

WELCOME

THE AGE OF JOHNSON (1745-1798)


VERSE



MOVEMENT FROM OLD TO NEW:

- ⊠ The later eighteenth century poetry witnessed a struggle between old and new and of the gradual success of the new.
- ⊠ On the one hand there were writers who followed the “AUGUSTAN” tradition, the kind of verse which “POPE” had brought to perfection and made popular.
- ⊠ They began to seek fresh subjects ,fresh forms and fresh modes of feelings and expression.

AN AGE OF TRANSITION:

- ❖ Emotion, passion and imagination invaded poetry to the destruction of its dry intellectuality and old narrow didactic principles were discarded.
 - ❖ Poetry ceased to concern itself exclusively with the 'town' and began to deal with nature and rustic life, the sense of the picturesque.
 - ❖ The romantic spirit revived and brought changes in the themes and temper of verse.
 - ❖ The supremacy of the closed couplet was attacked and other forms of verse used in its place.
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THE CO-EXISTENCE OF DOUBLE TENDENCY:

- The older order of classicism was represented by 'Dr. Samuel Johnson' that we find in his two chief poems "LONDON" and "THE VANITY OF HUMAN WISHES".
- The new order of Romanticism was represented by GOLDSMITH, JAMES THOMPSON, GRAY, COLLINS and many others.
- ROBERT BURNS and WILLIAM BLAKE , who completely discarded the classical tradition and became the poetical forebears of the Era of Romanticism.

Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON (1709 – 1784)



Essential works of Dr. Johnson:



L O N D O N :

A

P O E M,

IN IMITATION of the

THIRD SATIRE of *JUVENAL*.

FHO' Grief and Fondness in my Breast
rebel,
When injur'd THALES bids the Town
farewell,

Yet still my calmer Thoughts his Choice commend,
I praise the Hermit, but regret the Friend,
Who now resolves, from Vice and LONDON far,
To breathe in distant Fields a purer Air,
And, fix'd on CAMBRIA'S solitary Shore,
Give to St DAVID one true Briton more.

JUV. SAT. 3.

*Spamis Digressu veteris confusus Amici ;
Laudis, tamen, vacuis quod sedem figere Cumis
Definet, atq; unum Civem donare Sibyllæ.*

B

For

THE
VANITY
OF
HUMAN WISHES.

THE

Tenth Satire of *Juvenal*,

IMITATED

By *SAMUEL JOHNSON*.



L O N D O N :

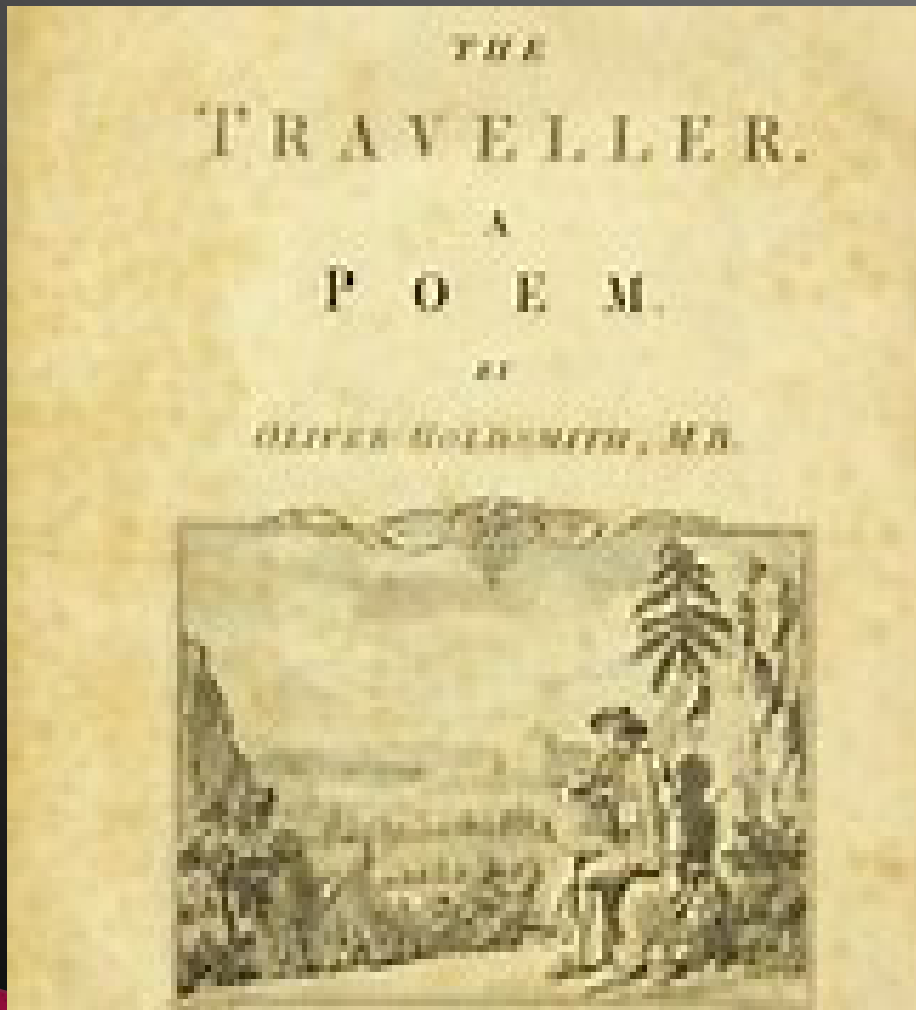
Printed for R. DODSLEY at Tully's Head in Pall-Mall,
and Sold by M. COOPER in Pater-noster Row.

MDCCLXXIX.

Dr. Johnson, a neoclassical poet:

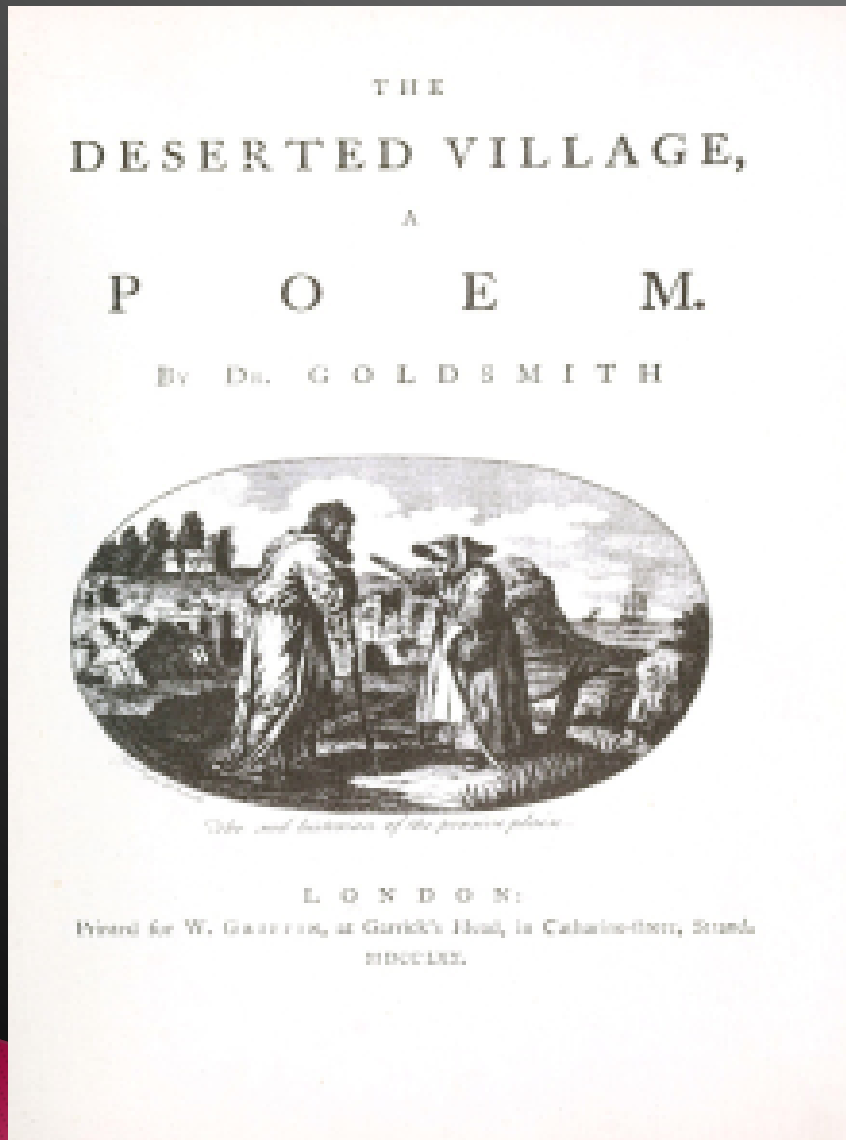
- Johnson's two poems 'LONDON' and 'THE VANITY OF HUMAN WISHES' belong entirely to the neoclassical school of poetry.
- Both are written in the heroic couplet and abound in personification that belonged to the poetic diction of 'AGE OF POPE'.
- 'LONDON' : a poem, in Imitation of the Third Satire of Juvenal , was published anonymously in May 1738.
- London is good, but is easily surpassed by 'THE VANITY OF HUMAN WISHES' published in 1749 with the name of Johnson.

GOLDSMITH 'S POETRY:



- Oliver Goldsmith first poem , The Traveller (1764) is written in the heroic couplet .
- The poem contains a series of descriptions and criticisms of place and people .
- The poem reveals human sympathy for the sufferings of the poor where 'laws grind the poor and rich men make the laws.

THE DESERTED VILLAGE:



- The poem 'The Deserted Village' (1770), his finest work in verse.
- The poem evokes the idyllic pastoral life of a village, 'loveliest village of the plain', in its days of prosperous peace now over.
- The poet laments the growth of trade, the demand for luxuries and the mercantile spirit.

Thomas Gray (1716-1771)- His early life :

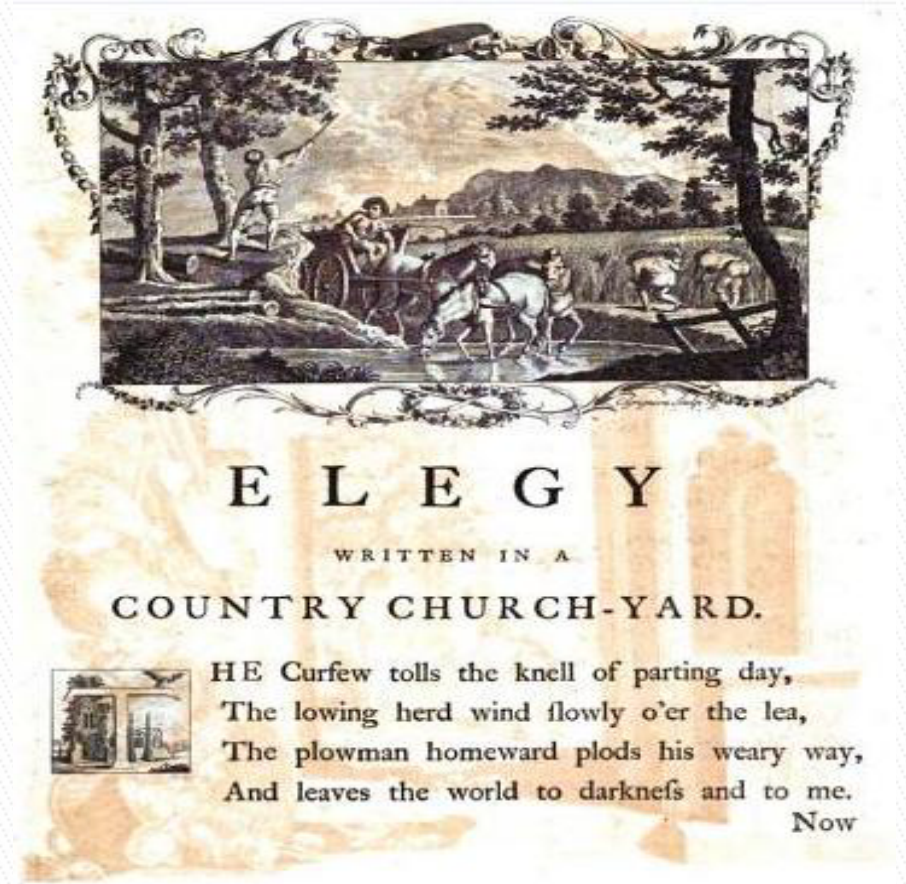


- ❖ Thomas was born in 1716 in London .
- ❖ Gray went first to Eton and then to Cambridge .
- ❖ At Eton his two friends were 'Horace Walpole' and 'Richard West'.
- ❖ Gray was a man of strong, sincere and independent character.

Gray 's Works:



The Bard



Elegy Written In A Country
Church Yard

“Sonnet on the death of Richard West” by Thomas Gray

Sonnet on the Death of Mr Richard West

In vain to me the smiling mornings shine,
And redd'ning Phoebus lifts his golden fire:
The birds in vain their amorous descant join;
Or cheerful fields resume their green attire:
These ears, alas! for other notes repine,
A different object do these eyes require:
My lonely anguish melts no heart but mine;
And in my breast the imperfect joys expire.

Yet morning smiles the busy race to cheer,
And new-born pleasure brings to happier men:
The fields to all their wonted tribute bear;
To warm their little loves the birds complain:
I fruitless mourn to him that cannot hear,
And weep the more, because I weep in vain.

Thomas Gray

Robert Burns:



- His 'poems chiefly in the scottish dialect' (1786) makes an epoch in the history of English Literature.
- 'To A Mouse', 'To A Mountain Daisy', 'Man was Made to Mourn', 'The Twa Dogs', 'Halloween', suggest the whole spirit of the romantic revival in Burns.
- Love, pathos, the response to nature, all these qualities that touched the human heart.
- Burns, no doubt is the poet of common men.

Notable poets in “The Age Of Johnson” :



WILLIAM COWPER
(1731-1800)



CHRISTOPHER SMART
(1722-1771)

Contributors to 'The Development of Naturalism' :



WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827)



GEORGE CRABBE (1754-1832)

Contributors to 'The Growth Of The Love Of Nature 18th Century Poetry:



THOMAS PARNELL
(1679-1718)



JAMES BEATTIE (1735-1803)

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- ❖ Emotion ,passion and imagination invaded poetry to the destruction of its dry intellectuality and the old narrow didactic principles were discarded.
- ❖ Poetry ceased to concern itself exclusively with 'town' and began to deal with the nature and rustic life.
- ❖ The romantic spirit revived and this revival brought with it great, changes in the themes and temper of verse.
- ❖ Efforts were now made to break away from the stereotyped conventions 'poetic diction'.
- ❖ The supremacy of the closed couplet was attacked and other forms of verse used in its place.

PRESENTED

BY:

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&

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THANK YOU

