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0521531446 - The Cambridge Companion to John Dryden - Edited by Steven N. Zwicker

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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.

STEVEN N. ZWICKER is Stanley Elkin Professor of Humanities at Washington University, St. Louis and Professor of English. He is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to English Literature, 1650–1740* (Cambridge, 1998), *Reading, Society, and Politics in Early Modern England*, ed. with Kevin Sharpe (Cambridge, 2003), *John Dryden: Selected Poems* (2001), *Refiguring Revolutions*, ed. with Kevin Sharpe (1998), *Lines of Authority* (1993), *Politics of Discourse*, ed. with Kevin Sharpe (1987) and *Politics and Language in Dryden's Poetry* (1984).

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COMPANION TO
JOHN DRYDEN

EDITED BY
STEVEN N. ZWICKER
Washington University, St. Louis



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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."

CHRONOLOGY

- 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.
A Defense of “An Essay of Dramatic Poesy” prefixed to the second edition of the *Indian Emperor*, published before 20 September when Pepys had a copy.
- 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.
The Conquest of Granada, Part 1, first performed December, published together with Part 2 in 1672 with a dedication to James, Duke of York, the prefatory “Of Heroic Plays. An Essay,” and a concluding “Defence of the Epilogue. Or, An Essay on the Dramatic Poetry of the last Age.”
- 1671 *The Conquest of Granada*, Part 2, first performed in January, published 5 February 1672.
Marriage A-la-Mode first performance c. November, published in 1673 with a dedication to John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester.
 Buckingham’s *Rehearsal* first performed 7 December; here Dryden is first satirized as “Mr. Bayes.”
- 1672 *The Assigination, 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.

CHRONOLOGY

- 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.
- 1683 "Life of Plutarch" written for Tonson's edition of *Plutarch's Lives*, published in early May with Dryden's dedication to the Duke of Ormonde.
- The Art of Poetry*, a translation of Boileau's *L'Art Poétique*, made collaboratively by William Soame and Dryden.
- 1684 *Miscellany Poems*; includes twenty-six poems by Dryden; the book was advertised 2 February.
- Albion and Albanus* 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.
- 1685 *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 Albanus* 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.
- 1686 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.
"The Character of Polybius" mentioned in *The Gentleman's Journal* in April, published in 1693 prefatory to *The History of Polybius*.
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

- 1696 *An Ode on the Death of Mr. Henry Purcell* published in the spring. Dryden writes the “The Life of Lucian,” published prefatory to *The Works of Lucian* in 1711.
- 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, newssheets, 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.