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978-0-521-64522-5 - The Cambridge Companion to Writing of the English Revolution

Edited by N. H. Keeble

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The Cambridge Companion to Writing of the English Revolution

This collection of fifteen essays by leading scholars examines the extraordinary diversity and richness of the writing produced in response to, and as part of, the upheaval in the religious, political and cultural life of the nation which constituted the English Revolution. The turmoil of the civil wars fought out from 1639 to 1651, the shock of the execution of Charles I, and the uncertainty of the succeeding period of constitutional experiment were enacted and refigured in writing which both shaped and was shaped by the tumultuous times. The various strategies of this battle of the books are explored through essays on the course of events, intellectual trends and the publishing industry; in discussions of canonical figures such as Milton, Marvell, Bunyan and Clarendon; and in accounts of women's writing, of lyric poetry and of fictional and non-fictional prose. A full chronology, detailed guides to further reading and glossary are included.

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CHRONOLOGIES

Events and texts

In England, Scotland, Ireland and most Protestant countries of Europe the old Julian calendar, instituted by Julius Caesar in 45 BC, was still followed in the seventeenth century. All Roman Catholic, and some Protestant, countries, however, used the reformed calendar introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. This was not adopted in Britain until 1752. During the intervening period, British dates were ten days behind those of the New Style calendar. Dates given below are according to British usage, that is, Old Style.

In England, the official calendar year began on Lady Day (the Feast of the Annunciation), 25 March, but in the seventeenth century this was gradually being superseded by the continental practice of beginning the year on the previous 1 January. This was adopted in Scotland from 1 January 1600, but officially not until 1752 in England. Until then, for dates falling between 31 December and 25 March, the year was often given according to both reckonings (so Charles I was executed on 30 January 1648/9). In this Chronology and the following chapters, the year is taken as beginning on 1 January.

- 1599 Birth of Oliver Cromwell, afterwards Lord Protector
- 1603 Death of Elizabeth I
Accession of James VI of Scotland as James I of England
- 1612 Birth of Thomas, 3rd Baron Fairfax
- 1625 Death of James I
Accession of Charles I
Publication of the first of Lady Eleanor Douglas' sixty tracts
- 1626 Birth of Richard Cromwell, afterwards Lord Protector
- 1628 William Laud becomes bishop of London
Assassination of George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham,
favourite of Charles I
- 1630 Birth of Charles, Prince of Wales, afterwards Charles II (29 May)

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- 1630s Period of Charles I's personal rule without a Parliament
- 1633 Laud becomes archbishop of Canterbury
Birth of James, Duke of York, afterwards James II (14 October)
- 1634 Performance of Milton's masque *Comus*
- 1637 Trial and punishment of the Puritan activists William Prynne, John Bastwick and Henry Burton
Star Chamber Decree concerning Printing
- 1638 Trial and punishment of John Lilburne, afterwards leader of the Levellers
National Covenant signed in Scotland
- 1639 First Bishops' War
- 1640 Second Bishops' War
George Thomason begins his collection of tracts and books
Long Parliament assembles (3 November)
Impeachment of Archbishop William Laud (December)
- 1641 Abolition of Court of Star Chamber (July); collapse of censorship regulations
Parliamentarian *Diurnall Occurrences*, the first English printed newsbook, begins publication (November)
News of the Irish Rebellion reaches London (November)
Grand Remonstrance presented (1 December)
Publication of Milton's anti-prelatical tracts (1641-2)
- 1642 Charles I's attempted arrest of five members of the House of Commons (2 January)
Charles I withdraws from London to York (19 March)
Charles I raises his standard at Nottingham (22 August)
Battle of Edgehill (23 October; inconclusive)
- 1643 Abolition of episcopacy (January)
John Birkenhead's Royalist newsbook *Mercurius Aulicus* begins publication (January)
Marchamont Nedham's *Mercurius Britannicus* begins publication in reply to *Mercurius Aulicus*
Ordinance for the Regulating of Printing (14 June)
Battle of Adwalton Moor (30 June; Royalist victory under William Cavendish, Marquis (afterwards Duke) of Newcastle)
Battle of Roundway Down (13 July; Royalist victory)
First Battle of Newbury (20 September; Parliamentarian victory)
Commons takes Solemn League and Covenant (25 September); Scots enter the war on Parliament's side
Publication of Milton's divorce tracts (1643-5)

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- 1644 Battle of Marston Moor (2 July; Parliamentary victory over Newcastle)
Second battle of Newbury (27 October; Parliamentary victory)
Publication of Milton's *Areopagitica* (November)
- 1645 Ordinance prohibiting the Book of Common Prayer and prescribing the Directory for Public Worship (4 January)
Execution of Laud for treason (10 January)
Self-Denying Ordinance (3 April), by prohibiting MPs (with the exception of Cromwell) from holding military office, creates the New Model Army determined to prosecute the war to a conclusion
Battle of Naseby (14 June; decisive Parliamentary victory)
Charles' correspondence captured at Naseby published in *The King's Cabinet Opened*
Publication of Milton's *Poems . . . both English and Latin*
Publication of Francis Rous' *The Ancient Bounds, or Liberty of Conscience, Tenderly Stated, Modestly Asserted, and Mildly Vindicated*
- 1646 Publication of Henry Hammond's *A View of the New Directory*
Charles surrenders to the Scots (5 May)
First Civil War ends with surrender of Oxford (20 June)
Sir John Temple's *The Irish Rebellion* published
Gangraena, Thomas Edwards' Presbyterian denunciation of sectarian practices, published
Levellers' *Remonstrance of Many Thousand Citizens* published
- 1647 Failing to come to terms with Charles I, the Scots, for £200,000, hand him over to the English (30 January)
Charles imprisoned in Holmby House, Northants (16 February)
Army removes Charles from Parliament's keeping at Holmby House (4 June) to Hampton Court (24 August)
Putney debates between Levellers and officers of the New Model Army (28 October–1 November)
Publication of Levellers' manifesto and draft constitution, *An Agreement of the People for a firme and present peace, upon grounds of common-right and freedom*
Charles escapes from Hampton Court to the Isle of Wight and is confined by the Army in Carisbrooke Castle (11–14 November)
Charles secretly signs Engagement with the Scots agreeing to recognize Presbyterianism in England in return for his restoration to power (26 December)
Publication of Thomas May's *History of the Long Parliament*

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- Publication of Cowley's *The Mistress*
 Publication of Lancelot Andrewes' *Private Devotions*
 Publication of Jeremy Taylor's *The Liberty of Prophesying*
- 1648 Commons breaks off negotiations with the King by passing a vote of No Address (3 January)
 Second Civil War breaks out (Spring)
 Battle of Preston (17 August; Cromwell's victory)
 Second Civil War ends with surrender of Colchester to Fairfax (27 August)
 Parliament opens negotiations with Charles (18 September)
 By preventing Presbyterian MPs who favoured a negotiated settlement with the King from entering the Commons, Colonel John Pride's Purge of the Long Parliament secures a majority for proceeding against the King by creating what was popularly (and derisively) known as the Rump Parliament (6–7 December)
 Publication of Sir Robert Filmer's *The Anarchy of a Limited or Mixed Monarchy*
- 1649 Publication of Herrick's *Hesperides*
 Trial of Charles I (20–27 January)
 Lilburne committed to the Tower (28 January)
 Execution of Charles I for treason (30 January)
 News of the execution is received at the Hague and Charles II assumes kingship (4 February)
 Monarchy and House of Lords abolished (6–7 February)
 Publication of *Eikon Basilike* (February)
 Publication of Milton's *The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates* (February) and *Eikonoklastes* (October)
 Milton appointed Secretary of Foreign Tongues to the Commonwealth (March)
 Publication of Gerrard Winstanley's *The New Law of Righteousness*
 Winstanley's Diggers community established on St George's Hill, near Cobham, Surrey (1 April)
 Publication of Digger manifesto, *The True Levellers Standard Advanced*
 Leveller mutiny forcibly suppressed by Fairfax and Cromwell at Burford, Oxfordshire (May)
 Commonwealth established (May)
 Cromwell embarks for Ireland (August)
 Cromwell takes Drogheda and Wexford (September, October)
 Trial of Lilburne results in acquittal (25–26 October)

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- Publication of Richard Lovelace's *Lucasta: Epodes, Odes, Sonnets*
 Publication of Elizabeth Poole's *A Vision* and *An Alarum of War*
 Publication of Abiezer Coppe's *A Fiery Flying Roll* and *A Second Fiery Flying Roule*
- 1650 Cromwell returns from Ireland (May)
 Nedham's *Mercurius Politicus*, the official newsbook of the Commonwealth, begins publication (13 June)
 Cromwell invades Scotland (22 July)
 Cromwell's victory at Dunbar (3 September)
 Publication of Nedham's *The Case of the Common-Wealth of England*
 Publication of Jacob Bauthumley's *The Light and Dark Sides of God*
 Unauthorized publication of Anne Bradstreet's collection *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung up in America*
 Composition of Marvell's 'Horatian Ode upon Cromwel's Return from Ireland'
 Publication of Vaughan's *Silex Scintillans*
 Publication of Taylor's *The Rule and Exercise of Holy Living*
- 1651 Charles II crowned at Scone in Scotland (1 January)
 Publication of Milton's *Defence of the English People* (February)
 Charles II and Scots army enter England (6 August)
 Cromwell's victory over Charles II and Scots at Worcester (3 September)
 Charles II flees, eventually landing in France (16 October)
 Publication of Hobbes' *Leviathan*
 Publication of Vaughan's *Olor Iscanus*
 Publication of Taylor's *The Rule and Exercise of Holy Dying*
 Publication of Sir William Davenant's *Gondibert*
 Publication of first part of Roger Boyle's *Parthenissa*
- 1652 First Dutch War (June)
 Publication of Herbert's *Remains* (including *A Priest to the Temple*)
 Publication of Vaughan's *The Mount of Olives*
- 1653 Cromwell forcibly turns out Rump Parliament (20 April)
 Nominated Parliament ('Barebones Parliament') meets (4 July)
 Nominated Parliament resigns (12 December); Protectorate established, with Cromwell as Lord Protector
 Publication of Margaret Cavendish's *Poems and Fancies*
 Publication of An Collins' *Divine Songs and Meditations*
 First Quaker tracts published

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- 1654 Publication of Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*
Peace with the Dutch (April)
Publication of Milton's *Second Defence of the English People* (May)
Publication of Anna Trapnel's *Report and Plea* and *A Legacy for Saints*
- 1655 Rule of the Major-Generals established (August)
Anonymous publication of Marvell's *First Anniversary of the Government under O.C.*
Publication of Hester Biddle's *Woe to Thee City of Oxford* and *Wo to the Towne of Cambridge*
Publication of Taylor's *Golden Grove*
- 1656 Publication of James Harrington's *The Commonwealth of Oceana*
Publication of Hobbes' *The Questions concerning Liberty, Necessity and Chance*
Publication of Cowley's *Poems* (including *Davideis*)
- 1657 Publication of Anthony Sparrow's *A Rationale upon the Book of Common Prayer*
- 1658 Death of Cromwell (3 September); Richard Cromwell succeeds as Lord Protector
Edward Hyde appointed Lord Chancellor (in exile)
Composition of Marvell's 'Poem upon the Death of O.C.'
- 1659 Army forces dissolution of Protectorate Parliament (22 April)
Rump restored by the Army (6 May)
Richard Cromwell resigns (24 May)
George Booth's Royalist uprising suppressed (August)
Restored Rump prevented from sitting by the Army (13 October)
In Scotland, George Monck declares for Parliament against the Army (20 October)
Rump readmitted by the Army (26 December)
Publication of Milton's *Treatise of Civil Power in Ecclesiastical Causes*
Publication of Lovelace's *Lucasta: Posthume Poems*
- 1660 Monck enters England and begins to march south (2 January), reaching London on 2 February
Presbyterian MPs excluded by Pride's Purge readmitted, so restoring the Long Parliament (21 February)
Long Parliament dissolves itself (16 March)
Charles issues Declaration of Breda, apparently offering liberty to tender consciences (4 April)

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- Publication of Milton's *Readie and Easie Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth* (February; 2nd edn April)
- Convention meets (25 April)
- Convention votes to recall Charles II (1 May)
- Charles II lands at Dover (25 May)
- Charles II enters London on his birthday (29 May)
- Act of Oblivion receives royal assent (29 August)
- Convention dissolved (31 December)
- 1661 Bunyan imprisoned for refusing to desist from preaching (January)
- Coronation of Charles II (23 April)
- Cavalier Parliament meets (8 May)
- Hyde created Earl of Clarendon
- Savoy Conference fails to reach agreement on revision of Prayer Book
- 1662 Publication of Sir Percy Herbert's *The Princess Cloria*
- Act of Uniformity, outlawing Puritan opinion in the Church of England, schools and universities, comes into effect on 24 August; approximately 2,000 ministers are ejected
- Publication of Katherine Evans' and Sarah Cheevers' *Short Relation of Cruel Sufferings*
- 1664 Conventicle Act prohibits religious gatherings save according to the Prayer Book
- The widowed Lucy Hutchinson may now begin composition of her biography (completed 1671) of her regicide husband
- In exile, Ludlow may now be composing his *A Voyce from the Watch Tower*
- Publication of Philips' *Poems*
- 1665 Five Mile Act prohibits ejected ministers from living in any corporation
- Great Plague
- Second Dutch War (July)
- Publication of Bunyan's *The Holy City*
- 1666 Fire of London
- Publication of Bunyan's *Grace Abounding*
- 1667 Treaty of Breda concludes Second Dutch War (July)
- Dismissed from office and under threat of impeachment, Clarendon is driven into exile, where he resumes work on his *History*
- Hobbes writes *Behemoth, or the Long Parliament*(?)
- Publication of Milton's *Paradise Lost*
- Publication of *Poems by Mrs Katherine Philips, the Matchless Orinda*
- Composition of Marvell's *Last Instructions to a Painter*

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- 1669 Publication of Cowley's *Works*
- 1670 Publication of Milton's *History of Britain*
- 1671 Death of Fairfax
Publication of Milton's *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes*
- 1672 Charles II's Declaration of Indulgence permits Nonconformist and Roman Catholic worship
Bunyan released from prison
Anonymous publication of Marvell's *The Rehearsal Transpros'd*
- 1673 Pressure from Parliament forces withdrawal of the Declaration of Indulgence
Publication of second part of Marvell's *The Rehearsal Transpros'd*
- 1674 Publication of second edition of Milton's *Paradise Lost*
- 1677 Anonymous publication of Marvell's *Account of the Growth of Popery and Arbitrary Government*
Publication of Anne Wentworth's *A Vindication*
- 1678 Allegations of a 'Popish Plot' to assassinate Charles II whip up anti-Roman feeling
Publication of Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*
Publication of revised and expanded edition of Bradstreet's *Tenth Muse*
- 1679–81 During the prolonged 'Exclusion Crisis' successive Parliaments seek unsuccessfully to compel Charles to exclude his Roman Catholic brother, James, from the succession
- 1680 Publication of Bunyan's *The Life and Death of Mr Badman*
- 1681 Publication of Marvell's *Miscellaneous Poems*
- 1682 Publication of Bunyan's *The Holy War*
- 1684 Publication of the second part of Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*
- 1685 Death of Charles II (6 February)
Accession of James II
- 1688 'Glorious Revolution' (deposition of James II (11 December) and accession of Charles I's grandson William III and of William's cousin and wife, James II's daughter Mary II (13 February 1689))

Writers' lives

Richard Braithwait	1588?–1673
Thomas Hobbes	1588–1679
Sir Robert Filmer	1588–1653
Lady Anne Clifford (Anne Sackville, Countess of Dorset; Anne Herbert, Countess of Pembroke)	1590–1676

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Lady Eleanor Douglas (<i>née</i> Touchet; Lady Eleanor Davies)	1590–1652
Robert Herrick	1591–1674
Izaak Walton	1593–1683
John Bramhall, Archbishop of Armagh	1594–1663
Thomas May	1595–1650
Lady Brilliana Harley (<i>née</i> Conway)	1600?–1643
Henry Hammond	1605–1660
Sir William Davenant	1606–1668
Edmund Waller	1606–1687
John Milton	1608–1674
Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon	1609–1674
Sir John Suckling	1609–1642
Gerrard Winstanley	1609–1676
Sir James Harrington	1611–1677
Anne Bradstreet (<i>née</i> Dudley)	1612–1672
John Cleveland	1613–1658
Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down & Connor	1613–1667
Margaret Fox (<i>née</i> Askew; Margaret Fell)	1614–1702
John Lilburne	c. 1614–1657
Richard Baxter	1615–1691
Laurence Clarkson	1615–1667
Sir John Denham	1615–1669
Sir John Birkenhead	1616–1679
Edmund Ludlow	1617?–1692
Abraham Cowley	1618–1667
Richard Lovelace	1618–1658
Abiezer Coppe	1619–1672
Lucy Hutchinson (<i>née</i> Apsley)	1620–1681
Marchamont Nedham	1620–1678
Roger Boyle, Baron Broghill and Earl of Orrery	1621–1679
Andrew Marvell	1621–1678
Henry Vaughan	1622–1695
Anna Trapnel	1622?–
Margaret Cavendish (<i>née</i> Lucas), Duchess of Newcastle	1623–1673
George Fox	1624–1691
Ann, Lady Fanshawe (<i>née</i> Harrison)	1625–1680
Anne Audland (<i>née</i> Newby)	1627–1705
Dorothy Osborne (afterwards Lady Temple)	1627–1695
John Bunyan	1628–1688
Hester Biddle	1629–1696

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Dorothy White	c. 1630–1685
John Dryden	1631–1700
Katherine Philips (<i>née</i> Fowler)	1632–1664
Sir George Mackenzie	1636–1691
Thomas Flatman	1637–1688

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ABBREVIATIONS

(1) Works by Bunyan, Clarendon, Marvell and Milton

Bunyan, <i>GA</i>	John Bunyan, <i>Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners</i> , ed. Roger Sharrock (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1962)
Bunyan, <i>HW</i>	John Bunyan, <i>The Holy War</i> , ed. Roger Sharrock and James Forrest (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1980)
Bunyan, <i>MW</i>	John Bunyan, <i>Miscellaneous Works</i> , gen. ed. Roger Sharrock, 13 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976–94)
Bunyan, <i>PP</i>	John Bunyan, <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> , ed. James Blanton Wharey, 2nd edn, ed. Roger Sharrock (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1960)
Clarendon, <i>HR</i>	Edward, Earl of Clarendon, <i>The History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England</i> , ed. W. Dunn Macray, 6 vols. (1888; rptd Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992)
Clarendon, <i>LC</i>	Edward, Earl of Clarendon, <i>The Life of Edward, Earl of Clarendon . . . in which is included a Continuation of his History of the Grand Rebellion, from the Restoration in 1660 to his Banishment in 1667</i> , 2 vols. (Oxford, 1857)
Marvell, <i>P&L</i>	Andrew Marvell, <i>Poems and Letters</i> , ed. H. M. Margoliouth, 3rd edn, rev. Pierre Legouis and E. E. Duncan-Jones, 2 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971)
Milton, <i>CPW</i>	<i>Complete Prose Works of John Milton</i> , gen. ed. Don M. Wolfe, 8 vols. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1953–83)
Milton, <i>PL</i>	John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> (cited from <i>Milton</i> :

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Paradise Lost, ed. John Carey, 2nd edn (Harlow: Longman, 1998)); Milton's other poems are cited from *Milton: Shorter Poems*, 2nd edn ed. John Carey, (Harlow: Longman, 1997)

(2) Standard historical works

DNB	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
Firth & Rait, <i>A&O</i>	C. H. Firth and S. R. Rait (eds.), <i>Acts and Ordinances of the Interregnum, 1642–1662</i> , 3 vols. (1911)
Gardiner, <i>CDPR</i>	S. R. Gardiner (ed.), <i>Constitutional Documents of the Puritan Revolution, 1625–1660</i> , 3rd edn (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1906)
Gardiner, <i>HCP</i>	S. R. Gardiner, <i>History of the Commonwealth and Protectorate, 1649–56</i> , 4 vols. (1903; rptd Adlestrop, Gos.: Windrush Press, 1988–9)
Gardiner, <i>HGCW</i>	S. R. Gardiner, <i>History of the Great Civil War</i> , 4 vols. (1893; rptd London: Windrush Press, 1987)

(3) Journal titles

CHJ	<i>Cambridge Historical Journal</i>
EcHR	<i>Economic History Review</i>
EHR	<i>English Historical Review</i>
ELH	<i>English Literary History</i>
ELR	<i>English Literary Renaissance</i>
HJ	<i>Historical Journal</i>
HR	<i>Historical Review</i>
JBS	<i>Journal of British Studies</i>
JEH	<i>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</i>
JHI	<i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>
P&P	<i>Past and Present</i>
PMLA	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association</i>
RES	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
TRHS	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>

The place of publication for seventeenth-century texts is London unless otherwise stated.