

*M.G.V.C*

*ARTS, SCIENCE & COMMERCE*

*COLLEGE*

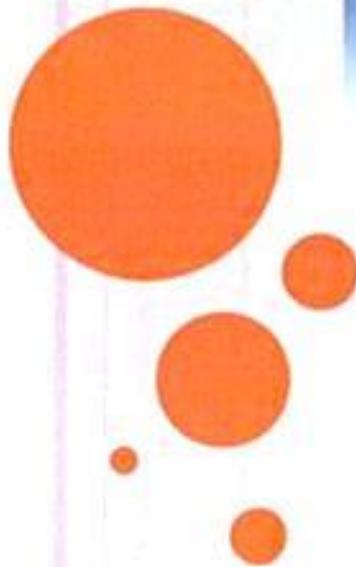
*MUDDEBIHAL*

*SEMINAR TOPIC: UNIVERSITY*

*WITS BY F. NAIKODE*

**UNIVERSITY WITS**

**(1568-1625)**



# Introduction

There was little development in pre-Shakespearean drama. The period following the production of *Gorboduc* was a period of great confusion in English drama. The development of drama during the age of Shakespeare was greatly influenced by the establishment of private and the public theatres towards the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Dramatic activity was in full swing, the number of audience increased day by day, then the idea of establishing permanent theatres took shape.

The writers of this group were University men's, they were also known as University Wits. They are John Lyly, Robert Greene, Thomas Kyd, Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Nash, George Peele, Thomas Lodge, they were the real founders of the Elizabethan drama.

## John Lyly (1554-1606)



*John Lyly*

The leader of the "University wits" was Lyly. His education was classical and he selected classical themes and stories for his plays. Lyly wrote for private theatres. Lyly was essentially a court dramatist. He gave shape to romantic comedy. He found contemporary comedy lacking in form and atmosphere. He did not completely reject the classical pattern.

### His Plays

- ❖ *Alexander and campaspe and Diogenes (1584):* Excellent comedy.
- ❖ *Shapho and Phao (1584)*
- ❖ *The Man in the Moon(1588)*
- ❖ *Midas(1589)*
- ❖ *The Woman in the Moon(1597)*
- ❖ *Love's Metamorphosis(1590)*
- ❖ *Mother Bombie (1590)*

## Thomas Kyd (1558-1594)



He made a real contribution to the development of the drama. His works shows advance in the construction of plot and development of character. Kyd succeeded in producing dialogue that is forceful and capable. He contributed a new type of tragic hero to the stage. He brought the revenge theme to the stage.

### His Drama

❖ *The Spanish Tragedy*(1585): Is a landmark in English tragedy.



## Robert Greene (1558-1592)



He was another University Wit of the Elizabethan age. He didn't contribute more dramas. Greene paid a great attention to construction of plot. He was the master of plot construction. His contribution to the drama is portrayal of woman characters especially of romantic heroines.

### His Major Works

- ❖ *The King Aragon(1587): the comical history.*
- ❖ *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay (1589).*
- ❖ *The Scottish History of James fourth (1591).*



## George Peele [1557-1596]

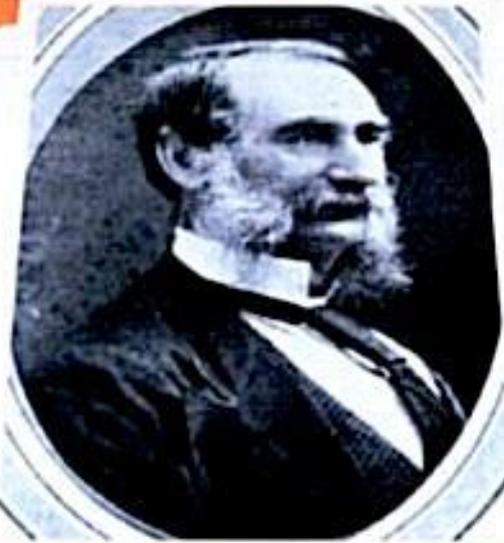


He was another University Wit of the Elizabethan age. He widened the range of English drama by writing a romantic tragedy, a chronicle history, a kind of mystery play and a romantic literature. As a humorist he showed the way to Shakespeare.

### Peele's Dramas

- ❖ *The Arraignment of Paris (1581)*
- ❖ *The Battle of Alcazar (1594)*
- ❖ *The Famous Chronicle of King Edward the First.*
- ❖ *The Love of King David*
- ❖ *Fair Bathsabe*
- ❖ *The Old Wives' Tale (1595)*

## Thomas Lodge (1558-1625)

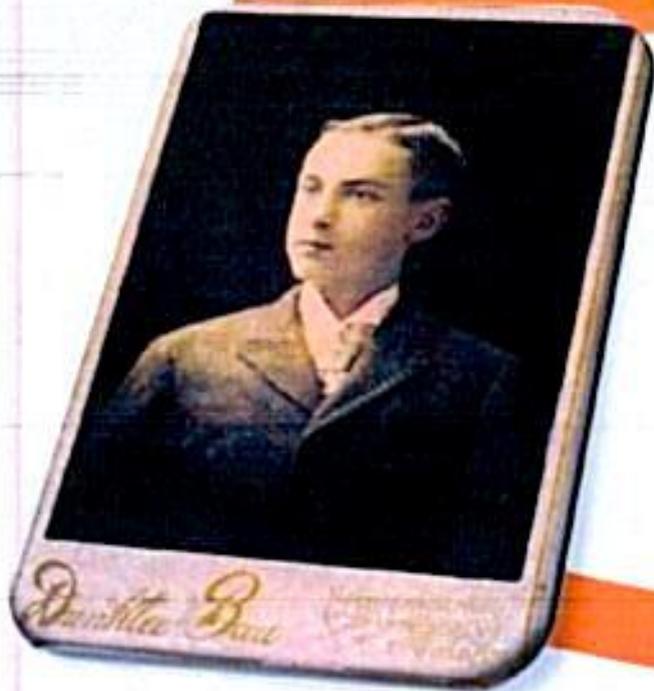


He was also one of the popular dramatists of this age. He does not rise above mediocrity. Lodge, who has decided power over the lyric and a charm in his fiction, gave practically nothing to the theatre.

### His Drama

❖ *The Wounds of Civil War* : Which contains hardly anything that is new.

## Thomas Nash (1558-1594)



He was a pamphleteer and story writer. He also tried his hand at drama. He collaborated with Marston. He was another dramatist of this age.

### His Works

- ❖ *Dido*
- ❖ *The Isle of Dogs*
- ❖ *The only Surviving*
- ❖ *The summers Last Will*
- ❖ *Testament*

## Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593)



He was the youngest of the University wit and the father of the English tragedy. He had vast knowledge which he displayed in his plays. He was a versatile dramatist. He wrote only four tragedies, so called him wild genius. He deviates radically from the medieval conception of tragedy. As the creator of blank verse for writing drama, Marlowe is unsurpassable. He has been termed the father of English tragedy.

### His Major Dramas

- ❖ *Tamburlaine (1587-88)* : His first play.
- ❖ *Dr. Faustus (1587)*
- ❖ *The Jew of Malta (1592)*
- ❖ *Edward second (1593)*
- ❖ *The Tragedy of Dido (1594)*





## CONCLUSION

It is all about the University Wits, we already found the writers like John Lyly, Robert Greene, Thomas Kyd, Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Nash, George Peele, Thomas Lodge. They produced great many dramas to the literature.