

# Restoration Period

In 1660 Charles II ascended to the throne of England. This event is called restoration and the period (1660-1700) which followed is known as Restoration age. The English monarchy was finally restored after a hiatus of 11 years when England was ruled by the parliament with puritan leader Oliver Cromwell at the helm.

## Literary characteristics of the period

The romanticism of Elizabethans was replaced by the spirit of classicism. The writers of the period turned to classical writers for guidance and inspiration. This habit, quite noticeable during the time of Dryden, deepened and hardened during the succeeding era of Pope. The classical ruled of moderation, strict care and accuracy in poetical technique, avoidance of enthusiasm were followed in letter and spirit. The period also saw new admiration for French literature as King Charles II had spent his formative years in France during his exile. The French influence was quite noticeable in the drama, particularly the comedy of this period. The influence of french comedy exponent Moliere was remarkable in the comedy produced during this period. The succeeding period of Pope looked at restoration as an age of excess and licentiousness. Two genres of comedy emerged in this period: the comedy of manners and heroic plays. The period also noted the rise of satirical poetry. John Dryden, Samuel Butler, Abraham Cowley, John Bunyan were the major literary figures of the restoration period. However, John Dryden dominated the period so much so that historians have also called this period, the age of John Dryden.

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