The Cambridge Companion to John Dryden

John Dryden, Poet Laureate to Charles II and James II, was one of the great literary figures of the late seventeenth century. This Companion provides a fresh look at Dryden’s tactics and triumphs in negotiating the extraordinary political and cultural revolutions of his time. The newly commissioned essays introduce readers to the full range of his work as a poet, as a writer of innovative plays and operas, as a purveyor of contemporary notions of empire, and most of all as a man intimate with the opportunities of aristocratic patronage as well as the emerging market for literary gossip, slander and polemic. Dryden’s works are examined in the context of seventeenth-century politics, publishing and ideas of authorship. A valuable resource for students and scholars, the Companion includes a full chronology of Dryden’s life and works and a detailed guide to further reading.

# CONTENTS


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of contributors</th>
<th>vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chronology</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of abbreviations</td>
<td>xiv</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part 1: Pleasures of the imagination**

1. Composing a literary life: introduction  
   **Steven N. Zwicker**  
   page 3

2. Dryden and the theatrical imagination  
   **Stuart Sherman**  
   page 15

3. Dryden and the energies of satire  
   **Ronald Paulson**  
   page 37

4. Dryden and the imperial imagination  
   **Laura Brown**  
   page 59

5. Dryden and the invention of Augustan culture  
   **Paul Davis**  
   page 75

6. Dryden's triplets  
   **Christopher Ricks**  
   page 92

**Part 2: A literary life in Restoration England**

7. Dryden's London  
   **Harold Love**  
   page 113
# CONTENTS

8 Dryden's theatre and the passions of politics  
**Paulina Kewes**  
131

9 Dryden's anonymity  
**John Mullan**  
156

10 Dryden and the modes of Restoration sociability  
**Katsuhiro Engetsu**  
181

**Part 3: Courting and complying with danger**

11 Dryden and patronage  
**John Barnard**  
199

12 Dryden and political allegiance  
**Annabel Patterson**  
221

13 The piety of John Dryden  
**John Spurr**  
237

14 Dryden's *Fables* and the judgment of art  
**Anne Cotterill**  
259

15 Dryden and the problem of literary modernity: epilogue  
**Steven N. Zwicker**  
280

*Further reading*  
286

*Index*  
290
CONTRIBUTORS

JOHN BARNARD  Leeds University
LAURA BROWN  Cornell University
ANNE COTTERILL  Rutgers University
PAUL DAVIS  University College, University of London
KATSUHIRO ENGETSU  Doshisha University
PAULINA KEWES  Jesus College, University of Oxford
HAROLD LOVE  Monash University
JOHN MULLAN  University College, University of London
ANNABEL PATTERSON  Yale University
RONALD PAULSON  Johns Hopkins University
CHRISTOPHER RICKS  Boston University
STUART SHERMAN  Fordham University
JOHN SPURR  University of Wales, Swansea
STEVEN N. ZWICKER  Washington University, St. Louis
CHRONOLOGY

1631 Born in Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire, 9 August.
1644 Admitted as a King's Scholar to Westminster School.
1649 Upon the death of the Lord Hastings published in Lachrymae
Musarum sometime after 24 June, the date of Hastings's death.
1650 Admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge 11 May.
To his friend the Author, on his divine Epigrams, published in
John Hoddesdon's Sion and Parnassus, licensed 7 June.
1654 BA, Trinity College, Cambridge, January.
1659 Heroic Stanzas published in Three poems to the happy memory of
the most renowned Oliver, January.
1660 To my Honored Friend, Sr. Robert Howard, On his Excellent Poems
published in Howard's Poems, advertised in June.
Astraea Redux, Thomason's copy marked 19 June.
1661 To His Sacred Majesty, Thomason's copy marked 23 April.
1662 To my Lord Chancellor, Presented on New-years day.
To my Honored Friend, Dr. Charleton, commendatory verse to
Charleton's Chorea Gigantum, licensed on 11 September, imprint
date of 1663.
Proposed for membership in the Royal Society on 12 November by
Walter Charleton.
1663 The Wild Gallant first performed 5 February; published in 1669.
Marriage to Lady Elizabeth Howard on 1 December.
1664 The Indian Queen (with Sir Robert Howard); Pepys saw the play on
27 January, published in March 1665.
The Rival Ladies performed early in 1664, published that fall with a
dedication to Roger Boyle, Earl of Orrery.
1665 The Indian Emperor first performed c. April, published in October
1667 with a dedication to Anne Scott, Duchess of Monmouth, and
again in 1668 together with "A Defence of an Essay of Dramatic
Poesy."
Dryden leaves London in midsummer for Charleton, Wiltshire; during next eighteen months he writes *Annus Mirabilis*, published early in 1667 with a dedication to “The City of London”; *An Essay Of Dramatic Poesy*, published 1667 with a dedication to Charles Sackville, Lord Buckhurst who became the Earl of Dorset in 1677; and *Secret Love*, which Charles II “graced . . . with the title of His Play,” performed in March of 1667, and published the same month.

1666
Dryden's first son, Charles, born 27 August.

1667
*Annus Mirabilis*; Pepys read the poem on 2 February.
Sir Martin Mar-All (with William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle) first performed in August, published 1668.
The *Tempest*, adaptation by Dryden and Sir William Davenant, performed 7 November, published in 1670.

1668
Dryden's second son, John, born.
Created Poet Laureate 13 April by royal warrant.
*An Evening's Love* first performed 12 June, published 1671 with a dedication to William Cavendish and a preface on the nature of comedy.

1669
Dryden's third son, Erasmus-Henry, born 2 May.
*Tyrannick Love, or the Royal Martyr* first performed c. June 1669, published in the fall of 1670 with a dedication to James Scott, Duke of Monmouth.

1670
Made Historiographer Royal 18 August.

1671
Buckingham's *Rehearsal* first performed 7 December; here Dryden is first satirized as “Mr. Bayes.”

1672
*The Assignation, or Love in a Nunnery* first performed in the summer or fall; published in June 1673 with a dedication to Sir Charles Sedley.
Chronology

1673 Amboyna perhaps first performed c. June, published that fall with a dedication to Thomas, Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.

The State of Innocence, possibly written for the wedding festivities of the Duke of York and Mary of Modena celebrated 21 November; published in February 1677 with a dedication to Mary of Modena, Duchess of York, and “The Author’s Apology for Heroic Poetry and Poetic Licence.”

1674 Notes and Observations on the Empress of Morocco, an attack on Elkanah Settle, written together with John Crowne and Thomas Shadwell.

1675 Aureng-Zebe, the last of Dryden’s heroic plays, acted on 17 November, published early in 1676 with a dedication to John Sheffield, Earl of Mulgrave, whom Dryden commemorates as “Sharp judging Adriel” in Absalom and Achitophel.

1677 All for Love first performed in early December, published in the spring of 1678 with a dedication to Thomas Osborne, Earl of Danby.

1678 MacFlecknoe in manuscript circulation by 1678; probably written c. 1676.

The Kind Keeper first performed 11 March, published in late in 1679 (imprint date of 1680) with a dedication to John, Lord Vaughan.

Oedipus (with Nathaniel Lee) first performed late 1678, published in March 1679.

1679 Troilus and Cressida first performed in the spring and published later the same year by Jacob Tonson with a dedication to Robert Spencer, Earl of Sunderland; this is the first association between Tonson and Dryden.

Rose Alley beating of Dryden 18 December, perhaps provoked by his association with the Earl of Mulgrave’s Essay upon Satyr, verse which circulated in manuscript in 1679, and possibly instigated by the Earl of Rochester or the Duchess of Portsmouth.

1680 Ovid’s Epistles, Translated by Several Hands; Dryden wrote the Preface and translated two epistles, “Canace to Macareus” and “Dido to Aeneas”; the book was advertised 6 February.

The Spanish Friar first performed in the fall, published in March 1681 with a dedication to John Holles, Lord Haughton.

1681 His Majesty’s Declaration Defended, published in June.

Absalom and Achitophel; Luttrell’s copy marked 17 November.

1682 The Medal; Luttrell’s copy marked 16 March.

MacFlecknoe published in an unauthorized edition; Luttrell’s copy marked 4 October.
The Second Part of Absalom and Achitophel (with Nahum Tate), Luttrell’s copy marked 10 November.

Religio Laici; Luttrell’s copy marked 28 November.

The Duke of Guise (with Nathaniel Lee) first performed 28 November, published in February of 1683 with a dedication to Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester.


The Art of Poetry, a translation of Boileau’s L’Art Poetique, made collaboratively by William Soame and Dryden.

Miscellany Poems; includes twenty-six poems by Dryden; the book was advertised 2 February.

Albion and Albanius likely performed 29 May and published in 1685; Luttrell’s copy marked 6 June.

Maimbourg’s History of the League, translated by Dryden, published in late July with Dryden’s dedication of the book to Charles II.

To the Earl of Roscommon on his Excellent Essay on Translated Verse published c. summer.

To the Memory of Mr. Oldham published in Remains of Mr. John Oldham c. fall.

King Arthur finished c. fall, performed in 1691.

1684 Sylvae; includes seventeen poems by Dryden, among them translations of Lucretius, Virgil, Theocritus, and Horace, published January.

Threnodia Augustalis; British Museum copy marked 9 March. Revised version of Albion and Albanius first publicly performed 3 June, published soon after.

To Mr. Northleigh, Dryden’s commendatory verse published in Northleigh’s Triumph of Our Monarchy c. June.

To the Pious Memory of Mrs. Anne Killigrew published in Poems by Mrs. Anne Killigrew, advertised in November and published with a 1686 imprint date.

1685 Dryden’s conversion to Roman Catholicism, c. 1685–6; John Evelyn notes his going to mass on 19 January 1686.

1687 The Hind and the Panther published c. May.

To My Ingenious Friend, Mr. Henry Higden, published in Higden’s Modern Essay on the Tenth Satire of Juvenal, c. summer.

A Song for St. Cecilia’s Day performed 22 November.
Chronology

On the Marriage of Anastasia Stafford, likely to have been written in December.

1688 Paradise Lost, fourth edition, which includes the first printing of Dryden's Lines on Milton.
Britania Rediviva licensed 19 June.
Dryden's translation of Dominique Bouhours's The Life of St. Francis Xavier advertised in July, published with a dedication to Mary of Modena.

1689 Don Sebastian first performed 4 December, published in January 1690 with a dedication to Philip Sidney, Third Earl of Leicester.

1690 Amphitryon first performed October, advertised for publication late that month and published with a dedication to Sir William Leveson-Gower.

1691 King Arthur first performed June and published soon after with a dedication to George Savile, Marquis of Halifax.

1692 Eleonora; Luttrell's copy marked 7 March.
Cleomenes first performed in April and published in May, with a dedication to Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester.
The Satires of Juvenal and Persius published in October with an imprint date of 1693 and with a dedication, the “Discourse Concerning Satire,” to Charles Sackville, Sixth Earl of Dorset; Dryden translated Juvenal's Satires 1, 3, 6, 10, and 16 and all the Persius.

1693 Examen Poeticum containing new translations from Ovid's Metamorphoses, published in the summer with Dryden's dedication to Edward Lord Radclyffe.
Congreve's The Double Dealer published in December including Dryden's To my Dear Friend Mr. Congreve; imprint date, 1694.

1694 Love Triumphant first performed in January, advertised for sale in March and published with a dedication to James Cecil, Fourth Earl of Salisbury.
Contract between Dryden and Tonson for The Works of Virgil signed 15 June.
The Annual Miscellany for the year 1694; the book was advertised in July and printed for the first time as The Third Book of the Georgics, and To Sir Godfrey Kneller.

1695 Dryden's translation of Du Fresnoy's De Arte Graphica with Dryden's “Parallel, of Poetry and Painting”; advertised in late June.
Chronology


1697  *The Works of Virgil* advertised in June; publication probably late July or early August, with dedications to Hugh, Lord Clifford (*Pastorals*); Philip Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield (*Georgics*); and John Sheffield, Earl of Mulgrave and Marquis of Normanby (*Aeneis*), and two sets of subscriptions. Dryden translates Ovid's *Art of Love*, Book 1, summer; published 1709. *Alexander's Feast* performed 22 November (St. Cecilia’s Day) and published by December.

1698  *To Mr. Granville*, published with the first edition of Granville’s *Heroic Love*, advertised in February.  
*To my Friend, the Author*, published in Peter Motteux’s *Beauty in Distress* 20 June. 
*The Annals and History of Cornelius Tacitus... Made English by Several Hands* published c. 30 June; Dryden translated Book 1, vol. 1 of the *Annals*.

1700  *Fables Ancient and Modern* advertised for sale in March, with a dedication to James Butler, Second Duke of Ormonde; includes *To the Duchess of Ormond* and *To My Honored Kinsman*. Dies 1 May.  
*The Secular Masque* published in Fletcher’s *The Pilgrim*, for sale in June.
ABBREVIATIONS

Evelyn  John Evelyn (1620–1706), diarist and founding member of the Royal Society. Evelyn's Diary covers almost eight decades and is a remarkable source for students of seventeenth-century history and literature. The Diary was edited by E. S. De Beer, 6 vols. (Oxford, 1955).

Luttrell  Narcissus Luttrell (1657–1732), book collector, diarist, and parliamentarian. Luttrell marked his copies of pamphlets and books with the price of the item and its date of publication, often the date of his purchase. Luttrell items are now owned by, among others, the Henry E. Huntington Library and the Folger Shakespeare Library including Absalom and Achitophel (HEH) and Religio Laici (Folger).

Pepys  Samuel Pepys (1633–1703), civil servant and collector whose Diary (1 January 1660 to 31 May 1669) is a storehouse of information for the first decade of the Restoration. The Diary was edited by Robert Latham and William Mathews, 10 vols. (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1970–83).

Thomason  George Thomason (1602–66), bookseller and collector of pamphlets, tracts, newsheets, and books (1640–61). Thomason marked many of his purchases with the publication date and attributions of authorship. The Thomason Tracts are housed in the British Library; their Catalogue was edited by G. K. Fortescue, 2 vols. (London, 1908).

Works  All citations to Dryden's work, unless otherwise indicated, are to the California edition, The Works of John Dryden, ed. E. N. Hooker and H. T. Swedenberg, Jr. et al., 20 vols. (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1956–2002), abbreviated as Works. Poems are cited by volume, page, and line number; plays by act, scene, and line numbers; and prose by volume and page number.