

- **DEFINITION**
- **GENERAL FEATURES**
- **LITERARY STYLE**
- **THE RISE of the NOVEL**
- **MAIN AUTHORS**

The AUGUSTAN AGE

1688 — James II is removed from the throne:Glorious Revolution

1776 — America declared its independence from England

What is an Augustan Age?

- A period which is considered the most important and productive for the high forms of literary expression it produces.
Every national Literature has its "Augustan Age":
Corneille, Racine, Molière in France;
in the Roman Empire: Virgil, Ovid, Horace.
The name Augustan derives from Emperor Augustus.

Features

- The period reflects the English social changes about
 - economy
 - culture
 - literature

The main features are:

- **RELATION WITH NATURE:** The Augustan writers followed nature and its laws, they represented the world and the individual characteristic of man; nature and reality could be known through individual experience and senses.

IDEALS OF

- **- HARMONY** - a way of life, man's behaviour among other people and in relation with God
- **- BEAUTY** - idea of perfection and simplicity, based on the Neo classical ideals of shape and elegance
- **- ORDER** - stability and balance; reason and common sense prevailed over emotions.

and is characterised by:

- - **development of the poetry:** irony, satire and meditation lead to a breach with the metaphysical tradition;
- - **rise of the novel:** it became the most important literary expression of the bourgeoisie and middle class;
- - **pamphlets and periodicals.**

Literary Style

- **SWIFT**
- **DEFOE**
- **RICHARDSON**
- **FIELDING**

In prose:

- - Clarity and simplicity of expression
- - Ordinary people represented with formal realism: people, places and objects were described in detail

In poetry:

- - Use of poetic diction = presence of uncommon and learned words
- - very frequent use of inversion and personification
- - Latinized construction and vocabulary
- - frequent and often exaggerated use of apostrophe.

Two important consequences:

- 1- The great popularity of the novel
- 2- The Romantic Writers' refusal of the Augustan poetic style.

The Rise of the Novel

- The novel, as an independent genre, was born at the beginning of the 18th century. Many reasons contributed to the rise of the English novel; the two most important ones are:
- - the improvement in printing technology, which made publishing cheaper and faster; so there was a great diffusion of newspapers and periodicals. They were very popular and they were read by the upper and the middle classes.
- - The increase in the number of the middle class people who could read and write due to the expansion of the education; reading soon became a new form of entertainment.

Main Authors

The Great Augustans

Jonathan SWIFT

STEEL and ADDISON

The Rise of the Novel

Daniel DEFOE

Samuel RICHARDSON

Henry FIELDING

Johann Sebastian BACH –
1685-1750
Antonio VIVALDI –
(Venezia) 1678-
(Vienna) 1741
Georg Fredrick HÄNDEL –
1685-1759

He became highly successful only in 1741, when his oratorio "The Messiah" was a triumph in LONDON.