

The Rise of the Novel in England

The Great Augustans



Jonathan Swift 1667-1745

Augustan Age

- **HISTORICAL SETTING**
- **LIFE**
- **STYLE:** Satire
- **WORKS**

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Historical Setting

STUART

- Charles II (1660-1685) → Restoration
- James II (1685-1688)
- William (1689-1702) and Mary (1689-1694)
- Anne (1702-1714)

HANOVER

- George I (1714-1727)
- George II (1727-1760)

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Life

- 1) Born in Dublin (of English parents) - **1667**
- 2) Education: Trinity College
- 3) Secretary to Sir William Temple
- 4) Entered the Anglican Church
- 5) He supervised the education of Esther Johnson -----> Stella
- 6) Political struggle
- 7) Journalist -----> The Examiner
- 8) Esther Vanhomrigh in love with him, but he didn't return her love -----> Vanessa
- 9) He died insane - **1745**

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Style: SATIRE

- a) The greatest English satirist (mainly concerned about Irish/English relationship)
- b) The greatest pamphlet-writer, brilliant polemist with sense of humour
- c) Transgressive, sarcastic -while he seems to embrace the **standard Augustan values**-
- d) He desires to encourage people to read deeper
- e) Political writer: he focuses on the ironies of the English Government.
- f) Moralist (devouted churchman): he defends virtue and commonsense against vices and follies of mankind; he has a negative opinion of mankind because even if in this period reason was so important, he thinks that man is moved in his actions by his instincts.

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Style:

- g) Philosophic inquiry on man's real nature, made of brutality and pride (Gulliver discovers different realities and realizes the limits of man's certainties).
- h) With a subtle and comic style he makes a parody of the genre of the travel account obtaining a novel enriched by social and philosophic issues.
- i) Disguises his satire under a fable or a fiction.
- J) style = **clear, precise, incisive, sharp.**

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Works - 1

- **A TALE OF A TUB (1704):**
A prose satire that describes allegorically the failings of the Protestant, Catholic and Presbyterian Churches, represented respectively by the three brothers Peter, Martin and Jack.
- **A MODEST PROPOSAL (1729):**
against British injustice in Ireland and inspired by the Irish dreadful conditions due to famine and starvation; the "climax" of the pamphlet lies in the macabre proposal of producing babies for the meat market and selling them as food.

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Works - 2

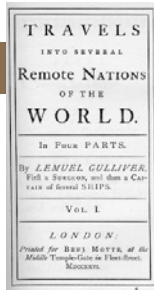
• GULLIVER'S TRAVELS (1726)

- * 1st book - **Lilliput** --> **dwarfs** (helps them in their war against the island of Blefuscu)
- * 2nd book - **Brobdingnag** --> **giants** (They use him as a toy)
- * 3rd book - **Laputa** --> **floating island** (philosophers and scientists) Glubdubdrib --> (great historical figures of the past) Luggnugg --> an island (unhappy immortal people)
- * 4th book - **Houyhnhnms** (intelligent horses served by filthy disgusting beasts in the shape of men called Yahoos).

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Works - 3

• GULLIVER'S TRAVELS: FEATURES

- > mixing of fantastic and real
- > careful attention to details
- > first person narration
- > different interpretations:
 - children's story
 - philosophical tale
 - an extended metaphor

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Works – Text 1 p. 155 (From Book 4)

• GULLIVER'S FIRST ENCOUNTER:

--> He sees several singular animals whose appearance disgusts and frightens him.

• GULLIVER'S SECOND ENCOUNTER:

--> He meets two horses and is pleasantly struck by their civility and tries to communicate with them thinking they are human beings, perhaps magicians in disguise.

• GULLIVER regards the **Yahoos** with **aversion** and regards the **Houyhnhnms** with **admiration**. The description emphasises the ugliness of the former and the civilised nature of the latter.

• The point of view is restricted to what Gulliver sees and feels.

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La canzone

GULLIVER

di Francesco Guccini e Gianpiero Aloisio

è cantata da

Francesco Guccini



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