

Andrew SANDERS: *The Short Oxford History of English Literature*, Clarendon Press, Oxford 1994

A CHRONOLOGY of ENGLISH HISTORY AND LITERATURE

EVENTS

- 450 Traditional date of the coming of the
‘Saxons’ to England
- 597 St Augustine’s mission arrives in Kent

- 735 Death of Bede

LITERARY WORKS

- c.* 720 Lindisfarne Gospels
- 731 Bede, *Ecclesiastical History of the
English People*

EVENTS

- 793 First Viking raid; Sacking of Lindisfarne
 796 Death of Offa of Mercia
 871 Alfred becomes King of Wessex
 899 Death of Alfred
 960 Dunstan appointed Archbishop of
 Canterbury
 991 The Battle of Maldon
- 1042 Accession of Edward the Confessor
 1066 Death of Edward the Confessor; Harold
 succeeds to the throne; defeat of Harold
 Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge;
 Battle of Hastings; William of Normandy
 becomes King of England
 1070 Lanfranc appointed Archbishop of
 Canterbury
 1086 Domesday Book
- 1152 Marriage of future Henry II to Eleanor of
 Aquitaine
 1154 Accession of Henry II
 1169 Norman Barons invade Ireland
 1170 Murder of Becket
- 1189 Death of Henry II
- 1204 Loss of Normandy
 1215 Magna Carta
- 1221-4 Arrival of Dominican and Franciscan friars
 in England
- 1314 Battle of Bannockburn
 1327 Accession of Edward III
 1337 Beginning of Hundred Years War
 c. 1344 Birth of Chaucer
 1346 Battle of Crécy
 1348 First occurrence of the Black Death in
 England
- 1377 Death of Edward III; accession of Richard II
 1381 The Peasants' Revolt
 1384 Death of Wyclif
- 1394 Birth of Charles d'Orléans and James I of
 Scotland

LITERARY WORKS

- 992 Ælfric, *Catholic Homilies*
 c. 1000 The four major surviving manuscripts of
 Anglo-Saxon poetry: Vercelli, Exeter,
 Cædmon, and *Beowulf* MSS
- c. 1138 Geoffrey of Monmouth, *History of the
 Kings of Britain*
- 1184-6 Andreas Capellanus, *De amore*
 c. 1188 Gervase, *History of Canterbury*
- c. 1200 *The Owl and the Nightingale*; LaZamon,
Brut; Jocelin of Brakelond, *Chronicle*
- c. 1220 *Ancrene Riwe*
- c. 1225 *King Horn*
 c. 1275 Guillaume de Lorris, *Roman de la rose*
- c. 1370 Chaucer, *Book of the Duchess*
 c. 1377 Langland, *Piers Plowman* (B Text)
- c. 1385 Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*
 c. 1387 Chaucer begins *The Canterbury Tales*
 1390 Gower, *Confessio Amantis*

EVENTS

- 1399 Deposition of Richard II; accession of Henry IV
- 1400 Death of Chaucer; murder of Richard II
- 1408 Death of Gower
- 1413 Death of Henry IV; accession of Henry V
- 1415 Battle of Agincourt
- 1422 Death of Henry V; accession of the infant Henry VI
- 1426 Death of Hoccleve
- 1449 Death of Lydgate
- 1453 Battle of Castillon; loss of last English possessions in France
- 1455 First battle in the Wars of the Roses
- 1461 Deposition of Henry VI; Edward IV proclaimed king
- 1470-1 Restoration of Henry VI
- 1471 Murder of Henry VI; Edward IV regains throne
- 1483 Death of Edward IV; accession of presumed murder of Edward V; accession of Richard III
- 1485 Richard III killed at Battle of Bosworth; accession of Henry VII
- 1492-1504 Voyages of Columbus
- 1504 Colet made Dean of St Paul's
- 1509 Death of Henry VII; accession of Henry VIII
- 1513 Battle of Flodden
- 1517 Luther publishes 95 theses at Wittenberg
- 1520 Field of Cloth of Gold
- 1521 Henry VIII given the title 'Defender of the Faith' by the Pope
- 1529 Fall of Wolsey; rise of Thomas Cromwell; More becomes Lord Chancellor
- 1533 Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury; Henry VIII divorces Catherine of Aragon and marries Anne Boleyn
- 1534 Abolition of Pope's authority in England; Henry, 'Head' of Church of England
- 1535 Thomas More executed
- 1536 Anne Boleyn executed; William Tyndale burned in the Netherlands; union of England and Wales
- 1536-9 Dissolution of the Monasteries
- 1540 Institution of the Society of Jesus; fall and

LITERARY WORKS

- c. 1400 Sole surviving MS of *Sir Gawain, Pearl, Cleanness, and Patience*
- 1411-12 Hoccleve, *The Regiment of Princes*
- 1431-8 Lydgate, *The Fall of Princes*
- c. 1435 James Stewart, *The Kingis Quair*
- 1473-4 Caxton, *History of Troy*, the first book printed in English
- 1485 Malory, *Morte Darthur*
- c. 1500 Skelton, *Bouge of Court*
- c. 1504 Skelton, *Philip Sparrow*
- 1513 Douglas, translation of *Aeneid*
- 1516 More, *Utopia*; Skelton, *Magnificence*
- 1523 Skelton, *Garlande of Laurell*
- 1531 Elyot, *Boke named the Governour*

EVENTS

LITERARY WORKS

- execution of Thomas Cromwell
 1545 Council of Trent opens
 1547 Death of Henry VIII; accession of Edward VI
 1549 Act of Uniformity
 1553 Death of Edward VI; accession of Mary
 1555-6 Execution of Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer

 1558 Loss of Calais; death of Mary; accession of Elizabeth I

 1570 Excommunication of Elizabeth
 1571 Battle of Lepanto
 1577 Drake begins his circumnavigation

 1586 Death of Sidney at Zutphen
 1587 Execution of Mary Queen of Scots; opening of Rose Theatre
 1588 Defeat of Spanish Armada

 1599 Globe Theatre opened
 1601 Essex rebellion
- 1549 Book of Common Prayer

 1557 Tottel's edition of *Songes and Sonettes* ('Tottel's Miscellany'); Surrey's translation of *Aeneid*, II and IV

 1560 'Geneva' Bible
 1561 Hoby's translation of Castiglione's *The Courtyer*
 1563 Foxe, *Actes and Monuments*
 1568 Bishops' Bible
 1570 Ascham, *The Scholemaster*

 1577 Sidney, 'Old' *Arcadia*; Holinshed, *Chronicles*
 1578 Lyly, *Euphues*
 1579 Spenser, *Shepherd's Calendar*
 1581-6 Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* (1581-3); *Defence of Poesie* (c. 1582); 'New' *Arcadia*

 1587 Camden, *Britannia*
 1588-92 Shakespeare's early plays including *1, 2, 3 Henry VI*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Richard III*
 1589 Puttenham, *Arte of English Poesie*
 1590 Spenser, *Faerie Queene* (I-III); Lodge, *Rosalynde*
 1592 Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*; Daniel, *Delia*
 1593 Marlowe, *Hero and Leander*; Shakespeare, *Venus and Adonis*; Drayton, *Idea*; Hooker, *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* (I-IV)
 1594 Shakespeare, *Sonnets*
 1594-1600 Shakespeare, plays including *Midsummer Night's Dream*; *1, 2 Henry IV*; *As You Like It*; *Merry Wives of Windsor*; *Julius Caesar*
 1595 Daniel, *Civil Wars* (I-IV); Spenser, *Amoretti*; *Epithalamion*
 1596 Spenser, *Faerie Queene* (I-IV); Davies, *Orchestra*
 1597 Bacon, *Essays*
 1598 Chapman-Marlowe, *Hero and Leander*; Stow, *Survey of London*; Jonson, first version of *Everyman in His Humour*
 1599 Daniel, *Poetical Essays*; Nashe, *Lenten Stuffe*
 1601-4 Shakespeare plays including *Hamlet*,

EVENTS

- 1603 Death of Elizabeth; accession of James VI as James I; union of the crowns of England and Scotland
- 1605 Gunpowder plot; Jonson's first court masque with Inigo Jones
- 1613 Globe Theatre burned
- 1616 Death of Shakespeare
- 1618 Execution of Raleigh; beginning of Thirty Years War
- 1620 Pilgrim Fathers sail for America
- 1621 Donne appointed Dean of St Paul's
- 1625 Death of James I; accession of Charles I
- 1629 Charles I begins personal rule with dissolution of Parliament
- 1633 Laud appointed Archbishop of Canterbury
- 1640 Long Parliament summoned
- 1642 King attempts to arrest the five members; raises royal standard at Nottingham beginning Civil War; theatres closed by order of Parliament
- 1644 Victory of Parliamentary Army at Marston Moor
- 1645 Execution of Laud; victory of Parliamentary Army at Naseby
- 1646 Charles surrenders to Scots
- 1647 Putney debates
- 1649 Trial and execution of Charles I
- 1649-52 Cromwell's campaigns in Ireland and Scotland
- 1653 Cromwell becomes Lord Protector
- 1658 Death of Cromwell; Richard Cromwell succeeds his father
- 1659 Richard Cromwell overthrown by army; recall of Rump Parliament
- 1660 Restoration of Charles II; re-opening of theatres

LITERARY WORKS

- Twelfth Night, Measure for Measure*
- 1603 Jonson, *Sejanus*
- 1604-8 Shakespeare plays including *Othello, King Lear, Macbeth, Antony and Cleopatra, Coriolanus*
- 1605 Bacon, *Advancement of Learning*
- 1608-13 Shakespeare's last plays including *Tempest, Winter's Tale, Henry VIII*
- 1611 'Authorized' version of Bible
- c. 1613 Webster, *The White Devil*
- 1616 Ben Jonson, *Works*
- 1621 Burton, *Anatomy of Melancholy*; Mary Wroth, *Urania*
- 1622 Middleton, *The Changeling*
- 1623 First Folio of Shakespeare
- 1625 *Purchas his Pilgrimes*
- 1629 Andrewes, *XCVI Sermons*
- 1633 Donne, *Poems*; Herbert, *The Temple*; Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*
- 1634 Milton, *Comus* performed
- 1635 Quarles, *Emblems*
- 1637 Milton, *Lycidas*
- 1644 Milton, *Areopagitica*
- 1646 Crashaw, *Steps to the Temple*
- 1647 Cowley, *The Mistress*
- 1648 Herrick, *Hesperides*
- 1649 Lovelace, *Lucasta*
- 1650 Marvell, 'An Horation Ode'; Vaughan, *Silx Scintillans*
- 1651 Hobbes, *Leviathan*
- 1656 Harrington, *Oceana*
- 1660 Dryden, *Astraea Redux*; Pepys begins his diary

EVENTS

- 1662 Restoration of Church of England and final revision of Book of Common Prayer; Royal Society receives its charter
- 1665 Plague in London
- 1666 City of London destroyed by the Great Fire
- 1681 Lord Shaftesbury tried for High Treason: acquitted
- 1685 Death of Charles II; accession of James II; Duke of Monmouth's rebellion crushed at Sedgemoor
- 1688 'Glorious Revolution' James II flees; William III and Mary II succeed
- 1694 Death of Mary
- 1701 War of Spanish succession; Great Britain allied against France
- 1702 Death of William III; accession of Anne
- 1704 Marlborough's victory at Blenheim
- 1707 Act of Union between England and Scotland
- 1713 Peace of Utrecht ends War of Spanish Succession
- 1714 Death of Anne; George I, Elector of Hanover, succeeds
- 1715 Jacobite Rebellion in favour of James Edward (the 'Old Pretender')
- 1721 Walpole forms ministry
- 1727 Death of George I; accession of George II; Walpole retains power; death of Newton

LITERARY WORKS

- 1664 Katherine Philips, *Poems*
- 1667 Dryden, *Annus Mirabilis*; Milton, *Paradise Lost*
- 1671 Milton, *Paradise Regain'd*
- 1675 Rochester, 'A Satyre agqainst Mankind'; Wycherley, *The Country Wife*
- 1677 Dryden, *All for Love*; Behn, *The Rover*
- 1678 Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (Part I)
- 1680 Rochester, *Poems*
- 1681 Marvell, *Miscellaneous Poems* (posthumously published); Dryden, *Absalom & Achitophel*
- 1687 Newton, *Principia*
- 1690 Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
- 1695 Congreve, *Love for Love*
- 1700 Congreve, *The Way of the World*
- 1702-3 Clarendon, *History of the Rebellion*
- 1704 Swift, *The Battle of the Books* and *A Tale of a Tub*
- Farquhar, *The Recruiting Officer*
- 1707 Farquhar, *The Beaux Stratagem*
- 1709 Steele (and others), *The Tatler*
- 1711 Shaftesbury, *Characteristicks*
- 1711-12 *The Spectator*
- 1712 Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*
- 1713 Anne Finch, *Miscellany Poems*
- 1717 Pope, *Works*
- 1719 Defoe, *Robison Crusoe*
- 1722 Defoe, *Moll Flanders* and *Journal of the Plague Year*
- 1726 Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*; Thomson, *Winter*
- 1728 Gay, *Beggars Opera*; Pope, *Dunciad* (1st)

EVENTS

- 1740 War of Austrian Succession begins
 1742 Fall of Walpole
- 1745 Second Jacobite Rebellion led by Charles Edward (the 'Young Pretender')
- 1748 Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle ends War of Austrian Succession
- 1756 Beginning of Seven Years War
 1757 Conquest of India begins under General Clive
- 1759 Wolfe takes Quebec
- 1760 Death of George II; accession of George III
 1763 Peace of Paris ends Seven Years War; British gains in India and North America
- 1770 Lord North, Prime Minister; suicide of Chatterton
- 1780 Gordon Riots
 1781 British forces defeated by Americans at Yorktown
 1783 Independence of American Colonies recognized by Peace of Paris
 1784 James Watt invents the steam engine
 1785 Edmund Cartwright invents the power loom
- 1787 Association for the Abolition of the Slave Trade founded
- 1789 French Revolution; Fall of Bastille; Declaration of the Rights of Man

LITERARY WORKS

- version)
- 1733 Pope, *Essay on Man*
 1738 Johnson, *London*
 1739 Charles Wesley, first collection of hymns
 1740 Richardson, *Pamela*
 1742 Fielding, *Joseph Andrews*
 1743 Pope, *The Dunciad* (final version)
 1744 Sarah Fielding, *David Simple*
- 1747-9 Richardson, *Clarissa*
 1748 Smollett, *Roderick Random*
- 1749 Fielding, *Tom Jones*
 1750-2 Johnson, *The Rambler*
 1751 Smollett, *Peregrine Pickle*
 1752 Lennox, *The Female Quixote*
 1754 Richardson, *Grandison*
 1755 Johnson, *Dictionary*
- 1757 Burke, *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful*
 1759 Johnson, *Rasselas*
 1759-67 Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*
- 1764 Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*
 1765 Percy, *Reliques*
 1766 Goldsmith, *The Vicar of Wakefield*
 1768 Sterne, *A Sentimental Journey*
 1776-88 Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*
 1777 Sheridan, *School for Scandal*; Reeve, *The Old English Baron*
 1778 Burney, *Evelina*
 1779-81 Johnson, *The Lives of the Poets*
- 1781 Sheridan, *The Critic*
- 1785 Cowper, *The Task*
 1786 Beckford, *Vathek*; Burns, *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*
- 1788 Wollstonecraft, *Mary*
 1789 Blake, *Songs of Innocence*
- 1790 Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*; Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*

EVENTS

- 1791 Flight of Louis XVI
- 1792 Siege of Tuileries; September Massacres
- 1793 Execution of Louis XVI; Reign of Terror; Britain and France at war
- 1794 Executions of Danton and Robespierre; Habeas Corpus Act suspended in Britain; Holcroft acquitted of treason charge
- 1795 Directory established in France; Speenhamland system of poor relief
- 1796 Bonaparte's Italian campaign
- 1798 Nelson's victory at Battle of the Nile; rebellion in Ireland
- 1799 Napoleon, First Consul
- 1800 Act of Union with Ireland
- 1801 Union of British and Irish Parliaments; Habeas Corpus Act again suspended
- 1802 Peace of Amiens
- 1803 Renewal of war against France
- 1804 Napoleon, Emperor of France
- 1805 Nelson's victory at Trafalgar
- 1807 Abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire
- 1808 Peninsular War begins
- 1811 Prince of Wales becomes Regent; Luddite riots
- 1812 French retreat from Moscow
- 1814 Abdication of Napoleon; restoration of Louis XVIII; Stephenson's steam locomotive
- 1815 Battle of Waterloo
- 1817 Habeas Corpus Act suspended

LITERARY WORKS

- 1791 Boswell, *Life of Samuel Johnson*; Paine, *The Rights of Man* (Part I)
- 1792 Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*; Holcroft, *Anna St Ives*
- 1793 Blake, *America*; Godwin, *Political Justice*; Smith, *The Old Manor House*
- 1794 Blake, *Songs of Experience*; Godwin, *Caleb Williams*; Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho*; Holcroft, *Hugh Trevor*
- 1796 Burney, *Camilla*; Bage, *Hermesprong*; Lewis, *The Monk*
- 1798 Wordsworth and Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads*; Wollstonecraft, *The Wrongs of Woman*
- 1800 Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent*
- 1802 Scott, *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*; foundation of the *Edinburgh Review*; Cobbett begins his *Political Register*
- 1804 Blake, *Milton*
- 1805 Scott, *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*; Wordsworth at work on a version of *The Prelude*
- 1807 Wordsworth, *Poems*
- 1808 Scott, *Marmion*; Hunt, *The Examiner*
- 1809 Byron, *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*; foundation of the Quarterly Review
- 1810 Crabbe, *The Borough*; Scott, *The Lady of the Lake*
- 1811 Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*
- 1812 Crabbe, *Tales*; Byron, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*; Edgeworth, *The Absentee*
- 1813 Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*; Shelley, *Queen Mab*
- 1814 Wordsworth, *The Excursion*; Byron, *The Corsair*; Austen, *Mansfield Park*; Scott, *Waverley*; Burney, *The Wanderer*
- 1815 Wordsworth, *Poems*; Scott, *Guy Mannering*
- 1816 Coleridge, *Christabel and Kubla Khan*; Shelley, *Alastor*; Austen, *Emma*; Scott, *The Antiquary* and *Old Mortality*; Peacock, *Headlong Hall*
- 1817 Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*; Byron, *Manfred*; Keats, *Poems*; Hazlitt, *The Characters of Shakespeare's Plays*; foundation of *Blackwood's Edinburgh*

EVENTS

- 1818 Habeas Corpus restored
- 1819 Peterloo massacre
- 1820 Death of George III; accession of George IV
- 1821 Greek War of Independence
- 1824 National Gallery opened; death of Byron in Greece
- 1825 Financial crisis; opening of Stockton and Darlington Railway
- 1828 Repeal of Test and Corporation Acts
- 1829 Catholic Emancipation Act
- 1830 Death of George IV; accession of William IV; opening of Manchester and Liverpool railway
- 1831 Unsuccessful introduction of Reform Bills; riots in Bristol and elsewhere
- 1832 Reform Act; Death of Scott
- 1833 Abolition of Slavery; Keble's Assize sermon
- 1834 New Poor Law; burning of Houses of Parliament; Fox Talbot's first photograph
- 1835 Municipal Reform Act
- 1837 Death of William IV; accession of Victoria
- 1838 'People's Charter' published; London-Birmingham Railway opened
- 1839 Penny Postage Act
- 1840 Opium War; new Houses of Parliament begun; first presentation of People's Charter to Parliament
- 1842 Chartist riots; second presentation of Charter to Parliament; Copyright Act
- 1843 Theatre Regulation Bill (monopoly removed)

LITERARY WORKS

- Magazine*
- 1818 Austen, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*; Keats, *Endymion*; Scott, *Rob Roy* and *The Heart of Midlothian*; Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*; Hazlitt, *Lectures on the English Poets*; Ferrier, *Marriage*
- 1819 Crabbe, *Tales of the Hall*; Byron, *Don Juan*; Scott, *The Bride of Lammermoor*
- 1820 Shelley, *Prometheus Unbound*; Keats, *Lamia, Isabella, The Eve of St Agnes and Other Poems*; Clare, *Poems Descriptive of Rural Life*; Scott, *Ivanhoe*; Lamb, *Essays of Elia* begun; Cobbett, *Rural Rides* begun; Maturin, *Melmoth the Wanderer*
- 1821 Byron, *Cain*; Shelley, *Adonais*; Clare, *The Village Minstrel*; De Quincey, *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*; Galt, *Annals of the Parish*
- 1822 Wordsworth, *Ecclesiastical Sketches*; Byron, *The Vision of Judgement*; Galt, *The Entail*
- 1824 Scott, *Redgauntlet*; Hogg, *Private Confessions of a Justified Sinner*; foundation of the *Westminster Review*
- 1825 Hazlitt, *The Spirit of the Age*; publication of Pepys's diary
- 1827 Clare, *The Shepherd's Calendar*; Keble, *The Christian Year*
- 1830 Tennyson, *Poems, Chiefly Lyrical*
- 1832 Tennyson, *Poems* (dated 1833)
- 1833 Carlyle, Sartor Resartus
- 1835 Browning, *Paraclesus*
- 1836 Dickens, *Sketches by 'Boz'* and the first number of *Pickwick Papers* (1836-7)
- 1837 Carlyle, *The French Revolution*; Dickens, *Oliver Twist*
- 1838 Dickens, *Nicholas Nickleby*
- 1839 Carlyle, *Chartism*
- 1840 Dickens, *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Barnaby Rudge* (1840-1); Browning, *Sordello*
- 1841 Carlyle, *On Heroes and Hero Worship*; Newman, *Tract XC*; foundation of *Punch*
- 1842 Tennyson, *Poems*; Browning, *Dramatic Lyrics*
- 1843 Macaulay, *Essays*; Carlyle, *Past and*

EVENTS

- from Covent Garden and Drury Lane theatres)
- 1844 Royal Commission on Health in Towns
- 1845 Failure of Irish potato crop
- 1846 Famine in Ireland; repeal of Corn Laws
- 1847 Ten Hours Act
- 1848 Chartist demonstration in London (third presentation of Charter); Public Health Act; foundation of Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood; revolutions in France, Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Italy; Second Republic proclaimed in France; Roman Republic
- 1850 'Papal Aggression' (following re-establishment of Roman Catholic hierarchy in England)
- 1851 Great Exhibition; Louis Napoleon's coup d'état
- 1852 Death of the Duke of Wellington
- 1854 Crimean War breaks out; Battles of Alma, Inkerman, and Balaclava (with the Charge of the Light Brigade); Preston cotton spinners strike; Working Man's College opened
- 1855 Fall of Sebastopol; Metropolitan Board of Works established; repeal of Stamp Duty on newspapers
- 1856 Peace of Paris (ending Crimean War)
- 1857 Indian Mutiny
- 1858 Peace in India; India transferred to British Crown
- 1860 Garibaldi's campaign in Sicily and Naples

LITERARY WORKS

- Present*; Ruskin, *Modern Painters* (vol. I); Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*
- 1844 Disraeli, *Coningsby*; Thackeray, *Barry Lyndon*
- 1845 Disraeli, *Sybil*; Browning, *Dramatic Romances and Lyrics*
- 1846-8 Dickens, *Dombey and Son*
- 1847 Tennyson, *The Princess*; Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*; Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*; Anne Brontë, *Agnes Grey*; Thackeray, *Vanity Fair* (1847-8)
- 1848 Gaskell, *Mary Barton*; Anne Brontë, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*; Thackeray, *Pendennis* (1848-9)
- 1849 Charlotte Brontë, *Shirley*; Ruskin, *Seven Lamps of Architecture*; Dickens, *David Copperfield* (1849-50); Macaulay, *History of England*
- 1850 Tennyson, *In Memoriam A.H.H.*; Carlyle, *Latter-Day Pamphlets*; E. B. Browning, *Sonnets from the Portuguese*; Kingsley, *Alton Locke*
- 1851 Gaskell, *Cranford*; Ruskin, *The Stones of Venice* (1851-3)
- 1852 Thackeray, *Henry Esmond*; Arnold, *Empedocles on Etna*; Dickens, *Bleak House* (1852-3)
- 1853 Charlotte Brontë, *Villette*; Gaskell, *Ruth*; Arnold, *Poems*
- 1854 Dickens, *Hard Times*; Thackeray, *The Newcomes* (1854-5)
- 1855 Tennyson, *Maud*; Kingsley, *Westward Ho!*; Browning, *Men and Women*; Gaskell, *North and South*; Trollope, *The Warden*; Dickens, *Little Dorritt* (1855-7)
- 1857 E. B. Browning, *Aurora Leigh*; Trollope, *Barchester Towers*; Gaskell, *The Life of Charlotte Brontë*; Eliot, *Scenes of Clerical Life*; Thackeray, *The Virginians*
- 1858 Clough, *Amours de Voyage*; Carlyle, *Frederick the Great*
- 1859 Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*; Eliot, *Adam Bede*; Meredith, *The Ordeal of Richard Feverel*; Mill, *On Liberty*; Darwin, *The Origin of Species*; Tennyson, *The Idylls of the King* (1859-72)
- 1860 Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*; Collins, *The Woman in White*; Ruskin, *Unto This Last*; Dickens, *Great Expectations*

EVENTS

- 1861 Victor Emanuel, King of United Italy; outbreak of American Civil War; death of Prince Consort
- 1863 'Cotton Famine' in Lancashire
- 1864 Geneva Convention
- 1865 Suppression of Jamaican rebellion by Governor Eyre; assassination of Lincoln
- 1866 Austro-Prussian War
- 1867 Representation of the People Act (second Reform Bill)
- 1869 First Vatican Council
- 1870 Married Woman's Property Act; Franco-Prussian War; Forster's Education Act; Papal States incorporated into Kingdom of Italy; death of Dickens
- 1871 Paris Commune
- 1875 Agricultural Depression
- 1877 Victoria proclaimed Empress of India
- 1878 Congress of Berlin
- 1880 Gladstone, Prime Minister
- 1881 Death of Disraeli
- 1885 Radio waves discovered; internal combustion engine invented
- 1886 Gladstone's first Home Rule Bill for Ireland defeated
- 1887 Victoria's Golden Jubilee

LITERARY WORKS

- 1861 Eliot, *Silas Marner*; Trollope, *Framley Parsonage*
- 1862 C. Rossetti, *Goblin Market*; Meredith, *Modern Love*; Eliot, *Romola* (1862-3); Braddon, *Lady Audley's Secret*
- 1863 Gaskell, *Sylvia's Lovers*
- 1864 Gaskell, *Wives and Daughters*; Newman, *Apologia pro vita sua*; Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend* (1864-5)
- 1865 Arnold, *Essays in Criticism*; Swinburne, *Atalanta in Calydon*; Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*
- 1866 Eliot, *Felix Holt*; Swinburne, *Poems and Ballads*
- 1867 Arnold, *New Poems*; Trollope, *The Last Chronicle of Barset*
- 1868 Collins, *The Moonstone*; Browning, *The Ring and the Book* (1868-9); Morris, *The Earthly Paradise* (1868-70)
- 1869 Trollope, *Phineas Finn*; Mill, *The Subjection of Women*
- 1870 Dickens, *Edwin Drood*; D. G. Rossetti, *Poems*
- 1871 Lear, *The Owl and the Pussy Cat*
- 1871-2 Eliot, *Middlemarch*
- 1872 Carroll, *Through the Looking-Glass*; Butler, *Erewhon*; Hardy, *Under the Greenwood Tree*
- 1873 Arnold, *Literature and Dogma*; Mill, *Autobiography*; Pater, *Studies in the History of the Renaissance*; Trollope, *The Way We Live Now* (1873-4)
- 1874 Hardy, *Far From the Madding Crowd*
- 1976 Eliot, *Daniel Deronda*
- 1878 Hardy, *The Return of the Native*
- 1879 Meredith, *The Egoist*
- 1880 Hardy, *The Trumpet Major*
- 1881 White, *Mark Rutherford's Autobiography*
- 1882 Hardy, *Two on a Tower*
- 1885 Pater, *Marius the Epicurean*; Meredith, *Diana of the Crossways*
- 1886 Moore, *A Drama in Muslin*; Stevenson, *Kidnapped* and *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*; Gissing, *Demos*
- 1887 White, *Revolution in Tanner's Lane*; Doyle, first Holmes story published in the *Strand Magazine*
- 1888 Kipling, *Plain Tales from the Hills*; Ward, *Robert Elsmere*
- 1889 Yeats, *The Wanderings of Oisín*;

EVENTS

- 1890 Parnell falls as leader of Irish Home Rule Party after being cited in the O'Shea divorce case
- 1893 Second Home Rule Bill rejected by the House of Lords
- 1895 X-rays discovered
- 1896 Wireless telegraphy invented
- 1897 Victoria's Diamond Jubilee
- 1899- Boer War
1902
- 1900 Relief of Mafeking
- 1901 Death of Victoria; accession of Edward VII
- 1903 First aeroplane flight; foundation of Women's Social and Political Union
- 1904 Franco-British Entente
- 1906 Liberal government elected; launch of HMS *Dreadnought*
- 1907 Anglo-Russian Entente
- 1908 Old Age Pensions Act; Elgar's first symphony
- 1909 'People's Budget'; English channel flown
- 1910 Death of Edward VII; accession of George V; first Post-Impressionist Exhibition
- 1911 National Insurance Act
- 1912 Second Post-Impressionist Exhibition; Home Rule Bill rejected by Lords; sinking of SS *Titanic*; death of Scott in the Antarctic
- 1913 Second rejection of Home Rule Bill by Lords
- 1914 Home Rule Bill passed by Parliament; Britain declares war on Central Powers (4 Aug.)
- 1915 Second battle of Ypres; sinking of SS *Lusitania*
- 1916 First Battle of the Somme; Gallipoli Campaign; Easter Rising in Dublin

LITERARY WORKS

- Stevenson, *The Master of Ballantrae*
- 1890 Kipling, *Barrack Room Ballads*
- 1891 Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*; Gissing, *New Grub Street*
- 1892 Shaw, *Widowers' Houses*; Yeats, *The Countess Cathleen*
- 1893 Pinero, *The Second Mrs Tanqueray*; Shaw, *Mrs Warren's Profession*
- 1894 Ward, *Marcella*; Moore, *Esther Waters*
- 1895 Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest and An Ideal Husband*; Wells, *The Time Machine*
- 1896 Hardy, *Jude the Obscure*; Houseman, *A Shropshire Lad*; Shaw, *You Never Can Tell*
- 1897 Stoker, *Dracula*
- 1898 Hardy, *Wessex Poems*
- 1900 Conrad, *Lord Jim*
- 1901 Kipling, *Kim*
- 1902 Bennett, *Anna of the Five Towns*
- 1903 Butler, *The Way of All Flesh*; Gissing, *Henry Ryecroft*
- 1904 Conrad, *Nostromo*; Hardy, *The Dynasts* (1904-8)
- 1905 Shaw, *Major Barbara* and *Man and Superman*; Wells, *Kipps*
- 1907 Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World*; Conrad, *The Secret Agent*
- 1908 Bennett, *The Old Wives' Tale*; Forster, *A Room with a View*; Chesterton, *The Man Who Was Thursday*
- 1909 Wells, *Tono Bungay*
- 1910 Bennett, *Clayhanger*; Forster, *Howards End*
- 1911 Conrad, *Under Western Eyes*; Wells, *The New Machiavelli*
- 1913 Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*
- 1914 Lewis, *Blast*; Joyce, *Dubliners*; Yeats, *Responsibilities*; Hardy, *Satires of Circumstances*
- 1915 Ford, *The Good Soldier*; Woolf, *The Voyage Out*; Lawrence, *The Rainbow*; Brooke, *1914 and Other Poems*; Richardson, *Pointed Roofs*
- 1916 Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

EVENTS

LITERARY WORKS

1917	Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele); T. E. Lawrence's campaigns in Arabia; Revolution in Russia (Feb., Oct.)	1917	Eliot, <i>Prufrock and Other Observations</i>
1918	Second battle of the Somme; final German offensive collapses; Armistice with Germany (11 Nov.); Franchise Act granting the vote to women over 30	1918	Lewis, <i>Tarr</i> ; Hopkins, <i>Poems</i> ; Strachey, <i>Eminent Victorians</i>
1919	Treaty of Versailles; Atlantic flown	1919	Sinclair, <i>Mary Olivier</i>
		1920	Owen, <i>Poems</i> ; Lawrence, <i>Women in Love</i> ; Shaw, <i>Heartbreak House</i> ; Fry, <i>Vision and Design</i>
1921	Establishment of Irish Free State	1921	Huxley, <i>Crome Yellow</i>
1922	Fascist government in Italy	1922	Eliot, <i>The Waste Land</i> ; Joyce, <i>Ulysses</i> ; Lawrence, <i>Fantasia of the Unconscious</i>
		1923	Huxley, <i>Antic Hay</i> ; Shaw, <i>Saint Joan</i> ; Bennett, <i>Riceman Steps</i>
1924	First Labour Government	1924	Forster, <i>A Passage to India</i> ; O'Casey, <i>Juno and the Paycock</i> ; Coward, <i>The Vortex</i>
		1925	Woolf, <i>Mrs Dalloway</i> ; Gerhardie, <i>The Polyglots</i>
1926	General Strike	1926	MacDiarmid, <i>A Drunk Man looks at the Thistle</i>
		1927	Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i>
1928	Death of Hardy	1928	Yeats, <i>The Tower</i> ; Lawrence, <i>Lady Chatterley's Lover</i> ; Waugh, <i>Decline and Fall</i> ; Sherriff, <i>Journey's End</i>
		1929	Aldington, <i>Death of a Hero</i> ; Green, <i>Living</i>
1930	World economic depression	1930	Auden, <i>Poems</i> ; Eliot, <i>Ash Wednesday</i> ; Waugh, <i>Vile Bodies</i> ; Coward, <i>Private Lives</i>
1931	National Government formed	1931	Woolf, <i>The Waves</i>
		1932	Huxley, <i>Brave New World</i> ; Gibbon, <i>Sunset Song</i> (first part of <i>A Scots Quair</i>)
1933	Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany	1933	Orwell, <i>Down and Out in Paris and London</i>
		1934	Eliot, 'Burnt Norton'; Waugh, <i>A Handful of Dust</i> ; Graves, <i>I, Claudius</i> ; Beckett, <i>More Pricks than Kicks</i>
1935	George V's Silver Jubilee	1935	Isherwood, <i>Mr Norris Changes Trains</i> and <i>Lions and Shadows</i> ; Auden and Isherwood, <i>The Dog Beneath the Skin</i> ; Eliot, <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i>
1936	Death of George V; accession of Edward VIII; abdication crisis; accession of George VI; Civil War breaks out in Spain; first of the Moscow show trials	1936	Auden, <i>Look Stranger!</i>
		1937	Auden and MacNeice, <i>Letters from Iceland</i> ; Jones, <i>In Parenthesis</i> ; Orwell, <i>The Road to Wigan Pier</i>
1938	German Anschluss with Austria; Munich agreement; dismemberment of Czechoslovakia	1938	Beckett, <i>Murphy</i> ; Bowen, <i>The Death of the Heart</i> ; Orwell, <i>Homage to Catalonia</i> ; Greene, <i>Brighton Rock</i>
1939	End of Civil War in Spain; Russo-German	1939	MacNeice, <i>Autumn Journal</i> ; Green, <i>Party</i>

EVENTS

- pact; Germany invades Poland (Sept.); Britain and France declare war on Germany
- 1940 Germany invades north-west Europe; fall of France; evacuation of British troops at Dunkirk; beginning of the 'blitz'
- 1941 Germany invades Russia; Japanese destroy US Fleet at Pearl Harbor
- 1942 Fall of Singapore; British victory in North Africa at El Alamein
- 1943 Allied invasion of Italy
- 1944 Allied landing in Normandy ('D Day'); liberation of Paris
- 1945 Surrender of Germany; atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Labour Government elected
- 1946 Nuremberg Trials end; nationalization of coal industry; foundation of National Health Service
- 1947 Independence of India and Pakistan
- 1948 Berlin Air Lift; 'cold war' at its height
- 1950 Labour returned at election with reduced majority
- 1951 Conservative victory at General Election; Festival of Britain
- 1952 Death of George VI; accession of Elizabeth II
- 1956 Egypt nationalizes Suez Canal; Britain and France intervene and are obliged to withdraw; Soviet invasion of Hungary
- 1957 CND formed
- 1960 Unexpurgated text of Lady Chatterley's Lover published after obscenity trial
- 1962 Establishment of the National Theatre

LITERARY WORKS

- Going*; Isherwood, *Goodbye to Berlin*; Eliot, *The Family Reunion*
- 1940 Auden, *New Year Letter*; Eliot, 'East Coker'; Greene, *The Power and the Glory*; Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*
- 1941 Eliot, 'The Dry Salvages'; Woolf, *Between the Acts*; Coward, *Blithe Spirit*
- 1942 Eliot, 'Little Gidding'
- 1943 Greene, *The Ministry of Fear*
- 1944 Cary, *The Horse's Mouth*
- 1945 Green, *Loving*; Orwell, *Animal Farm*; Waugh, *Brideshead Revisited*; Larkin, *The North Ship*
- 1946 Larkin, *Jill*; Rattigan, *The Winslow Boy*; Thomas, *Deaths and Entrances*
- 1947 Compton-Burnett, *Manservant and Maidservant*
- 1948 Greene, *The Heart of the Matter*; Fry, *The Lady's Not For Burning*
- 1949 Bowen, *The Heat of the Day*; Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-four*; Eliot, *The Cocktail Party*
- 1950 Auden, *Collected Shorter Poems*; Beckett, *Molloy* (first volume of trilogy)
- 1951 Douglas, *Collected Poems*; Powell, *A Question of Upbringing* (first volume of *A Dance to the Music of Time*)
- 1952 Jones, *Anathemata*; Rattigan, *The Deep Blue Sea*; Wilson, *Hemlock and After*
- 1954 Rattigan, *Separate Tables*; Golding, *Lord of the Flies*; Amis, *Lucky Jim*
- 1955 Larkin, *The Less Deceived*; Golding, *The Inheritors*; Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* (first British performance)
- 1956 Golding, *Pincher Martin*; Wilson, *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes*; Osborne, *Look Back in Anger*
- 1957 Hughes, *The Hawk in the Rain*; Spark, *The Comforters*; Durrell, *Justine*; Osborne, *The Entertainer*
- 1958 Pym, *A Glass of Blessings*; Betjeman, *Collected Poems*; Pinter, *The Birthday Party*; Murdoch, *The Bell*
- 1959 Spark, *Memento Mori*; Wesker, *Roots*; Golding, *Free Fall*; Arden, *Serjeant Musgrave's Dance*
- 1960 Hughes, *Lupercal*; Pinter, *The Caretaker*; Beckett, *Krapp's Last Tape*; Spark, *The Ballad of Peckham Rye*
- 1961 Osborne, *Luther*; Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*
- 1962 Beckett, *Happy Days*; Wilson, *Late Call*;

EVENTS

LITERARY WORKS

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| | | Lessing, <i>The Golden Notebook</i> ; Burgess, <i>A Clockwork Orange</i> |
| | 1963 | Amis, <i>One Fat Englishman</i> ; Fowles, <i>The Collector</i> |
| | 1964 | Orton, <i>Entertaining Mr Sloane</i> ; Larkin, <i>The Whitsun Weddings</i> ; Golding, <i>The Spire</i> ; Osborne, <i>Inadmissible Evidence</i> ; Pinter, <i>The Homecoming</i> |
| | 1965 | Bond, <i>Saved</i> |
| | 1966 | Heaney, <i>Death of a Naturalist</i> ; Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> ; West, <i>The Birds Fall Down</i> ; Scott, <i>The Jewel in the Crown</i> ; Stoppard, <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i> |
| 1967 | | Legalization, within limits, of homosexuality and abortion |
| | 1967 | Orton, <i>Loot</i> and <i>The Erpingham Camp</i> ; Hughes, <i>Wodwo</i> |
| 1968 | | Evénements in Paris; Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia; 'Troubles' begin in Northern Ireland |
| | 1968 | Stoppard, <i>The Real Inspector Hound</i> ; Hill, <i>King Log</i> |
| 1969 | | Abolition of capital punishment |
| | 1969 | Heaney, <i>Door in the Dark</i> ; Orton, <i>What the Butler Saw</i> ; Fowles, <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> |
| 1970 | | Age of majority reduced from 21 to 18 |
| | 1970 | Hughes, <i>Crow</i> |
| | 1971 | Hill, <i>Mercian Hymns</i> ; Bond, <i>Lear</i> ; Pinter, <i>Old Times</i> ; Spark, <i>Not to Disturb</i> |
| | 1972 | Stoppard, <i>Jumpers</i> |
| 1973 | | United Kingdom enters European Economic Community |
| | 1973 | Beckett, <i>Not I</i> ; Murdoch, <i>The Black Prince</i> |
| | 1974 | Spark, <i>The Abbess of Crewe</i> ; Beckett, <i>That Time</i> ; Larkin, <i>High Windows</i> ; Stoppard, <i>Travesties</i> |
| | 1975 | Heaney, <i>North</i> ; Pinter, <i>No Man's Land</i> ; Griffiths, <i>Comedians</i> ; Bradbury, <i>The History Man</i> |
| | 1977 | Stoppard, <i>Professional Foul</i> ; Drabble, <i>The Ice Age</i> ; Pym, <i>Quartet in Autumn</i> |
| | 1978 | Pinter, <i>Betrayal</i> ; Murdoch, <i>The Sea, The Sea</i> ; Byatt, <i>The Virgin in the Garden</i> ; Hill, <i>Tenebrae</i> |
| 1979 | | Election of Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Government |
| | 1979 | Golding, <i>Darkness Visible</i> ; Heaney, <i>Field Work</i> |
| | 1980 | Golding, <i>Rites of Passage</i> ; Burgess, <i>Earthly Powers</i> ; Friel, <i>Translations</i> |
| | 1981 | Rushdie, <i>Midnight's Children</i> |
| | 1982 | Churchill, <i>Top Girls</i> |
| | 1983 | Swift, <i>Waterland</i> |
| | 1984 | Heaney, <i>Station Island</i> ; Carter, <i>Nights at the Circus</i> |
| | 1985 | Hare and Brenton, <i>Pravda</i> ; Ackroyd, <i>Hawksmoor</i> |
| | 1988 | Pinter, <i>Mountain Language</i> ; Stoppard, <i>Hapgood</i> |
| 1989 | | Revolutions in Eastern Europe topple Communist regimes |
| 1990 | | Fall of Margaret Thatcher |
| | 1990 | Friel, <i>Dancing at Lughnasa</i> ; Byatt, <i>Possession</i> |