

# RESTORATION PROSE



# SUCCESS

The ladder of success is best  
climbed by stepping on the rungs  
of opportunity.

-Ayn Rand



# INTRODUCTION

*The achievement of the restoration prose is more praiseworthy. In fact, the prose of this period marks the real beginning of modern prose. There was a generation reaction against the swelling prose style of Milton & Browne & Bacon. Social changes, literary changes, the growth of science, rise of journalism and the influence of French causes contributed to the rise of prose.*

# Eminent Prose Writers

## John Dryden (1631-1700)

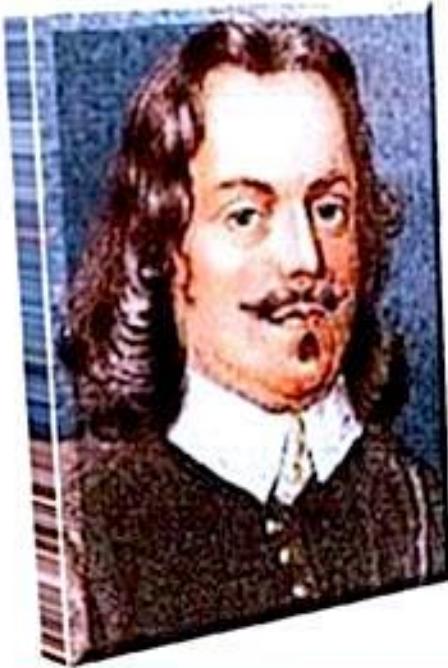


Dryden was a representative poet of his age. He was not only its greatest poet, but also its greatest prose writer and its greatest dramatist. This rare combination of gifts makes him a unique literary figure in English literature. As a poet Dryden is the typical representative of his age. His poetry embodies both the merits and demerits of his age. He excels as an exponent of intellectual and satirical poetry. As a satirist in verse Dryden stands very high in the seventeenth century. He is one of the most vigorous and polished English satirists. He is an exceptionally correct and dignified poetic craftsman. He was a master of select and polished diction.

### His Works

1. ESSAY ON DRAMATIC POETRY : is in the form of a dialogue between four friends including Dryden himself.
2. THE PREFACE TO THE FABLES : another delightful essay.

## John Bunyan (1632-1704)



He occupies an important position in the evoke of English prose fiction. Bunyan was a voluminous writer, having produced as many as sixty books. During the Restoration period Bunyan alone contents the supremacy of Dryden as a prose. He stands in a class by himself.

### His Prose Works

1. **Grace Abounding** : **religious autobiography**
2. **The Pilgrims Progress part I** (1675)
3. **The Life and Death of Mr. Badman** : **a curious little story**
4. **The Holy War** : **it is an allegory**
5. **The Pilgrim Progress part II** (1684)

## Sir William Temple (1628-1699)

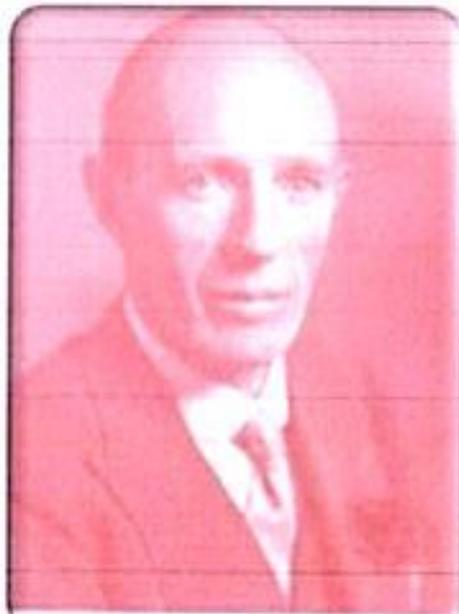


He was a diplomat as well as a scholar who has left some charming essays. He wrote personal essays. Temple's style deserves mention for its mundane, cultured reticence, but at times he could also skillfully write melodious and rhythmic prose.

### His works

1. Essays on Poetry
2. Letters
3. Memoirs
4. Miscellanea

## Lord Halifax (1633-1695)

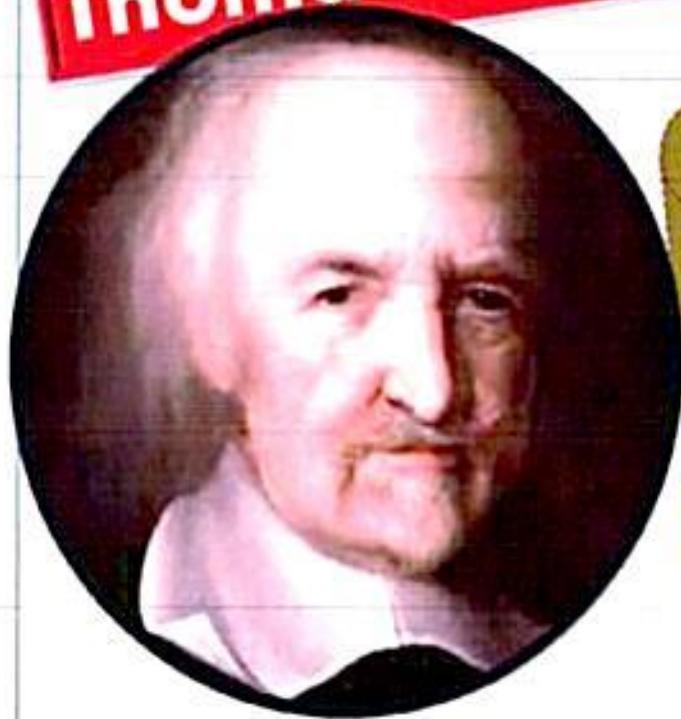


Halifax, an outstanding figure in the House of Lords, was an eminent orator and writer of political tracts. His style is simple and straightforward. He avoids all flourishes of style.

### His Prose Works

1. **Character of a Trimmer** : entitled "Advice to a Daughter"
2. **Miscellanies** : contains a number of political tracts.

# Thomas Hobbes

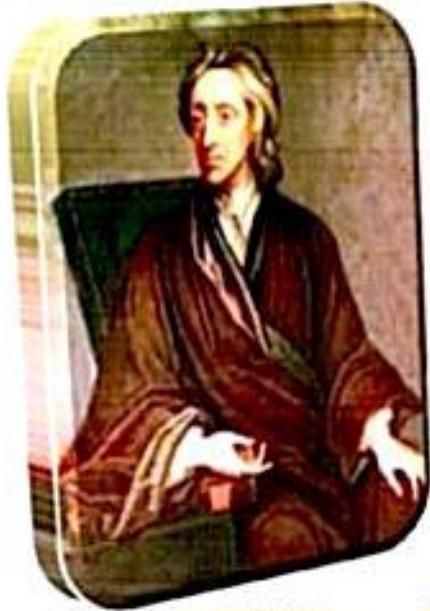


Hobbes, a great political thinker, opposed the Divine Right Theory. He is before Dryden the first of all our prose writers whose style may be said to be uniform and correct, and adopted carefully to the subject on which he wrote.

## His Work

1. **Leviathan** (1651)

## Sir John Locke (1632-1704)



Locke was also a great political thinker. He followed the doctrines of Hobbes.

### His Works

1. On Civil Government
2. Essay Concerning the Human Understanding

# John Tillston (1630-1694)



He was a popular preacher of the time, and his Sermons is mentioned by Addison as being a standered work of its class. His style is remarkable for crispness and clarity.

## His Works

### 1. Sermons

## The Diarists

### SAMUEL PEPY'S (1633-1703)



He is the most famous diarist of the period. His 'diary' begins 1<sup>st</sup> January 1660 and continues until 31<sup>st</sup> May 1669. The frankness with which it records every minute detail of the author's diary is simply outstanding.

### JOHN EVELYN (1620-1706)



He wrote extensively on gardening, agriculturing, forestry, architecture etc. But he is remembered chiefly by his "Diary". It covers almost the whole of his life & is a valuable document of social events of the time.

# Roger North



A Tory gentleman, belonged to a great family that played an important role in the history and politics of the time. He owes his assured place here to his excellent lives of his three 'Kinsmen & an Autobiography' , now collected under general title of "North's Live's Of The North".

## CONCLUSION

The Restoration marks the beginning of modern prose. It was an age of intellectualism and rationalism, the qualities which are essential for prose. We already found the writers like Dryden, Bunyan, Temple, Hobbes, Locke, The Diarists etc. They gave a great contribution to English literature.





**THANK  
YOU**

**ANY**

**QUESTIONS**