bulk of the profits went to the writer. In addition, it was much more common after the Restoration than it had been before to raise additional funds by selling the copyright of the playtext to a bookseller such as Tonson, and perhaps by dedicating the play to an aristocratic patron who might give the author a few guineas for the privilege of having his or her virtues trumpeted in public. On the other hand, plays were increasingly accompanied by prologues and epilogues provided by other writers, sometimes for mere publicity and sometimes for a fee: Southerne told Pope that Dryden charged 4 guineas a time (and sometimes more). There was, therefore, a mixed economy, involving traditional aristocratic patronage, a fee-paying public, and individual agreements between a writer and a bookseller.

Patronage also frequently extended to the production of volumes of poetry, which were often fronted by a noble name. Across the period as a whole, there was some observable shift in the role of patronage. Under Charles, aristocratic authors such as the Earl of Rochester wrote voluminously but did not publish, preferring the form of scribal circulation within a privileged, limited elite and away from the contaminating popularity of print. Patronage of commercial (non-aristocratic) authors was a way of keeping the divide in place. In the later eighteenth century, while there were still many aristocratic authors in practice, most of them were happy to enter the world of print (even if, in Horace Walpole's case, they set up their own private press). Patronage had become much less straightforward by 1789. Pope and Swift did not dedicate work to noble writers, and Pope dismissed the whole culture of patronage in the "Bufo" section of the *Epistle to Dr Arbuthnot* (1735). Samuel Johnson, who famously rejected the Earl of Chesterfield's belated attempts to patronize his *Dictionary*, saw no reason whatever to be polite to high-ranking authors in his *Lives of the Poets*. Patronage became more obviously of use when writers had no other recourse: the case of working-class writers such as Stephen Duck and Ann Yearsley, who were on the poverty line as manual laborers, shows how patronage moved towards the bottom end of the market.

In this *Encyclopedia*, by the accident of alphabetic proximity, John Frederick Bryant, a Bristol pipe-maker who published one slim volume of poems in 1787, rubs shoulders with John Sheffield, Duke of Buckinghamshire, a relic of the Restoration cult of the nobleman author. Sheffield was a patron of writers such as Dryden and Pope, and Bryant could not have published without the support of several aristocratic and gentry patrons; the worlds of 1688 and 1789 are not entirely discontinuous, but they nonetheless represent, in biographical terms, a fairly extreme contrast. The system known as subscription publishing, which was a sort of mutation of patronage, also radically shifted focus over the period. It was pioneered in the late seventeenth century by Tonson, for example in his 1688 edition of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and it was originally designed as a pre-publication payment in order

to offset the costs of large-scale works, especially those that required illustrations or other high-cost printing work. This form continued throughout the period, with such landmark deals as Pope's enormously lucrative translation of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* for Bernard Lintot. This was the foundation of Pope's economic and literary independence, and there were several high-profile campaigns of this kind. Lists of subscribers showed off one's participation in this form of dispersed patronage, and such lists were often headed by royalty, or by the highest-ranking aristocrats or clergy. It was possible to hedge bets, Dryden dedicating the several parts of his *Works of Virgil* (1697) to different noblemen, even though it was also a lavish subscription (and, indeed, commercial) venture. But increasingly through the century subscription publishing also allowed laboring-class writers who had gained some kind of local celebrity a means to get a volume into print: this was often the case with women writers such as Mary Collier, Mary Leapor, and Ann Yearsley, and was in part effectively a form of charity.

Dryden wrote for the commercial theater, and, especially after he was deprived of his court posts after 1688, also represented the new arrangements: the contract for his last venture with Tonson, the *Fables* of 1700, specifies a fee of 250 guineas for 10,000 verses: the leading publisher of the day paid the leading author sixpence a line. The great majority of literary contracts that survive are in something like this format, though Dryden could command a much greater fee than most. It was therefore possible, in theory, for writers to earn a living by selling work direct to an individual publisher. Additionally, the eighteenth century saw a great increase in the number of newspapers, periodicals, and literary reviews, all of which required writers and editors, greatly enhancing the opportunity to pursue writing as a career. Other new genres such as the novel and travel-writing relied much less on traditional forms of patronage and sponsorship and were much closer to pure commercialism: many of the most lucrative publishing deals involved novels. The new commercial or "circulating" libraries of the latter part of the period also enhanced the market for literature, especially for fiction. The path from aristocratic coterie circulation into the world of print was also smoothed by the advent of a series of *Miscellanies*, such as those published by Tonson with Dryden as editor, or the multi-volume *Collection of Poems* edited by Shenstone for Dodsley; these allowed writers to remain anonymous but to cut their teeth in the world of print.

Nonetheless, in practice, living by the pen was much more difficult than the commercial situation suggests, and also, in most cases, a lot less necessary. Between the extremes of inherited wealth (the aristocratic writer who finances his own publications) and daily labor (the servant or thresher whose supporters organize a subscription) lie the great majority of eighteenth-century writers. Most of the male members of this class had a conventional classical education of one sort or another, at a grammar school or (in many cases) a public school such as Westminster School or Eton College, followed by one of the two universities then existing in England, that is, Oxford and Cambridge. Scottish writers had a greater choice, there being universities at Edinburgh, Glasgow, St. Andrews, and Aberdeen; Trinity College Dublin supplied the function for Ireland (there were no Welsh universities at the time). Among those who did not conform to the Church of England (or of Scotland), some set up their own training schools, such as the famous academy for Dissenters at Warrington. After university, many of these writers headed for professions other than writing. Many writers enrolled at one of the Inns of Court in London, with at least a notional view to the study of law; many others took holy orders, or trained as doctors.

Most of the people who published anything in the eighteenth century were not fully "professional" writers at all. Even Pope had some private means to start with and founded his stance of independence on two major subscription deals. Samuel Johnson, who arrived in London with almost nothing except a half-finished tragedy, did scrape a living from print, famously announcing that the bookseller Robert Dodsley was his patron: he was