

## Literature in Context: A Chronology, c1660-1825

**Entries referring directly to Thomas Gray appear in bold type-face.**

- 1660 Restoration of Charles II. Patents granted to re-open London theatres. Actresses admitted onto the English and German stage. Samuel Pepys begins his diary (1660-1669). Birth of Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753), virtuoso and collector. Vauxhall Gardens opened. Death of Velázquez (1559-1660), artist.
- 1661 Birth of Daniel Defoe (c1661-1731), writer. Birth of Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea (1661-1720), writer. Birth of Sir Samuel Garth (1661-1719). Louis XIV crowned in France (reigns 1661-1715).
- 1662 Publication of Butler's "Hudibras" begins. The Royal Society is chartered. Death of Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), mathematician and philosopher. Charles II marries Catherine of Braganza and receives Tangier and Bombay as part of the dowry. Peter Lely appointed Court Painter. Louis XIV commences building at Versailles with Charles Le Brun as chief adviser.
- 1663 Milton finishes "Paradise Lost". Publication of the Third Folio edition of Shakespeare. The Theatre Royal, Bridges Street, opened on the Drury Lane site with a revival of Fletcher's "The Humorous Lieutenant". Birth of Cotton Mather (1663-1728), American preacher and writer.
- 1664 Birth of Sir John Vanbrugh (1664-1726), dramatist and architect. Birth of Matthew Prior (1664-1721), poet. Lully composes for Molière's ballets. "Le Tartuffe" receives its first performance. English forces take New Amsterdam and rename it New York. Newton works on Theory of Gravity (1664-1666).
- 1665 The Great Plague breaks out in London. Newton invents differential calculus. The "Journal des Savants", the first literary periodical, is published in Paris. Rembrandt paints "The Jewish Bride". Vermeer paints "The Artist's Studio". Death of Nicholas Poussin (1594-1665), artist.
- 1666 The Great Fire of London. Publication of Dryden's "Annus Mirabilis". Foundation of the Académie Royale des Sciences in Paris. Foundation of the Gobelins workshops. Production of Molière's "La Misanthrope". Newton discovers the spectrum. Death of Frans Hals (1580-1666), artist.
- 1667 Birth of Jonathan Swift (1667-1745). Death of Abraham Cowley (1618-1667), poet. Birth of John Arbuthnot (1667-1745), physician, wit and friend of Swift. Death of George Wither (1588-1667), poet. Dryden's "Essays on Dramatic Poesy" published. Publication of John Locke's "Essay concerning Toleration". Publication of Milton's "Paradise Lost". The Dutch sail up the Thames during the Second Dutch War and blockade London for several weeks. The Fall of Clarendon. The Peace of Breda ends the Anglo-Dutch war.
- 1668 Publication of Aphra Behn's "Oroonoko". Newton constructs a reflecting telescope. Leeuwenhoek describes red corpuscles.
- 1669 John Locke's constitution for Carolina is approved. Pepys completes his Diary (1660-1669). Death of Sir John Denham (1615-1669), poet. Death of Rembrandt (1606-1669). Versailles is remodelled by Le Vau. Molière's "Monsieur de Pourceaugnac" first performed at Chambord. Steno lays the foundations of modern geology.

- 1670 Birth of William Congreve (1670-1729), dramatist. Publication of Milton's "Historie of Britain". John Dryden made first Poet Laureate (from 1670 to 1689). Publication of "Pensées" by Pascal and "Tractatus Theologico-politicus" by Spinoza. The Hudson's Bay Company is chartered. Minute hands are added to watches.
- 1671 Birth of Colley Cibber (1671-1757), dramatist. Birth of Anthony Ashley Cooper, Third Earl of Shaftesbury (1671-1713), moralist. Publication of "Samson Agonistes" and "Paradise Regained" by Milton. Birth of Albinoni (1671-1751), composer. Foundation of the Académie de la Musique in Paris and opening of the Paris Opéra. Leibniz defines and describes the "ether".
- 1672 Birth of Joseph Addison (1672-1719), writer. Birth of Sir Richard Steele (1672-1729), writer. Production of Wycherley's "The Gentleman Dancing-Master". The Theatre Royal, Bridges Street, burns down.
- 1673 Death of Jean Baptiste Poquelin, better known as Molière (1622-1673). Production of Wycherley's "The Country Wife" and Dryden's "Marriage à la Mode". Test Act excludes Catholics from office.
- 1674 Death of John Milton (1608-1674). Death of Robert Herrick (1591-1633), poet. Death of Thomas Traherne (1638-1674), writer. Birth of Nicholas Rowe (1674-1718), playwright and poet. Birth of Isaac Watts (1674-1748), author of "Divine Songs for Children". Production of Wycherley's "The Plain Dealer". Wren's Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, opens with a revival of Fletcher's "The Beggar's Bush". Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon (1608-1674), statesman, dies. Godfrey Kneller comes to England.
- 1675 Birth of William Somerville (1675-1742), poet. Wren commences rebuilding of St. Paul's Cathedral. The speed of light is calculated by Roemer. Flamsteed establishes the Greenwich Observatory. Death of Jan Vermeer (1632-1675), artist.
- 1676 Birth of Sir Robert Walpole (1676-1745), Britain's first and longest serving prime minister. Birth of Benjamin Hoadley (1676-1761), controversialist. Production of Etherege's "Man of the Mode, or Sir Fopling Flutter" and Thomas Otway's "Don Carlos". Wren commences work on the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge.
- 1677 Birth of George Farquhar (1677-1707), dramatist. Death of Spinoza (1632-1677), philosopher. Publication of Spinoza's "Ethics" and "Tractatus Politicus". Production of Racine's "Phèdre". William of Orange marries Princess Mary, daughter of the Duke of York. Death of Wenceslaus Hollar (1607-1677), engraver. Leeuwenhoek discovers protozoa.
- 1678 Dryden's "All for Love" produced. Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" published, Publication of the final part of Butler's "Hudibras". Titus Oates and the Popish Plot exposed. Roman Catholics excluded from Parliament. Death of Andrew Marvell (1621-1678), poet. Birth of Vivaldi (1678-1741), composer.
- 1679 Death of Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), philosopher. Death of Roger Boyle, First Earl of Orrery (1621-1679), writer. Birth of Thomas Parnell (1679-1718), poet. The plays of Beaumont and Fletcher are published posthumously. The first volume of Burnet's "History of the Reformation of the Church of England" appears. Samuel Pepys imprisoned in the Tower. Henry Purcell becomes organist at Westminster Abbey. Hannepin discovers the Niagara Falls. Elias Ashmole, a great collector, founds the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. Death of Jan Steen (1626-1679), artist.
- 1680 Death of Samuel Butler (1612-1680), author of "Hudibras". Death of John Wilmot, Second Earl of Rochester (1647-1680), poet. Birth of Susanna Freeman (1670?-1723), actress and dramatist, known as Mrs. Centilevre. Publication of Robert

Filmer's "Patriarche, or the Natural Power of Kings". Death of Sir Peter Lely (1618-1680), artist. Death of Bernini (1598-1680), architect and artist. Louis XIV founds the Comédie Française.

- 1681 Le Salle explores the Mississippi. Birth of Telemann (1681-1767), composer. Death of Calderón de la Barca (1600-1681), dramatist, successor to Lope de Vega. Wren completes the Tom Tower, Christ Church, Oxford.
- 1682 Dryden's "Absalom and Achitopel" completed. Otway's "Venice Preserv'd" is performed. The Advocate's Library in Edinburgh is founded. Louis XIV moves the French Court to Versailles. Huguenots are persecuted in France. Sir Edmund Halley observes the comet which is named after him. Peter I "the Great" becomes Czar of Russia (reigns 1682-1725). Deaths of the artists Claude Lorrain (1600-1682), Murillo (1617-1682) and Jacob van Ruisdael (1628-1682).
- 1683 Death of John Oldham (1653-1683), writer. Death of Izaak Walton (1593-1683), writer. Birth of Edward Young (1683-1765), poet. The Ryehouse Plot. Birth of Rameau (1683-1764), composer. The Turks besiege Vienna, but are beaten back. Coffee is found in their abandoned baggage and becomes a popular drink. The crescent roll (the croissant) is patented by Viennese bakers. Leeuwenhoek describes bacteria. Birth of Domenico Scarlatti (1683-1757), composer. Death of Peter de Hooch (1629-1683), artist. Dampier begins his circumnavigation of the world.
- 1684 John Locke flees to Holland after alleged complicity in Shaftesbury's plots. Samuel Pepys made President of the Royal Society. Birth of Handel (1684-1759), composer. Birth of Antoine Watteau (1684-1721), artist. Death of Pierre Corneille (1606-1684), dramatist. Kaempfer travels to Persia, Japan and the Far East.
- 1685 Death of Charles II and accession of James II. Birth of George Berkeley (1685-1753), philosopher. Birth of John Gay (1685-1732), poet and dramatist. Death of Thomas Otway (1652-1685), dramatist. Publication of the Fourth Folio edition of Shakespeare. Daniel Defoe takes part in Monmouth's Rebellion. Monmouth is defeated at Sedgemoor and beheaded. The Bloody Assizes of Judge Jeffreys take place. Birth of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Louis XIV signs the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes at Fontainebleau.
- 1686 Dryden converts to Roman Catholicism. Vanbrugh joins the army. Birth of Thomas Tickell (1686-1740), poet and translator. Birth of Allan Ramsay (1686-1758), poet.
- 1687 Dryden's "Hind and the Panther" published. Death of Nell Gwynn (1651-1687), actress and royal mistress. James II issues the declaration of Indulgence. Newton's "Principia Mathematica" published. Sir Hans Sloane visits Jamaica. Death of Lully (1632-1687), composer.
- 1688 Birth of Alexander Pope (1688-1744). Birth of Laurence Eusden (1688-1730), poet. Daniel Defoe joins the army of William III during the Glorious Revolution. Sir George Etherege, dramatist and envoy to Ratisbon, flees to France, as does the deposed James II. William III and Mary crowned. John Bunyan (1628-1688), author of "Pilgrim's Progress" dies.
- 1689 Death of Aphra Behn (1640-1689), dramatist. Birth of Samuel Richardson (1689-1761), novelist. Swift enters the household of Sir William Temple, to educate Esther Johnson ("Stella"). Thomas Shadwell succeeds Dryden as Poet Laureate (from 1689 to 1692) as Dryden falls from favour. John Locke restored to public office by William III, Samuel Pepys thrown out. The Bill of Rights is enacted. Louis XIV declares war

on England. Production of Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas", the first English opera, with words by Nahum Tate. Hobbema paints "The Avenue, Middelharnis". Birth of Charles Louis de Secondat de Montesquieu (1689-1755), philosopher.

- 1690 Locke's "Essays Concerning Human Understanding" and "An Essay Concerning the True Original, Extent and End of Civil Government" published. Publication of Sir William Temple's "Of Ancient and Modern Learning". Birth of the publisher Edward Cave (1690-1754), publisher. John Fell bequeaths his printing equipment to the University of Oxford, causing the foundation of Oxford University Press. William III defeats James II at the Battle of the Boyne in Ireland. The French threaten to invade England.
- 1691 Death of Robert Boyle (1627-1691), scientist. Death of Sir George Etherege (1634?-1691?), dramatist. Congreve studies law in England. Production of Purcell's "King Arthur" with words by Dryden. Production of Racine's "Athalie".
- 1692 Death of Thomas Shadwell (1642?-1692), Poet Laureate. Succeeded by Nahum Tate (from 1692 to 1715). Birth of Joseph Butler (1692-1752), theologian. Publication of "Incognita", novel by Congreve. Performance of Purcell's "The Fairy Queen". The Massacre of Glencoe. The College of William and Mary founded in Virginia. Cotton Mather involved in the Salem witchcraft trials.
- 1693 Publication of "The Old Batchelor", a comedy by Congreve. Publication of "Miscellanies" by John Dennis. England's National Debt created.
- 1694 François Marie Arouet (Voltaire) (1694-1778) born. Birth of Philip Dormer Stanhope (1694-1773), Earl of Chesterfield, writer and statesman. Production of "The Double Dealer" by Congreve. Production of "The Fatal Marriage" by Thomas Southerne. Publication of the "Dictionnaire" de l'Académie Française. Foundation of the Bank of England. Wren commences Greenwich Hospital. Fischer von Erlach begins Castle Schönbrunn. Birth of Rysbrack (1694-1770), sculptor.
- 1695 Production of "Love for Love", by Congreve. Production of Purcell's "The Indian Queen". Death of Henry Purcell (1658?-1695), composer. Window tax levied in England.
- 1696 Birth of William Oldys (1696-1761), bibliographer. Performance of Vanbrugh's "The Relapse" and Cibber's "Love's Last Shift". Publication of "Oroonoko" by Thomas Southerne. The Academy of Arts founded in Berlin. John Locke and Isaac Newton supervise the introduction of new English coinage. The Habeas Corpus Act is suspended. Savery makes the first practical steam engine. Birth of Tiepolo (1696-1770), artist.
- 1697 Death of John Aubrey (1626-1697), writer and antiquary. Production of "The Mourning Bride" by Congreve and "The Relapse" by Vanbrugh. Publication of "Essay upon Projects" by Defoe. Publication of Dryden's verse translation of Virgil. George Farquhar comes to London from Dublin to work as an actor. Birth of William Hogarth (1697-1764). Performance of Vanbrugh's "The Provok'd Wife". Publication of Perault's "Fairy Tales" The Peace of Ryswick between France, England, Holland and Spain. Peter the Great travels Europe (1697-1698). The Palace of Whitehall burns down. Birth of Canaletto (1697-1768), artist.
- 1698 Publication of "A Short View of the Immorality and Profaneness of the English Stage" by Jeremy Collier. Birth of William Warburton (1698-1779), theologian. Newton calculates the speed of sound. Foundation of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

- 1699 Swift defends Sir William Temple against Bentley and Wotton in "The Battle of the Books". Death of Sir William Temple (1628-1699), statesman and essayist. Birth of Robert Blair (1699-1746), poet. Publication of Dryden's "Fables, Ancient and Modern". Death of Jean Racine (1639-1699), dramatist. Dampier explores what is later realised to be North-West Australia. Birth of Chardin (1699-1779), artist. First issue of the Almanac of Francis Moore ("Old Moore").
- 1700 Death of John Dryden (1631-1700) following the publication of his "Ancient and Modern" and "Secular Masque". Publication of "The Way of the World" by Congreve, Birth of John Dyer (1700?-1758), poet. Birth of James Thomson (1700-1748), poet. String orchestras are established at about this date and the horn is introduced. Berlin Academy of Science founded with Leibniz as President.
- 1701 Swift begins first of many visits to England. Publication of "The True-born Englishman" by Defoe. Publication of Steele's "A Christian Hero". The Grand Alliance formed by England, Holland and Austria to place Archduke Charles on the throne of Spain rather than Philip, grandson of Louis XIV. Death of James II. The Electorate of Brandenburg becomes the Kingdom of Prussia. Yale Collegiate School founded (becomes Yale University). Captain Kidd is hanged.
- 1702 Publication of "The Shortest Way with Dissenters" by Defoe results in his imprisonment (and changes his name from James Foe to Daniel Defoe). The death of William III and accession of Queen Anne. Marlborough appointed Commander-in-Chief of Allied forces. The War of the Spanish Succession (1702-1713) begins in support of the Grand Alliance. The "Daily Courant" is published, the first daily newspaper.
- 1703 Birth of John Wesley (1703-1791), theologian. Birth of Henry Brooke (1703-1783), poet. Newton commences 25 year term as President of the Royal Society. Death of Samuel Pepys (1633-1703), diarist and government servant. Foundation of St. Petersburg laid. Birth of Boucher (1703-1770), artist.
- 1704 Death of John Locke (1632-1704), philosopher. Alexander Pope introduced to London life by Wycherley. Swift's "A Tale of a Tub" published. Appearance of the "Review" (1704-1713) by the imprisoned Defoe. Publication of Newton's "Opticks". Publication of Wycherley's "Miscellany Poems" admired by Pope. Marlborough defeats Bavarians and French at the Battle of Blenheim. Steam engine improved by Newcomen. Work begins on Buckingham Palace.
- 1705 Death of John Ray (1627-1705), naturalist. Birth of Stephen Duck (1705-1756), poet. Birth of David Hartley (1705-1757), philosopher. First performance of Cibber's "The Careless Husband" and Steele's "The Tender Husband". The Queen's Theatre opens in London with Congreve as manager. Beau Nash becomes Master of Ceremonies in Bath. Vanbrugh builds Blenheim Palace for Marlborough.
- 1706 Death of John Evelyn (1620-1706), diarist and co-founder of the Royal Society. Birth of Ann Williams (1706-1783), writer. Birth of Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), scientist and statesman. Birth of Richard Turpin (1706-1739), highwayman. Publication of "Horae Lyricae" by Isaac Watts. Production of Farquhar's "The Recruiting Officer". Marlborough is victorious at Ramilles and conquers the Spanish Netherlands. The first evening paper, "The Evening Post", appears in London. The death of Pachelbel (1653-1706), composer.
- 1707 Death of George Farquhar (1677-1707), dramatist, in the same year that his "Beaux' Strategem" is produced. Birth of Henry Fielding (1707-1754), journalist and novelist. Publication of "Blenheim" by John Philips. The publication of "Archaeologia Britannica" by Edward Lhuydd revives interest in the Celtic language. Publication of "Hymns and Spiritual Songs" by Isaac Watts. The Act of Union of England and Scotland. Handel

meets Scarlatti in Venice. The birth of Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778), who devised the system of binomial classification. Publication of Sir Hans Sloane's "Natural History of Jamaica".

1708 Sir Robert Walpole serves a 3 year period as Secretary of War. Publication of "Wine" by John Gay extolling the virtues of drink. A Professorship of Poetry established at Oxford. Jeremy Collier's "The Ecclesiastical History of England" published (1708-1714). Battle of Oudenarde, won by Marlborough, secures Northern France. British forces take Sardinia and Minorca. The Old Pretender appears briefly in Scotland. Death of John Blow (1648-1708), composer.

1709 Birth of Samuel Johnson (1709-1784). Birth of John Armstrong (1709-1779), poet and disciple of James Thomson. Joseph Addison and Richard Steele collaborate to produce the "Tatler" (1709-1711). Publication of Pope's "Pastorals". Production of "The Busy Body" by Mrs. Centilevre. Death of John Philips (1676-1709), poet. Introduction of the first English Copyright Act. Marlborough victorious at Malplaquet. Cristofori of Florence produces the first piano. Death of Hobbema (1638-1709), artist. Magnolias introduced to England from Japan.

1710 Sir Robert Walpole serves 2 year period as Treasurer of the Navy. Publication of Congreve's "Works". Publication of Berkeley's "Principles of Human Knowledge". Appearance of "The Examiner". Approximate date at which the Kit-Cat Club is active, which included Addison, Congreve, Steele, Vanbrugh, Jacob Tonson (the publisher) and Sir Samuel Garth (physician) as members, and which met at the London House of Christopher Cat, pastry cook, whose mutton pies (or kit-cats) were widely praised. The Kit-Cat Club was immortalised by Kneller's portrait of the group (which started a fashion for less than half length, or Kit-Cat-sized, portraits). Handel becomes Kapellmeister to the Elector of Hanover. Births of the composers Thomas Arne (1710-1778), William Boyce (1710-1779) and Pergolesi (1710-1736). Wren completes rebuilding of St. Paul's Cathedral. Meissen Pottery works established.

1711 Joseph Addison and Richard Steele collaborate to produce "The Spectator" (1711-1712). Publication of Pope's "Essay on Criticism". Pope and Addison become friends. Publication of Swift's "The Conduct of the Allies" and "Miscellanies". Birth of David Hume (1711-1776), philosopher. Matthew Prior serves as secret agent in Paris. Marlborough is dismissed as Commander-in-Chief of the British forces. Publication of Shaftesbury's "Characteristicks of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times". Handel's "Rinaldo" is the first of his operas to be performed, at Queen's Theatre. Queen Anne opens the first races at Ascot.

1712 Sir Robert Walpole expelled from the House of Commons and imprisoned in the Tower of London on a charge of corruption. Pope's "Rape of the Lock" published. Swift's "Journal to Stella" appears. The introduction of the Stamp Act leads to an increase in the price of newspapers. The last execution for witchcraft in England. Birth of Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), philosopher. Birth of Francesco Guardi (1712-1793), artist. The

1712 (continued)

Biblioteca Nacional founded in Madrid. The Académie des sciences, belles lettres et arts founded in Bordeaux.

1713 Publication of "The Guardian". Publication of the "Ode on St. Cecilia's Day" and "Windsor Forest" by Pope. Jonathan Swift made Dean of St Patrick's, Dublin. Publication of "Rural Sports" by John Gay. Death of Anthony Ashley Cooper, Third Earl of Shaftesbury (1671-1713), statesman and writer. Appearance of Steele's "The Englishman" (1713-1714). Birth of Laurence Sterne (1713-1768), poet. Publication of "Miscellany Poems by a Lady" by Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea. Birth of Denis

Diderot (1713-1784), founder of the Encyclopédie. Approximate date for the foundation of the Scriblerus Club, which included Pope, Swift, Gay Parnell, Arbuthnot, Congreve, Lord Oxford and Atterbury as members. The Treaty of Utrecht ends the War of the Spanish Succession, negotiated in part by Matthew Prior. Completion of the Clarendon Building, Oxford, designed by Hawksmoor. Birth of Allan Ramsay (1713-1784), painter. Death of Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713), composer. The Board of Longitude is established.

- 1714 Publication of the new "Spectator". Pope and Swift become life-long friends, but Swift returns to exile in Ireland with the downfall of the Tories. Publication of "The Shepherd's Week" by Gay. Birth of William Shenstone (1714-1763), poet. Publication of Nicholas Rowe's Acting Edition of Shakespeare. The death of Queen Anne and the accession of King George I of the House of Hanover. Marlborough is reinstated. The Schism Act is passed forcing teachers to declare their conformity to the Established Church. Publication of the "Monadologie" by Leibniz. Handel's "Water Music" written and performed. Publication of Eustachio's anatomical works. Fahrenheit invents the mercury thermometer. Birth of Richard Wilson (1714-1782), landscape painter. The Radcliffe Camera, designed by James Gibbs, opened in Oxford. Birth of Gluck (1714-1787), composer.
- 1715 Death of Nahum Tate (1652-1715), Poet Laureate. He is succeeded by Nicholas Rowe (for three years). Birth of William Whitehead (1715-1785), poet. Birth of William Strahan (1715-1785), publisher and printer. Birth of Helvétius (1715-1771), philosopher. Sir Robert Walpole commences 3 year term as Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer (1715-1717). Pope and Addison quarrel following publication of Thomas Tickell's translation of the "Iliad" under Addison's patronage. Pope commences verse translation of the "Iliad" (1715-1720). Matthew Prior imprisoned by Whigs (1715-1716). "Claremont", by Sir Samuel Garth, published. Publication of "Divine Songs for Children" by Isaac Watts. First publication of "Gil Blas de Santillane" by Lesage (completed 1735). The Jacobite "Fifteen" Rebellion, supporting James Francis Edward, the Old Pretender, halted by defeat at the Battle of Sherriffmuir. Death of Louis XIV, the "Sun King", who is succeeded by Louis XV (reigns 1715-1774). Rococo style is dated from this period. William Kent pioneers revolutionary "natural" style of garden design.
- 1716 **Thomas Gray (1716-1771) born at No. 41, Cornhill, London, the son of Philip Gray, a scrivener, and his wife Dorothy (née Antrobus) on 26 December 1716. Their fifth child, he was the only one of twelve to survive infancy. His father is a brutal tyrant, beating his wife and refusing to support either wife or child. Gray's mother keeps a milliner's shop with her sister, Mary Antrobus, at the same address to provide means for herself and her son who lives in Burnham, near Stoke Poges, with his uncle (Dorothy's brother) Robert Antrobus, a Fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge, assistant master at Eton.** Death of William Wycherley (1640?-1716), dramatist. Publication of Benjamin Hoadly's "The Principles and Practices of the Non-Jurors", which causes tumult in the Church of England. First recorded visit of an English theatrical troupe to America (to Williamsburg, Virginia). Foundation of the Dr. Williams Library. Establishment of the "Sinking Fund" to reduce Britain's National Debt. John Law founds the Banque Générale in Paris. Death of
- 1716 (continued)
- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716), mathematician and philosopher. Birth of James Brindley (1716-1772), father of the English canal system. Vivaldi completes "The Four Seasons". Peter the Great tours Europe. Britain signs the Treaty of Westminster with the Holy Roman Emperor. Mineral springs discovered in Cheltenham. Birth of Lancelot "Capability" Brown (1716-1783), landscape gardener.
- 1717 **Horace Walpole (1717-1797), fourth Earl of Orford, fourth son of Sir Robert Walpole, born.** Birth of Richard West (1717-1742), writer. Birth of David Garrick (1717-1779), actor. Publication of Pope's "Poems". Publication of Thomas Parnell's "Homer's Battle of the Frogs and the Mice". Benjamin Hoadly preaches his famous

“The Nature of the Kingdom or Church of Christ” sermon stating that sincerity is the only requirement of the Christian Minister and tests for conformity should be abolished. In consequence, Parliament prorogues the Convocation which does not meet again until 1852. Birth of Jean Le Rond D’Alembert (1717-1783), writer. The combination of wool-workers in the West Country starts move towards unionisation of workers. The Triple Alliance formed between England, France and Holland to uphold the Treaty of Utrecht. Peter the Great visits Paris.

1718 Death of Nicholas Rowe (1674-1718), Poet Laureate. He is succeeded by Laurence Eusden (from 1718 to 1730). Death of Thomas Parnell (1679-1718), poet. Matthew Prior’s “Poems” published. Production of “A Bold Stroke for a Wife” by Mrs. Centilivre and “The Non-Juror” by Cibber. The Quadruple Alliance formed between England, France, Austria and Holland against Spain. Admiral Byng destroys the Spanish fleet. Death of William Penn (1644-1718). Voltaire imprisoned in the Bastille. England’s first bank notes issued. New Orleans founded. The Society of Antiquaries formed.

1719 Death of Joseph Addison (1672-1719), writer. Pope moves to Twickenham. Publication of “Robinson Crusoe” by Daniel Defoe. Henry Fielding at school at Eton (until c1728). Death of Sir Samuel Garth (1661-1719), poet. Birth of Thomas Chippendale (1719-1779), cabinet-maker. Death of John Flamsteed (1646-1719), astronomer. Repeal of the Schism Act. Voltaire exiled at Sully. Foundation of Westminster Hospital.

1720 Birth of Elizabeth Montagu (1720-1800), writer, conversationalist and Queen of the Blue Stockings. Birth of Sarah Siddons (1720-1804), actress. Birth of Charlotte Lennox (1720-1804), novelist and translator. Birth of Gilbert White (1720-1793), naturalist. Death of Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea (1661-1720), writer. Pope completes verse translation of the “Iliad”. Publication of Gay’s “Collected Poems”. Novels are first serialized in journals. Opening of the Haymarket Theatre. Peace with Spain. The collapse of the South Sea Bubble scheme to pay off the National Debt. France bankrupted by the collapse of John Law’s Mississippi Co. James Gibbs commences work on the Octagon (completed 1725) at Orleans House, Twickenham, Middlesex. Birth of the artists Piranesi (1720-1778) and Canaletto (1720-1780).

1721 Birth of William Collins (1721-1759), poet. Sir Robert Walpole commences 21 year second term as Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer (1721-1742). Publication of “Drapier’s Letters” by Swift who also commences “Gulliver’s Travels”. Death of Mathew Prior (1664-1721), poet. Birth of Tobias Smollett (1721-1771), writer. Birth of Mark Akenside (1721-1770), poet. Birth of William Robertson (1721-1793), historian. Publication of Montesquieu’s “Lettres Persanes”. Roggeveen discovers Easter Island. Handels’ “Acis and Galatea” first performed. Bach completes the “Brandenburg Concertos”. Death of Antoine Watteau (1684-1721), artist. Death of Grinling Gibbons (1648-1721), sculptor.

1722 Publication of “Moll Flanders” and “A Journal of the Plague

1722 (continued)

Year” by Defoe. Birth of Christopher Smart (1722-1771), poet. Production of Steele’s last comedy “The Conscious Lovers”. Birth of Joseph Warton (1722-1800), critic and poet. Knatchbull’s Act encourages the building of local Workhouses for the poor. Francis Atterbury arrested and banished for corresponding with the Pretender. One of the first great Palladian mansions, Stourhead, is built in Wiltshire. Death of John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough (1650-1722). Birth of Samuel Adams (1722-1803), American patriot. Bach publishes first part of “Das wohltemprierte Klavier”. Foundation of Guy’s Hospital. James Gibbs commences St. Martin’s-in-the-Fields in London (completed 1726).



- 1723 Birth of Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792), artist. Birth of Adam Smith (1723-1790), political economist and philosopher. Birth of William Blackstone (1723-1780), legal theorist. Birth of Baron d'Holbach (1723-1789), philosopher. Birth of Richard Price (1723-1791), controversialist. Death of Susanna Freeman (1680-1723), actress and dramatist, known as Mrs. Centilevre. Bach completes "G minor Fantasia and Fugue". Death of Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723), architect. Death of Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723), artist.
- 1724 Publication of "Roxana" by Defoe and start of "A Tour thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain" (1724-1727). Birth of William Gilpin (1724-1804), pioneer of picturesque descriptive writing. Professorships of Modern History and Modern Languages established in Cambridge and Oxford. Birth of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), philosopher. Death of Elkanah Settle (1648-1724), dramatist. Birth of John Smeaton (1724-1792), civil engineer. Birth of George Stubbs (1724-1806), artist. Longman's founded. Gin gains great popularity in England. The Three Choirs Festival (for Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester) is established.
- 1725 Pope embarks on verse translation of the "Odyssey" (1725-1726) and publishes his edition of Shakespeare. Ramsay's "The Gentle Shepherd" appears. The poet James Thomson arrives in London. Death of Peter I "the Great" of Russia, czar of Russia (reigned 1682-1725), succeeded by his wife, Catherine I (reigned 1725-1727). Foundation of the St. Petersburg Academy of Science. Death of Alessandro Scarlatti (1659-1725), composer. Birth of Casanova (1725-1798), amorous adventurer. Publication of the "Scienza Nuovo" of Giovanni Vico. Canaletto finishes "Four views of Venice".
- 1726 Publication of "Gulliver's Travels" by Swift and the "Four Voyages of Capt. George Roberts" by Defoe. Death of Sir John Vanbrugh (1664-1726), playwright and architect (designer of the Haymarket Theatre, Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard). Death of Jeremy Collier (1650-1726), the non-juror and controversialist. William Hogarth's illustrations to Samuel Butler's "Hudibras" appear. James Thomson commences publication of "The Seasons" (1726-1730). Voltaire in exile in England (1726-1729). Publication of "Fifteen Sermons" by Joseph Butler. Allan Ramsay starts the first circulating library in Edinburgh. Handel becomes a British citizen. "Lloyd's List" first appears. Birth of George Hepplewhite (1726-1786), cabinet-maker. Salvi commences building of the Trevi fountain in Rome (1726-1728).
- 1727 **Gray sent to Eton at his mother's expense at around this date. He is under the special care of his uncle, Robert Antrobus, an assistant-master at Eton, and Robert's brother William, also an assistant-master. Whilst at Eton, Gray ("Orosmales") forms close friendships with Horace Walpole ("Tudeus"), Richard West ("Favonius") and Thomas Ashton ("Almanzor"), who are later described by Walpole as the Quadruple Alliance. Gray discovers poetry through reading Virgil and undertakes customary latin exercises.** Pope completes verse translation of the "Odyssey". Birth of John Wilkes (1727-1797), politician. Birth of Arthur Murphy (1727-1805), dramatist. Publication of Gay's "Fables", a great popular success. First appearance of the "Miscellanies" by Pope,
- 1727 (continued)
- Swift and Arbuthnot. Death of Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), scientist. Birth of Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) artist. The death of George I and the accession of George II. Sir Hans Sloane succeeds Sir Isaac Newton as head of the Royal Society (he serves as president, 1727-1741).
- 1728 Birth of Thomas Warton (1728-1790), scholar poet. Birth of Charles Burnley (1728-1814), musicologist. Johnson at Pembroke College, Oxford, but leaves after four terms due to poverty. The poet William Shenstone is also at Pembroke College,

Oxford. Swift publishes "A Short View of the State of Ireland". Pope attacks Theobald, a hostile critic, in "The Dunciad". Philip Dormer Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield, serves as ambassador to the Hague (1728-1732). Fielding leaves Eton and studies Law in Leyden. First performance of "The Beggar's Opera" by Gay. Hogarth paints his "conversation pieces" (1728-1729). Publication of William Laws' "Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life" which inspired Wesley and others. Laws is a Tutor to the Gibbon family (1728-1740). Completion of Edward Young's satire "The Universal Passion" (1725-1728). Publication of Ephraim Chambers' "Cyclopaedia". Birth of Robert Bage (1728-1801), novelist. Birth of James Cook (1728-1779). Birth of Matthew Boulton (1728-1809) entrepreneur. Foundation of the Moravian mission in England. Bering discovers the straits separating the American and Asian continents. Birth of Robert Adam (1728-1792), architect. Death of Cotton Mather (1663-1728), American writer and preacher. John Wood the Elder designed Queen Square in Bath. Publication of Gibbs' "Book of Architecture".

1729 Birth of Edmund Burke (1729-1797), statesman and writer. Death of William Congreve (1670-1729), dramatist. Birth of Clara Reeve (1729-1807), novelist. Enlarged edition of Pope's "The Dunciad" published. Gay's "Polly" banned. Death of Sir Richard Steele (1672-1729), writer. Death of Samuel Clarke (1675-1729), Newtonian. First translation into English of Newton's "Principia Mathematica". Voltaire ends exile in England (1726-1729) having completed the "Lettres Philosophiques". Birth of Gotthold Lessing (1729-1781), German playwright and critic. Baltimore founded. Carolina divided into North and South Carolina by Act of Parliament. Treaty of Seville between France, Spain and England. Bach completes the "St. Matthew Passion". John Wood builds Queen's Square in Bath (completed 1736).

1730 Birth of Oliver Goldsmith (1730-1774), poet, novelist and dramatist. Colley Cibber appointed Poet Laureate (from 1730 to 1757) on the death of Laurence Eusden (1688-1730). Completion of "The Seasons" by Thomson. The "Grub Street Journal" appears (1730-1737). Hogarth paints "Before and After". Four-course system of planting pioneered by Viscount Townshend.

1731 Death of Daniel Defoe (1660?-1731), writer and adventurer. Birth of William Cowper (1731-1800), poet. Birth of Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802), poet and naturalist. Birth of Charles Churchill (1731-1764), satirist. Death of Francis Atterbury (1662-1731), poet and controversial cleric. Pope starts "Four Moral Essays". First appearance of "The Gentleman's Magazine" (1731-1914) founded by Edward Cave. Publication of "Manon Lescaut" by Abbé Prévost. Hogarth paints "The Harlot's Progress". 10 Downing Street built.

1732 Pope commences "An Essay on Man". Birth of Warren Hastings (1732-1818), statesman. Birth of Charles James Fox (1732-1816), politician. Birth of Richard Cumberland (1732-1811), dramatist. Death of John Gay (1685-1732), poet and dramatist. Covent Garden Theatre opened with a revival of Congreve's "The Way of the World". Birth of Haydn (1732-1809), composer. Birth of Fragonard (1732-1806), artist. Birth of Beaumarchais (1732-1799), dramatist and music-master. Handel's "Esther" performed at the King's Theatre, the first oratorio heard in England. Birth of Richard Arkwright (1732-1792), inventor of

1732 (continued)

the spinning frame. Birth of George Washington (1732-1799).  
Academie of Ancient Music founded.

1733 Pope commences "Imitations of Horace". Birth of George Colman the Elder (1733-1794), dramatist. Birth of Joseph Priestley (1733-1804), scientist and politician. Death of John Dunton (1659-1733), journalist. Publication of Voltaire's "Lettres sur les Anglais". James Oglethorpe leads the settlement of Georgia. Birth of Johann

Zoffany (1733-1810), artist. Latin language abolished in English courts.

1734 **Gray enters as a pensioner (4 July) at Peterhouse, Cambridge and gains formal admission (9 October). He continues there until 1738. Thomas Ashton has already been admitted to King's (11 August) and Walpole also joins King's in 1735. Gray concentrates on history, modern languages and European Literature. He is ridiculed by his fellow students for his supposed effeminacy. Gray completes "Lines Spoken to John Dennis", his first extant poem, and sends it to Walpole.** Death of John Dennis (1657-1734), poet and dramatist. Pope concludes publication of "An Essay on Man". Thomson's "Liberty" is published (1734-1736). Voltaire's "Lettres Philosophiques" are published. Publication of Charles Johnson's melodramatic "The Lives and Adventures of the Most Famous Highwaymen". George Sale translates the Koran into English. Anglo-Russian Trade Agreement concluded. The University of Göttingen founded by King George II. William Kent completes the Treasury, Whitehall. Births of the artists George Romney (1734-1802) and Joseph Wright of Derby (1734-1797).

1735 **Horace Walpole is admitted to King's College, Cambridge (11 March), whilst Richard West matriculates at Christ Church, Oxford (22 May).** John Arbuthnot (1667-1735) physician and wit, dies. Samuel Johnson marries. Pope concludes "Four Moral Essays". Birth of James Beattie (1735-1803), poet. Hogarth paints "A Rake's Progress". Publication of "The Chace" by Somerville. "The Fool of Quality", a novel by Henry Brooke, is published. "Swift's Collected Works" begin to appear. John Wesley starts his "Journals" (1735-1790). Birth of Johann Christian Bach (1735-1782), composer. Linnaeus begins his "Systema Naturae".

1736 **Gray is left a modest property in the will of his aunt, Sarah Gray. Gray's "Hymneal" on the marriage of the Prince of Wales is published in "Gratulation".** Birth of James Macpherson "Ossian" (1736-1796), "translator" of Gaelic poetry. Death of Jacob Tonson (1656-1736), publisher. James Thomson moves to Richmond. Publication of "Poems on Several Occasions" by Stephen Duck. Publication of Warburton's "Alliance of Church and State" putting the case for conformity. Birth of James Watt (1736-1819), inventor. Publication of Euler's "Mechanica". Aymand performs first successful appendectomy. Porteus riots in Edinburgh. Death of Nicholas Hawksmoor (1661-1736), architect. Death of Pergolesi (1710-1736), composer after completing his "Stabat Mater".

1737 **Gray writes the Tripos verses, "Luna habitabilis".** Horace Walpole, still at Cambridge, accepts a post in the Custom House. Samuel Johnson leaves Lichfield for London with David Garrick, his pupil. Fielding's anti-Walpole satires at the Little Theatre, Haymarket, ended by the Licensing Act, which empowered the Lord Chamberlain to grant or refuse licenses for theatres and new plays. Birth of Edward Gibbon (1737-1794), historian. William Shenstone's "The Schoolmistress" appears (1737-1748). Publication of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's "The Nonsense of Common Sense". Publication of Wesley's "Psalms and Hymns". Birth of Thomas Paine (1737-1809), political radical. Death of Antonio Stradivari (1644-1737), instrument maker. William Byrd founds Richmond, Virginia. Roubiliac completes sculpture of Handel.

1738 **Gray comes down from Cambridge without a degree, and**

1738 (continued)

**intends to practise Law, having been admitted to the Inner**

**Temple in 1735.** Johnson's "London" published, adapted from Juvenal. Pope finishes publication of "Imitations of Horace". Swift becomes increasingly ill in mind and body. Birth of John Wilmot (Peter Pindar) (1738-1819), satirist. Hogarth completes "The Four Stages of Cruelty". Birth of William Herschel

(1738-1822), astronomer and scientist. Birth of George III. Evacuation of Herculaneum. Births of leading American artists Benjamin West (1738-1820), and John Singleton Copley (1738-1815). Roubiliac completes his sculpture of Alexander Pope.

1739 **Beginning of Gray's Grand Tour (1739-1741) with Horace Walpole, starting with two months in Paris, three months in Rheims, and a brief spell in Geneva. Gray and Walpole cross the Alps in November. Whilst in Paris, Gray sees a performance of Racine's "Britannicus".** Appearance of Fielding's "The Champion" (1739-1741). Swift completes "Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift". Smollett comes to London from Glasgow. Start of the War of Jenkins' Ear, against Spain. Foundation of the Methodist movement by John Wesley and George Whitefield. Birth of Josiah Wedgwood (1739-1795), founder of Wedgwood pottery. Death of Richard Turpin (1706-1739), highwayman. Food riots in the West Country and East Anglia (1739-1740). Handel, Hogarth, Thomas Coram and others establish the Foundling Hospital in London. George Dance commences the Mansion House, London (completed 1752). The first Camellias arrive in England from the Far East.

1740 **Gray and Walpole's Grand Tour continues with a year spent in Italy. Gray commences "De Principiis Cogitandi".** Birth of James Boswell (1740-1795), biographer and friend of Johnson. Publication of Cibber's "Life of Mr. Colley Cibber, Comedian". Publication of "The Ruins of Rome" by John Dyer. Fielding called to the Bar. Publication of "Treatise of Human Nature" by Hume. Thomson thought to be responsible for "Rule Britannia" in Arne's masque "Alfred". Death of Thomas Tickell (1686-1740), poet and translator. Peg Woffington achieves fame as Sir Harry Wildair in Farquhar's "The Constant Couple". Anson's first voyage round the world (1740-1744). Austria, Prussia and Russia all have new monarchs. Accession of Maria Theresa of Austria (reigns 1740-1780), Frederick the Great of Prussia (reigns 1740-1786) and Czar Ivan VI of Russia (reigns 1740-1741). Frederick the Great begins first Silesian War against Maria Theresa. Hogarth paints portrait of Thomas Coram, joint founder of the Foundling Hospital, and experiments with free brushwork in "The Shrimp Girl" at about this date. Domenico Scarlatti visits London. Haydn becomes a choirboy at Vienna Court Chapel. Birth of Jean Antoine Houdon (1740-1828), artist. Death of Ephraim Chambers (1660-1740), lexicographer. William Stukeley publishes "Stonehenge", drawing attention to the ancient ruins on Salisbury Plain.

1741 **Gray and Walpole quarrel, their Tour ends, and both return to England separately. After brief spells in Milan, Lyons and Paris (where he visits the Grand Chartreuse and writes an Ode), Gray returns to Peterhouse, Cambridge, to study Law. Walpole falls ill of quinsy and is saved by Joseph Spence, the antiquary. Whilst still in Reggio, Walpole is elected to Parliament as MP for Collington and pursues a parliamentary career until 1767 (latterly representing Castle Rising and Lynn). Gray's father dies (6 November) and Gray spends the winter in London with Richard West.** Birth of Hester Lynch (Thrale/Piozzi) (1741-1821), writer and literary hostess. Birth of Edmond Malone (1741-1812), author and critic. Completion of Richardson's "Pamela" (published 1740-1741). Publication of Betterton's "History of the English Stage". David Garrick joins the company of actor-manager Henry Giffard and has some success on a summer tour to Ipswich, using the alias of Lyddal. Giffard rewards Garrick with a London debut as Richard III at Goodman's Fields, using his real name, performed to great acclaim. Alexander Pope meets William

1741 (continued)

Warburton, who introduces him to the wealthy Ralph Allen of Prior Park. Birth of Arthur Young (1741-1820), agricultural economist. Death of Vivaldi (1678-1741), composer. Birth of Angelica Kauffman (1741-1807), artist. Birth of Henry Fuseli (1741-1825), artist. Frederick the Great conquers Silesia. Maria Theresa is made Queen of Hungary. Czar Ivan VI of Russia overthrown and replaced by Elizabeth, daughter of

Peter the Great (reigns 1741-1762).

- 1742 **Gray spends much of the year in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, with his uncle, Jonathan Rogers. Gray writes Odes "On Spring", "On a Distant Prospect of Eton College", "On Adversity" and the "Sonnet on the Death of West" (in memory of his friend, the poet Richard West who died on 1 June). Gray commences "Elegy in a Country Churchyard" at about this time (finished 1750). Gray's widowed mother moves from Cornhill to West End House in the small village of Stoke Poges, about three miles from Eton and close to Windsor. Gray commences "Agrippina", a Latin Tragedy, and "Hymn to Ignorance". Gray returns to Peterhouse.** A new version of Pope's "The Dunciad" published with Cibber in place of Theobald as the mock hero. Swift committed to a lunatic asylum. Publication of "Persian Eclogues" by William Collins while an undergraduate at Magdalene College, Oxford. Publication of Fielding's "Joseph Andrews" mocking Richardson's "Pamela". Death of William Somerville (1675-1742), poet and author of "Field Sports". Death of Richard Bentley (1662-1742), famous for his "Sermons" and his role in the Ancient vs Modern debate. Wesley's first Methodist Hymn tunes appear. Garrick is engaged to play at Drury Lane following his great success as Richard III at Goodman's Fields, and his career never looks back. Sir Robert Walpole decides to resign due to his opposition to the War with Spain and is made Earl of Orford. The Peace of Berlin ends the first Silesian War. Handel completes the "Messiah". Celsius invents centigrade thermometer. William Kent completes Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall.
- 1743 **Gray is granted an L1.B. degree.** Publication of Fielding's "Jonathan Wild". Publication of "The Grave" by Robert Blair. Birth of William Paley (1743-1805), theologian. Death of Richard Savage (1697-1743), author. George Whitefield splits with John Wesley and forms the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist movement. Birth of the explorer and botanist, Joseph Banks (1743-1820). Birth of Condorcet (1743-1794), philosopher. Birth of Antoine Lavoisier (1743-1797), chemist. Start of the War of Austrian succession (1743-1748). George II leads English and Hanoverian armies in victory over the French at Dettingen. Pogroms in Russia. Henry Pelham made Prime Minister (from 1743-1754). Hogarth paints "Marriage à la Mode". French explorers discover the Rocky Mountains.
- 1744 Death of Alexander Pope (1688-1744). Johnson's "Life of Savage" published. Publication of Joseph Warton's "Odes". Publication of Akenside's "Pleasures of Imagination". Publication of "The Art of Preserving Health", a poem by John Armstrong. Birth of Thomas Holcroft (1744-1809), dramatist. First Methodist Conference held at Foundry Chapel, London. Publication of "God Save the Queen". Births of Johann Gottfried Herder (1744-1803), dramatist and Friedrich Schröder (1744-1816), actor who introduced Shakespearean drama to Germany. Revival of authentic texts of Shakespeare on English Stage. Benjamin Franklin publishes his edition of Cicero's "Cato Major". France declares war on Britain and Austria. Attempted French invasion of England defeated by weather. French troops take Annapolis, but are then forced to withdraw. Second Silesian War. Anson returns from his circumnavigation of the world. Robert Clive goes to India. Cotapaxi erupts. First recorded cricket match takes place (Kent versus All England). Bach completes "Das Wohltemperierte Klavier".
- 1745 **Gray and Horace Walpole renew their friendship at about this time.** Sir Robert Walpole (1676-1745), first Earl of Orford,
- 1745 (continued)

Leader of the Whig Party and father of Horace Walpole, dies. Death of Swift (1667-1745). Philip Dormer Stanhope, Earl of

Chesterfield, serves as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (from 1745 to 1746). Birth of Hannah More (1745-1833), poet. Birth of Henry Mackenzie (1745-1831), Edinburgh novelist. Birth of Henry James Pye (1745-1813), poet. David Hume commences

European Tour (1745-1748). Completion of Edward Young's "The Complaint, or Night Thoughts on Life Death and Immortality" (1742-1745). Approximate date of the foundation of the "Hell-fire Club" (one of many) at Medmenham Abbey, near Marlow, by Wilkes, Sir Francis Dashwood and Bubb Dodington. The Rebellion of Forty-Five supporting Charles Edward, the Young Pretender. Highland forces win Battles of Preston Pans. Publication of "The Campbells are coming". French defeat English army at Battle of Fontenoy and seize the Austrian Netherlands. British forces take Louisburg, Canada. Peace of Dresden. Birth of Alessandro Volta (1745-1827), physicist. Hogarth completes "Marriage à la Mode" and paints "Self-Portrait". Middlesex Hospital is founded.

- 1746 Horace Walpole takes an apartment within the precincts of Windsor Castle and entertains his friends there. Publication of "Odes" by William Collins. A second collection of Joseph Warton's "Odes" published. Death of Thomas Southerne (1660-1746), poet. Publication of Diderot's "Pensées Philosophiques". After a further victory at Falkirk, the Young Pretender and his forces are defeated at the Battle of Culloden. Birth of Francisco de Goya (1746-1828), artist. Canaletto visits England (1746-1755). The College of New Jersey is founded (becomes Princeton University).

**Gray writes "Ode on the Death of a favourite Cat" (in memory of Horace Walpole's cat). Gray's "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College" is published by Robert Dodsley in an anonymous pamphlet. Walpole settles at Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, and fashions it into an exotic gothic mansion.** Birth of Samuel Parr (1747-1825), classical scholar and theologian. Thomas Warton's "Pleasures of Melancholy" appears. Publication of Johnson's "Plan" for the Dictionary. Publication of "Zadig" by Voltaire. David Garrick takes over management of Drury Lane theatre (for thirty years to 1776) and makes it a success. The Biblioteca Nazionale founded in Florence.

- 1748 **Gray allows Robert Dodsley to publish "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College", "Ode on Spring" and "Ode on the Death of a favourite Cat", without attribution, in Dodsley's "Collection of Poems, by Several Hands" including poems by Walpole and West. The house in Cornhill burnt down. Gray meets William Mason. Gray commences "The Alliance of Education and Government".** Publication of James Thomson's "The Castle of Indolence".. Death of James Thomson (1700-1748), poet. Death of Isaac Watts (1674-1748), author. Birth of Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), political economist and philosopher. Henry Fielding is made a JP for Middlesex. Publication of David Hume's "Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding". Completion of publication of Richardson's "Clarissa Harlowe" (1747-1748). Publication of "Roderick Random" and "Gil Blas" by Smollett. Publication of Montesquieu's "De l'Esprit de lois" denouncing the French monarchical system and advocating a liberal system of government. Publication of "Turandot" by Carlo Gozzi. The Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle ends the War of the Austrian Succession (1743-1748). Discovery of Pompeii. Birth of Jacques Louis David (1748-1825), artist. Fothergill discovers diphtheria.

- 1749 **The death of Mary Antrobus, a favourite aunt of Gray's prompts him to continue work on the Elegy.** Johnson's "The Vanity of Human Wishes" and "Irene" published. "Irene" performed by Garrick. William Collins completes "Ode on the Popular Superstitions of the Highlands of Scotland". Publication of "Tom Jones" by Fielding. Publication of Diderot's "Lettres sur les aveugles". Birth of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

- 1749 (continued)

(1749-1832). Publication of Hartley's "Observations on Man". Birth of Edward Jenner (1749-1823), pioneer of vaccination. Handel's "Firework Music" performed and Bach completes the "Art of Fugue". Publication of the first volume of Buffon's "Histoire Naturelle". Thomas Gainsborough paints "Mr. and Mrs. Robert Andrews".

1750 **Gray finishes the “Elegy in a Country Churchyard” and sends it to Walpole who circulates it in manuscript form. Grey writes his humorous “A Long Story”.** “The Rambler”, by Johnson, appears twice weekly (1750-1752). Voltaire takes up residence at Potsdam (1750-1753) at the invitation of Frederick II. Publication of “Oeuvres du Philosophe de Sanssouci” by Frederick the Great. Publication of Rousseau’s “Discourse on the Influence of Learning and Art”. British settlements established on the Gold Coast of Africa. Birth of Salieri (1750-1825), composer. Death of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). The first theatre opens in New York. The Jockey Club is founded. Capability Brown designs the gardens at Warwick Castle.

1751 **Robert Dodsley is authorized to publish the “Elegy in a Country Churchyard” anonymously (on 15 February) in advance of an unauthorized version appearing in the “Magazine of Magazines” which attributed the poem to Gray and helped to secure his poetic fame.** Birth of Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816), dramatist and politician. Publication of “Amelia” by Fielding. Hogarth completes “Beer Street” and “Gin Lane”. Publication of Hume’s “Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals”. Publication of “Peregrine Pickle” by Tobias Smollett. “L’Encyclopédie” commences publication (1751-1776) under the direction of Diderot. Clive leads English forces in capture of Arcot in India. Death of Albinoni (1671-1751), composer. Hogarth paints “The Four Stages of Cruelty”. Boucher paints “The Toilet of Venus”. Birth of Thomas Sheraton (1751-1806), cabinet-maker. The “Philosophia Botanica” of Linnaeus is published. The British Calendar is altered by Act of Parliament with January 1<sup>st</sup> becoming the first day of the New Year (the Gregorian Calendar is adopted in 1752).

1752 **Gray begins “The Progress of Poesy” and talks of writing a history of English poetry with Mason.** Births of Fanny Burney (1752-1840), novelist, and Thomas Chatterton (1752-1770), writer and brilliant fraud. “Covent Garden Journal” and “Amelia” published by Fielding. Publication of “The Female Quixote” by Charlotte Lennox. Publication of Hume’s “Political Discourses”. Death of Joseph Butler (1692-1752), theologian. Benjamin Franklin invents the Lightning Conductor. Birth of Philip Frenau (1752-1832), American poet. Birth of John Nash (1752-1835), architect.

1753 **Robert Dodsley publishes “Designs by Mr. R Bentley for Six Poems by Mr. T Gray”, the first authorized attributed volume of poetry by Gray, including the Eton Ode, the “Ode on Spring”, the “Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat”, the Elegy, a “Hymn to Adversity” and “A Long Story”. Gray’s mother dies (11 March) at Stoke Poges and is buried there.** Death of George Berkeley (1685-1753), philosopher and cynic. Edward Gibbon studies in Lausanne (1753-1758). Publication of Hogarth’s “Analysis of Beauty”. Publication of Smollett’s “Ferdinand, Count Fathom”. Voltaire leaves Potsdam for Switzerland. Birth of Samuel Crompton (1753-1827), inventor of the spinning “mule”. Publication of “Species Plantarum” by Linnaeus. Birth of Thomas Bewick (1753-1828), engraver. Death of Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753), virtuoso and collector, who had served as President of the Royal Society from 1727 to 1741, succeeding Sir Isaac Newton. Act passed enabling Sloane’s great library to be bought for the nation, providing the foundation of the British Museum with the Cottonian and Harleian collections and the Royal Library.

1754 **Gray completes “The Progress of Poesy”.** Cowper called to the Bar. Death of Henry Fielding (1707-1754), journalist and

1754 (continued)

novelist. Richardson’s “Sir Charles Grandison” completed (1753-1754). Death of Edward Cave (1691-1754), publisher.

Publication of Rousseau’s “Discourse on the Origin of Inequality” and Diderot’s “Pensées sur l’interprétation de la nature”. Birth of

George Crabbe (1754-1832), poet. Birth of William Bligh

(1754-1817), mariner and colonial governor. Birth of William Marsden (1754-1836), orientalist. Birth of Archibald Menzies (1754-1842), surgeon, explorer and botanist. The Duke of Newcastle succeeds Henry Pelham as Prime Minister and serves for 8 years, excepting 9 months in 1756-7 when the Duke of Devonshire has a brief spell in power. Anglo-French Wars begin in North America. Boucher paints "The Judgement of Paris". Publication of Thomas Chippendale's "Gentleman and Cabinetmaker's Directory". Hogarth paints "The Election". Carbon-dioxide identified by Black. Work begins on the Circus in Bath, designed by John Wood the Elder. Foundation of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts and Manufacturers. Foundation of St Andrew's Royal and Ancient Golf Club. Foundation of King's College, New York (becomes Columbia University).

1755 **Gray declines offer to become Secretary to the Earl of Bristol in Lisbon.** Publication of Johnson's "Dictionary of the English Language" including rebuke of the Earl of Chesterfield (continues to 1772). Publication of Fielding's "Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon". Goldsmith travels in Europe (1755-1756). Birth of Sarah Kemble (1755-1831), actress (becomes Mrs. Siddons). Shenstone's "Pastoral Ballad" is published. Publication of Tobias Smollett's translation of "Don Quixote". Kant completes his doctoral thesis on "The True Measure of Forces" and becomes a lecturer at Königsberg (1755-1770, then becoming Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, 1770-1804). Gilbert White settles in Selborne. Birth of John Flaxman (1755-1826), artist and engraver. Death of Montesquieu (1689-1755), philosopher. Birth of Marie Antoinette (1755-1793). British forces defeated at Fort Duquesne. Paoli's first revolt in Corsica against the Geneoese rulers. Lisbon is destroyed by an earthquake and 30,000 are killed.

1756 **Gray moves to Pembroke College, Cambridge, leaving Peterhouse after an undergraduate prank was played on him (not for the first time, acting on Gray's fear of fire, students call "Fire" late at night and Gray is embarrassed by appearing in the quad shaking with fear and wearing only his nightgown). Gray's friend, William Mason, is a fellow at Pembroke.** Completion of "The Election" series by Hogarth. Appearance of "The Critical Review" (1756-1817), first edited by Smollett (1756-1759). Birth of William Gifford (1756-1826) journalist and critic. Birth of William Godwin (1756-1836), writer and political theorist. Death of Stephen Duck (1705-1756), poet. Publication of "Theatrical Records" by Robert and James Dodsley. Publication of "A Vindication of Natural Society" by Burke. Publication of Sherlock's "Sermons" and Wesley's "Twelve Reasons Against a Separation from the Church" arguing against splinter groups of the main Methodist movement. Beginning of the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) with Britain and Prussia (under Frederick the Great) opposing the French, Saxons and Russians. Tragedy of the Black Hole of Calcutta. British forces, under General Braddock in Ohio, are heavily defeated. Casanova escapes from prison in Venice. Birth of Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827), satirical artist. Birth of Mozart (1756-1791). Sèvres porcelain factory founded.

1757 **Gray declines the poet Laureateship offered to him on the death of Colley Cibber (1671-1757) and it is given instead to William Whitehead (from 1757 to 1785). Gray completes "The Bard". Walpole publishes Gray's two Pindaric Odes, "The Bard" and "The Progress of Poesy" as "Odes by Mr. Gray", the first book to be published by the Strawberry Hill press and a volume received with considerable acclaim.** Walpole's "A Letter from Xò Ho", published. Burke's "A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime

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and the Beautiful" published. John Dyer's "The Fleece" published. Smollett's "History of England" well received on publication. Publication of Thomas Warton's "Observations on the Faery Queen". Birth of William Blake (1757-1827), visionary poet and artist. Death of David Hartley (1705-1757), philosopher.



Publication of Diderot's "Le Fils Naturel". Birth of Thomas

Telford (1757-1831), engineer. Militia Act passed enabling local forces to be raised by ballot. Food riots and Militia Act riots across the country. Sankey Canal opened from St Helens to the Mersey. British and Prussian forces defeated at Hastenbach, Klosterseven, Rossbach and Leuthen. Battle of Plassey secures Bengal for Britain (Clive made a hero). Publication of Piranesi's "Antichità Romana". Death of Domenico Scarlatti (1683-1757), composer. Birth of Antonio Canova (1757-1822), sculptor. Birth of James Gillray (1757-1815), satirical artist.

1758 **Gray writes "Epitaph on Mrs. Clerke" and "Epitaph on a Child"**. Walpole publishes his own "Royal and Noble Authors of England", which wins considerable popularity, as well as "Fugitive Pieces in Verse and Prose". Johnson's "The Idler", appears weekly (1758-1760). Death of John Dyer (1700?-1758), poet. Death of Allan Ramsay (1686-1758), poet. Publication of Diderot's "Le Père de Famille". D'Alembert takes over direction of "L'Encyclopédie" (1751-1776) from Diderot. Birth of Horatio Nelson (1758-1805). Clive made Governor of Bengal. George Washington and John Forbes take Fort Duquesne (later renamed Pittsburgh). The return of the comet as predicted by Halley. John and Robert Adam work at Harewood House.

1759 **Gray moves to London in order to study at the British Museum which first opens its doors to "studious and curious persons" on 15 January 1759.** Edmund Burke starts the "Annual Register". Publication of "Rasselas" by Johnson. Death of William Collins (1721-1759), poet. Publication of Goldsmith's "Enquiry into the Present State of Polite Learning". Publication of Adam Smith's "Theory of the Moral Sentiments". Smollett sent to prison for libel. Publication of Edward Young's "Conjectures on Original Composition". Birth of Robert Burns (1759-1796), poet. Voltaire's "Candide" published. Birth of Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), writer. Birth of Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805), poet and dramatist. Birth of William Wilberforce (1759-1833), anti-slavery campaigner. Birth of Pierre Joseph Redouté (1759-1840), botanist. British and Prussian victories against the French at Minden, Lagos in Portugal and Quiberon Bay. General Wolfe helps to capture Quebec. Birth of William Pitt the younger (1759-1806). Death of Handel (1684-1759). Haydn completes his First Symphony.

1760 **Gray visits Mrs. Jennings and Miss Speed in Shiplake.** Publication of "Fragments of Ancient Poetry collected in the Highlands of Scotland", and "translated" from the Gaelic or Erse language by James Macpherson. Publication of Smollett's "Sir Launcelot Greaves" in installments (1760-1762). Publication of Sterne's "Tristram Shandy" started (completed in 1767). Birth of William Beckford (1760-1844), pioneer of the gothic revival. Battle of Wanderswash secures British control of Madras and India. Death of George II and accession of George III. Kedleston Hall is completed to designs by the Adam brothers (1760-1770). Birth of Hokusai (1760-1849), artist famous for studies of Mount Fuji. Haydn completes symphonies 2-5. William Boyce begins his publication of cathedral music.

1761 **Gray writes "The Fatal Sisters" and "The Descent of Odin" following his immersion in Nordic and Celtic literature. Gray writes "Epitaph on Sir W Williams" and "Song" for Miss Speed who is married on 12 November.** Publication of Churchill's "The Rosciad". Goldsmith and Johnson first meet. Hume's "History of Great Britain" completed. Death of William Law (1686-1761), theologian. Death of Samuel Richardson (1689-1761), novelist. Death of Benjamin Hoadly (1676-1761), controversialist. Death of Thomas Sherlock (1678-1761), preacher. Death of William Oldys (1696-1761),

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pioneer bibliographer. Publication of Rousseau's "La Nouvelle Héloïse". Collected works of Voltaire begin to appear in English (translated by Smollett and others, completed in 1774). Production of "The Jealous Wife" by George Colman the Elder. Birth of John Rennie (1761-1821), civil engineer. Robert Adam made one of two

1762 **Gray meets Norton Nicholls and visits William Mason in York and Wharton in Durham.** Horace Walpole publishes his own "Anecdotes of Painting in England" (from 1762 to 1763). Samuel Johnson awarded government pension. Goldsmith completes "The Vicar of Wakefield". Publication of "Du Contrat Social" and "Emile" by Rousseau. Publication of "Fingal" an epic in six books by James Macpherson. Appearance of "The Briton" (1762-1763) edited by Tobias Smollett. Birth of William Cobbett (1762-1835), journalist and political commentator. Births of William Lisle Bowles (1762-1850) and Thomas Russell (1762-1788) who helped to reintroduce the sonnet form. Birth of George Colman the Younger (1762-1836), dramatist. Death of Beau Nash (1674-1762), gambler, dandy and founder of the Assembly Rooms in Bath. Warburton attacks Wesley's beliefs. Liverpool seamen's strike. Britain declares war against Spain and takes Havana, Grenada, Martinique and Manila. Catherine II, "the Great", accedes to throne in Russia following the death of Czarina Elizabeth and the assassination of Peter III and is Empress of all Russia from 1762 to 1796. Gluck's "Orpheus and Euridice" performed. The building of Lansdowne House, designed by Robert Adams, commences (1762-1768). George Stubbs paints the largest of his full-blooded Romantic "Horse attacked by a Lion" canvasses at about this date. Tiepelo spends the last eight years of his life (1762-1780) painting the frescoes for the Royal Palace in Madrid. Death of Roubiliac (1695-1762), sculptor. Opening of the Sorbonne Library.

1763 **Gray's "Epitaph on Mrs. Clarke" published in the Second Edition of the "Poetical Calendar" by Francis Fawkes and William Woty.** Boswell first meets Johnson. Publication of Churchill's "The Prophecy of Famine". David Hume is secretary of British Embassy in Paris (1763-1766). Publication of "Temora" by James Macpherson (claimed to be translations from Ossian). Death of William Shenstone (1714-1763), poet. Publication of Christopher Smart's "A Song to David". Birth of Samuel Rogers (1763-1855), poet. First Treaty of Paris ends the Seven Years' War and results in Britain keeping Canada, India and Minorca, and gaining Florida from Spain in exchange for Havana and the Philippines. George Grenville (P.M. 1763-1765) succeeds the Earl of Bute (P.M. 1762-1763) as Prime Minister. John Wilkes imprisoned for attacking the King and Grenville in "The North Briton". Machine-breaking riots (1763-1765). Mozart, the child prodigy, begins to tour with his father. Wincklemann's "History of Ancient Art" begins publication. George Stubbs commences "Mares and Foals in a River Landscape". The brothers Adam commence the remodelling of Osterley Park (1763-1780). Publication of Swedenborg's "The Divine Love and Wisdom".

1764 Horace Walpole publishes his "Castle of Otranto". Boswell and Johnson meet with the Thrales. "The Club" founded: (the original members were Sir Joshua Reynolds, Samuel Johnson, Oliver Goldsmith, Edmund Burke, Topham Beauclerk, Bennet Langton, Dr. Christopher Nugent, a physician and Burke's father-in-law, John Hawkins – "unclubbable" hence replaced by Samuel Dyer, and Anthony Chamier – a stockbroker of Huguenot descent, sometime Under-Secretary of War. The nine became twelve with the addition of the Rev Thomas Percy and Sir Robert Chambers in 1765, and George Colman in 1768, and continued to grow with the addition of David Garrick, James Boswell, Sir William Jones, the Earl of Charlemont and Agmondesham Vesey in 1773; Charles James Fox, Edward Gibbon, Sir Charles Bunbury and George Stevens in 1774; Adam Smith and Thomas Barnard in 1775; R B Sheridan, Joseph Warton, Lord Ashburton, the Earl of Upper Ossory and Richard Marley in 1777; Joseph Banks, William Windham, Sir William Scott and Earl Spencer, 1778; Jonathan

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Shipleigh, Bishop of St Asaph, 1870; Lord Eliot, Edmond Malone, Thomas Warton, Richard Burke and the Earl of Lucan, in 1782; and Sir William Hamilton, Viscount Palmerston and Charles

Burney in 1784). Mme Neckar and Mlle de Lespinasse open literary salons in Paris.

Death of Charles Churchill (1731-1764). Edward Gibbon embarks on his "History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" (published 1776-1778). Goldsmith's "The Traveller" published. Death of William Hogarth (1697-1764). Adam Smith visits France and meets Voltaire. Voltaire publishes

the "Dictionnaire philosophique". Birth of Ann Ward, later Mrs Radcliffe (1764-1823), novelist. The outbreak of quarrels between Britain and the colonists in America. Death of Rameau (1683-1764), composer. Johann Christian Bach performs in London. Mozart (aged 8) writes his first symphony. The practice of house-numbering first starts in London.

1765 **Gray visits York, Durham and the Scottish Highlands.** Walpole visits Paris and Versailles. James Boswell meets Voltaire and Rousseau. Publication of Johnson's edition of Shakespeare. William Cowper retreats to Huntington with the Reverend Morley Unwin and then to Olney with Mary Unwin and the Reverend John Newton. Commencement of publication of Blackstone's "Commentaries on the Laws of England" (1765-1769). Death of Edward Young (1683-1765), poet. Burke becomes private secretary to Lord Rockingham and is returned to the House of Commons as M.P. for Wendover. Grenville passes the Stamp Act to help pay the costs of the Seven Years' War, causing an outcry of "taxation without representation" in America. Rockingham takes over from George Grenville as Prime Minister. North-East colliers' strike. Wolfgang and Leopold Mozart visit London, including a visit to the British Museum.

1766 **Gray visits friends in Kent.** Goldsmith's "The Vicar of Wakefield" published. Hume brings Rousseau back to England but they quarrel. Publication of "Travels Through France and Italy" by Smollett. Production of "The Clandestine Marriage" by George Colman the Elder. Drottningholm Theatre built in Stockholm, as part of the Swedish Royal Palace. It offers operatic and theatrical performances and achieves world-wide fame in the period 1772-1792 (during the reign of King Gustav III) when Louis-Jean Desprez designs costumes and scenery for it. Completion of Private Theatre in James Street, Westminster, for Sir Francis Delaval and the Duke of York as the craze for amateur theatricals takes off. Rockingham repeals the Stamp Act, but loses the Prime Ministership to the Earl of Chatham (the Elder Pitt) after only a year in power. Food riots throughout the country. Wallis discovers Tahiti (1767-1768) and encourages hope of southern continent. The Mason-Dixon Line drawn, separating Maryland and Pennsylvania. Fragonard paints "The Swing". Hydrogen identified by Cavendish. Bougainville embarks on voyage to the Pacific. Robert Adam designs gothic ceiling and chimney piece for Horace Walpole at Strawberry Hill. The first pavement laid in London.

1767 **Gray visits York, Durham and the Lake District.** Horace Walpole ends his parliamentary career. Death of Kitty Fisher (?-1767), courtesan. Adam Smith retires to Kircaldy to study. Completion of Sterne's "Tristram Shandy". George Colman the Elder takes over Covent Garden Theatre. Birth of Maria Edgeworth (1767-1849), novelist. Birth of Carl Graf von Zeppelin (1767-1801), German minister of state. Charles Townshend, Chancellor under Chatham, enacts the Revenue Bill placing a tax on tea and many other items in the American colonies. The First Mysore War (1767-1769) in India. Death of George Telemann (1681-1767), composer. C P E Bach is his successor as director of church music in Hamburg. Publication of Priestley's "History and Present State of Electricity". The brothers Adam commence the remodelling of Kenwood House (1767-1769). Rousseau visits England.

1768 **Gray appointed Professor of History and Modern Languages at Cambridge. Gray's poems republished in London by James**

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**Dodsley in a small octavo, and Glasgow by Robert and Andrew Foulis in quarto. Both editions are entitled "Poems by Mr. Gray" and contain the same poems**

**but with textual variations. Gray visits Kent and writes “On Lord Holland’s Seat at Margate”.** Publication of Sterne’s “A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy”. Death of Laurence Sterne (1713-1768), writer. Fanny Burney’s “Diary” begins. Horace Walpole’s “The Historic Doubts”, concerning Richard III, published. Publication of Boswell’s “Account of Corsica”. Publication of Priestley’s “Essay on the First Principles of

Government”. The Duke of Grafton takes over from Chatham as Prime Minister. John Wilkes elected as M.P. for Middlesex, but expelled from Parliament. The First Voyage of Captain James Cook on HMS Endeavour (1768-1771) with Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander serving as the expedition’s naturalists. Revolution in Geneva. Beginning of the Russo-Turkish wars (1768-1774 and 1787-1792). Foundation of the Royal Academy with Joshua Reynolds as the first President. Death of Canaletto (1697-1768), artist. Foundation of the “Encyclopaedia Britannica”.

1769 **Gray writes “Ode for Music” on the installation of the Duke of Grafton as Chancellor of Cambridge University and it is published anonymously by the University of Cambridge Press. Gray tours the Lake District, recorded in his Journal (published 1775), after visiting his friends in York and Durham. Gray’s “On Lord Holland’s Seat Near Margate, Kent” is published anonymously in “The New Foundling Hospital for Wit”. Gray befriends Charles-Victor Bonstetten, a young Swiss scholar staying at Cambridge.** Garrick holds his Shakespeare Jubilee in Stratford-upon-Avon. Birth of John Hookham Frere (1769-1846), poet and inventor of the Byronic stanza. “Letters of Junius” begins to appear anonymously, attacking public figures. Publication of Mrs. Elizabeth Montagu’s “Essay on the Writings and Genius of Shakespeare” rebutting the charges made by Voltaire. Publication of “Observations on the Present State of the Nation” by Burke. Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) born. Mme du Barry becomes the mistress of Louis XV. Captain Cook arrives in New Zealand aboard HMS Endeavour. Birth of Friedrich Heinrich Alexander Humboldt (1769-1859), explorer and naturalist. Tennessee is settled by Europeans. The Virginia Assembly dissolves in protest against the colonial treason trials in Westminster. Foundations of the Wedgwood factory in Etruria. James Watt patents his steam engine. Birth of Thomas Lawrence (1769-1830), artist. Joshua Reynolds is knighted.

1770 **Bonstetten leaves England. Gray visits the West Country with Norton Nicholls.** Births of the poets William Wordsworth (1770-1850) and James Hogg (1770-1835), the “Ettrick Shepherd”. Death of the poet Mark Akenside (1721-1770). Thomas Chatterton (1752-1770), poet and brilliant fraud (the fabricator of the Rowley poems and documents which are not exposed as forgeries until 1777 – including a bogus “History of Painting” sent to Horace Walpole), is reduced to despair by poverty and takes his life by imbibing arsenic poison. Publication of Goldsmith’s “The Deserted Village”. The printers of the “Junius” letters are tried for libel. Anonymous publication of “Thoughts on the Causes of Present Discontents” by Burke concerning the American colonies. Goethe begins “Faust” (not completed until 1832). Birth of Hegel (1770-1831), philosopher. Wesley attacks Calvinist beliefs. General Baptist New Communion is first put into practice. The French Dauphin marries Marie Antoinette, daughter of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria. Grafton resigns and Lord North takes over for a 12 year term (1770-1782) as Prime Minister. Lord North repeals the Revenue Act to pacify the colonists but institutes a Tea Duty. The Boston Massacre takes place, increasing tensions in the American colonies. Joseph Banks names Botany Bay as Cook skirts Australia. Birth of Beethoven (1770-1827). Deaths of the artists François Boucher (1703-1770) and Giovanni Tiepolo (1696-1770).

1771 **Thomas Gray (1716-1771) dies in Cambridge of suppressed gout on 30 July 1771, having been taken ill at dinner in hall six nights before. He is buried at Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire,**  
**sharing a vault with his mother and his aunt.** Publication of “The Man of Feeling” by Henry Mackenzie. Death of Christopher Smart (1722-1771), poet. Death of Tobias Smollett (1721-1771) following publication of “Humphrey Clinker”. Death of Claude Arien Helvétius (1715-1771), philosopher. Birth of Walter Scott (1771-1832), novelist. Birth of Sydney Smith (1771-1845), writer and wit. Birth of Mungo Park (1771-1806), explorer. Birth of Robert Owen (1771-1858), the social reformer. Burke appointed

agent to the province of New York. Ministry of Lord North (from 1770 to 1782). Publication of Goethe's "Goetz von Berlichingen", translated by Scott in 1799. Publication of Klopstock's "Odes". Production of "The West Indian" by Richard Cumberland. Newspapers are allowed to report parliamentary debates. The return of HMS Endeavour to England. Houdon completes his sculpture of Diderot. Benjamin West paints "The Death of Wolfe". Gainsborough paints the "Blue Boy".

- 1772 Birth of Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), poet and conversationalist. Opening of the Pantheon, designed by James Wyatt as a place for balls, masquerades and popular entertainment. Death of James Brindley (1716-1772), father of the English canal system. Widespread food riots. The Second Voyage of Captain Cook begins (1772-1775) aboard the HMS Resolution. Kew Gardens founded by King George III under the direction of Joseph Banks. Samuel Adams forms Massachusetts Committees of Correspondence to spread political ideas. Publication of Herder's "On the Origin of Speech". Rutherford and Priestley discover nitrogen.
- 1773 Boswell and Johnson tour Scotland and the Hebrides. Death of Phillip Dormer Stanhope (1694-1773) Earl of Chesterfield, statesman and writer. Publication and performance of "She Stoops to Conquer" by Goldsmith. Birth of Lord Francis Jeffrey (1773-1850), founder and first editor of "The Edinburgh Review". Birth of James Mill (1773-1836), utilitarian theorist and father of John Stuart Mill. Foundation of the London Stock Exchange. Burke travels to Burgundy and Paris with his son. Warren Hastings made Governor-General of India and English law introduced to India. The Boston Tea-Party causes the Port of Boston to be closed. The beginning of the waltz craze in Vienna.
- 1774 Death of Oliver Goldsmith (1730-1774), writer. Birth of Robert Southey (1774-1843), poet. Thomas Warton commences his "History of English Poetry" (1774-1781). Publication of Lord Chesterfield's "Letters to his Son". Burke becomes M.P. for Bristol (1774-1780) and publishes pamphlet "On American Taxation". Publication of Goethe's "The Sorrows of Young Werther". America's First Congress meets in Philadelphia and the Declaration of Rights is issued. Revolution in South-East Russia put down. Death of Robert Clive (1725-1774). Birth of Matthew Flinders (1774-1814), explorer. Birth of Jean Lamarck (1774-1829), naturalist. Lavoisier explains the composition of air. Birth of Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840), artist. Death of Louis XV. Rules of cricket formalized.
- 1775 **Publication of Gray's Tour of the English Lakes. Publication of "The Poems of Mr. Gray, to which are prefixed Memoirs of his Life and Writings by W. Mason"**. Publication of Johnson's "Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland". Sheridan produces "The Rivals", "St Patrick's Day" and "Duenna". Birth of Jane Austen (1775-1817). Birth of Matthew Gregory "Monk" Lewis (1775-1818), gothic novelist. Birth of Charles Lamb (1775-1834), writer. Birth of Walter Savage Landor (1775-1864), writer. Birth of Henry Crabb Robinson (1775-1867), conversationalist, diarist and friend of Wordsworth. Sarah Siddons first appears on the London Stage. Burke publishes pamphlet "On Conciliation with America". Publication of Crabbe's "Inebriety, a Poem". Goethe accepts invitation by the Duke of Weimar to attend his court. First performance of "Le Barbier de Séville" by Beaumarchais in France causes uproar. Publication of "Sturm und Drang" by Klingner, concerning the American Revolution. The Battles of

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Lexington and Bunker Hill marks the beginning of the American

War of Independence (1775-1783). Liverpool seamen's strike. The return of HMS Resolution to England and the display of pictures and engravings of the southern hemisphere arouse much popular interest. Birth of Joseph Turner (1775-1851), artist. Romney becomes a fashionable portrait painter. James Watt improves his steam engine. Priestley discovers Hydrochloric and Sulphuric acids.

- 1776 Publication of first volume of Gibbon's "History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" and Adam Smith's "An Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations". Death of David Hume (1711-1776), philosopher. Sheridan takes over Garrick's share in the Drury Lane Theatre. Completion of "L'Encyclopédie" under the direction of Diderot (from 1751 to 1758) and D'Alembert (1758 to 1776). "Hamlet" becomes the first Shakespearean play to be performed on the German stage, by Schröder. Birth of Jane Porter (1776-1850), novelist. Major Cartwright's "Take Your Choice" outlines radical reform proposals including universal suffrage. Publication of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" and the beginning of his pamphlet series (1776-1783) on "The Crisis". The British forces are evicted from Boston and, on the fourth of July, Congress issues the "Declaration of Independence". British forces regain control of Canada and Howe takes New York and Rhode Island. Captain Cook commences third voyage with HMS Resolution and HMS Discovery (1776-1780). Birth of John Constable (1776-1837), artist. Sir William Chambers builds Somerset House, London.
- 1777 Johnson embarks on "Lives of the Poets" (published 1779-1781). Sheridan produces "School for Scandal" and "A Trip to Scarborough" at Drury Lane. Birth of Thomas Campbell (1777-1844), poet. Thomas Tyrwhitt exposes the fraud concerning Chatterton's "Rowley" poems, increasing the interest in them and resulting in their publication a year later. Completion of the Trent and Mersey canal system. Voltaire returns to Paris. Robert Adam's shop-lined Pulteney Bridge is built in Bath. The British defeat the American colonists at the Battle of Brandywine, but Burgoyne's troops are forced to surrender by the colonists at Saratoga.
- 1778 Publication of final volume of Gibbon's "History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire". Publication of "Evelina" by Fanny Burney. Publication of Rowley poems by Thomas Chatterton. Wordsworth at Hawkshead Grammar School, 1778-1787. William Blake studies at Royal Academy. Deaths of Voltaire (1694-1778) and Rousseau (1712-1778). Scott at Edinburgh High School, 1778-1783. Birth of William Hazlitt (1778-1830), essayist and critic. Birth of Mary Brunton (1778-1818), novelist. Birth of Joseph Grimaldi (1778-1837), inventor of the pantomime clown. Passing of the Roman Catholic Relief Bill, permitting Catholic worship, provokes Protestant fury in England. France formed an alliance with America against England. Lord North passes the Reconciliation Act granting all of the colonists demands except independence. Captain Cook discovers Hawaii. Joseph Banks becomes President of the Royal Society (1778-1820). Death of Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778), who founded the system of binomial classification. Beethoven is recognised as a child prodigy. Mozart's "Flute and Harp Concerto" performed in Paris. Death of Thomas Arne (1710-1778), English organist and composer. Death of Giambattista Piranesi (1720-1778), artist. Opening of La Scala, Milan. Franz Mesmer practices mesmerism in Paris.
- 1779 Publication of "Olney Hymns" by Cowper. Death of David Garrick (1717-1779), actor. Publication of Hume's "Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion". Sheridan produces "The Critic". Crabbe moves to London to take up writing full-time and falls under Burke's influence. Birth of Thomas Moore (1779-1852), poet. Death of John Armstrong (1709-1779), poet and disciple of James Thomson. Death of William Warburton (1698-1779), theologian. James Gillray's satirical cartoons first

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appear in print, personalising political commentary. Herder's essay on "Volkslieder" popularises the collection and publication of folk songs. Christopher Wyvill forms Yorkshire Association for Parliamentary reform. Captain James Cook (1728-1779) killed during his third great voyage by natives of the Sandwich Islands. Spain joins the war against Britain. American forces defeat British at Vincennes. Death of Jean Baptiste Chardin (1699-1779), artist. Death of Thomas Chippendale (1719-1779), cabinet-maker. Houdon completes his sculpture of Molière. Gillray's cartoons begin to appear. The Epsom Derby and the Oaks are inaugurated.

- 1780 R B Sheridan becomes an M.P. and devotes himself to public affairs (1780-1812). Bentham's "Introduction to Principles of Morals and Legislation" published. Death of Sir William Blackstone (1723-1780), legal theorist. Robert Raikes founds the Sunday School Movement. Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Prussia, Holland, Austria, France and Spain join the Armed Neutrality pact, isolating Britain. Rodney defeats the Spanish fleet off Cape St Vincent. The Gordon Riots, in protest against the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1778, shocked London. Return of HMS Discovery and Resolution to England. Birth of Jean Ingres (1780-1867), artist. The American Academy of Sciences is founded in Boston.
- 1781 Thomas Warton's "History of English Poetry" completed (1774-1781). Publication of "The Robbers" by Schiller. Death of Gotthold Lessing (1729-1781), German critic and playwright. Publication of Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason". Publication of the "Confessions" by Rousseau. Birth of George Stephenson (1781-1848), pioneer of steam locomotion. Birth of Thomas Raffles (1781-1826), empire-builder. Cornwallis defeats the American colonists at the Battle of Guilford, but is then forced to surrender at Yorktown and the American colonies are victorious. Herschel discovers Uranus.
- 1782 Publication of "Cecilia" by Fanny Burney. Publication of "Poems" and "John Gilpin" by Cowper. Publication of Joseph Warton's "Essay on the Genius and Writing of Mr Pope" is completed (1756-1782). Coleridge sent to Christ's Hospital (1782-1791). Lamb at school at Christ's Hospital (1782-1789). Maria Edgeworth moves to her paternal home in Ireland. Rockingham dies, after a brief spell as Prime Minister replacing Lord North, and is replaced in turn by the Earl of Shelburne. Grattan's Bill passed repealing British power over the Parliament of Ireland. Death of Johann Christian Bach (1735-1782), composer. Death of Richard Wilson (1714-1782), landscape painter.
- 1783 Death of Anna Williams (1706-1783), writer. Death of Henry Brooke (1703-1783), poet. William Blake's "Poetical Sketches" published. Death of D'Alembert (1717-1783), philosopher. "The Village" by Crabbe is published. Scott attends Edinburgh University. Hazlitt in America (1783-1787). Publication of Kant's "Prolegomena to every future Metaphysic of Ethic". Fox introduces his India Bill which is passed by the Commons but thrown out of the Lords. The Duke of Portland has a nine-month spell as Prime Minister, replacing Shelburne, but is then succeeded by the 25 year old William Pitt the Younger who serves as Prime Minister for 18 years until 1801. The Treaty of Versailles is signed between America, Britain, France and Spain, formally ending the American War of Independence (1775-1783) Independence (1775-1783) and restoring Florida and Minorca to Spain. First human flight in hot air balloon by the Montgolfier brothers, Births of Stendhal (1783-1842), novelist and Washington Irving (1783-1859), writer and humorist.
- 1784 Death of Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), at his house in Bolt Court, not long after his quarrel with Mrs. Thrale following her marriage to Gabriel Piozzi. Death of Denis Diderot (1713-1784) philosopher. William Cobbett sent to Canada (1784-1791). Birth of James Henry Leigh Hunt (1784-1859), critic and essayist. Publication of "Barham Downs" by Robert Bage. "Le Marriage

1784 (continued)

de Figaro" by Beaumarchais performed. Pitt's India Bill is passed. Revolution in the Netherlands (1784-1787). Peace Treaty concluded with Tippoo Sahib of Mysore. East India Company taken under government control. Rowlandson's first cartoons appear. First balloon flight in England. Brighton Pavilion is built for the Prince of Wales.

1785 Death of William Whitehead (1715-1785), Poet Laureate. He was succeeded by Thomas Warton (from 1785 to 1790). Death of William Strahan (1715-1785), publisher and printer. Publication of Boswell's "Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides". Publication of "The Task" by Cowper. Cowper starts his translation of Homer (published in 1791). First publication of "The Daily Universal Register" (renamed "The Times" in 1788). Thomas Warton's edition of Milton is published. Publication of "Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect" by Burns. Publication of "The Newspaper" by Crabbe. Birth of Thomas DeQuincey (1785-1859), writer and opium eater. Birth of Thomas Love Peacock (1785-1866), satirical writer. The Reverend James Wilmot argues that Francis Bacon is the true author of Shakespeare's plays. Publication of Samuel Johnson's "Prayers and Meditations" and Mrs Thrale-Piozzi's "Anecdotes of the late Samuel Johnson". Edmund Burke raises conduct of Warren Hastings in India in the House of Commons. Warren Hastings resigns as Governor-General of India and returns home. Publication of Kant's "Foundation for the Metaphysic of Ethics". Birth of William Hooker (1785-1865), botanist. Blanchard and Jeffries cross channel in balloon. Matthew Boulton and James Watt install a rotary steam engine in a cloth factory in Papplewick, Nottinghamshire. The power loom is patented. Mozart's Piano Concertos, K467 and K482, are completed as well as his six "Haydn" string quartets (Mozart plays with Dittersdorf and Haydn in a string quartet). David Wilkie (1785-1841), artist, born. Houdon visits America to complete his sculpture of George Washington as the modern Cincinnatus, called from the ploughshare to wield the reins of government. David paints "The Oath of the Horatii".

1786 **Publication of "The Poems of Mr. Gray. With Notes by Gilbert Wakefield"**. Publication of "Vathek, an Arabian Tale" (1786-1787) by William Beckford, a pioneer "gothic" novel describing grotesque and terrible events in an oriental setting. Birth of Benjamin Haydon (1786-1846), artist. Publication of Kant's "Metaphysical Rudiments of Natural Philosophy". Lord Cornwallis is sent to replace Warren Hastings as Governor-General of India. Death of Frederick the Great. He is succeeded by Frederick William II (reigns 1786-1797). Invention of the threshing machine by Andrew Meikle in Scotland. First performance of Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro". Death of George Hepplewhite (1726-1786), cabinet-maker. Goethe visits Italy (1786-1788).

1787 Wordsworth commences studies at St John's College, Cambridge. Hazlitt returns from America. Publication of "Thoughts on the Education of Daughters" by Mary Wollstonecraft. Publication of "The Life of Samuel Johnson" by Sir John Hawkins. Publication of "Don Carlos" by Schiller. Birth of Edmund Kean (1787-1833), actor. Beilby Porteus is made Bishop of London and leads the Evangelical Revival within the Church of England with the support of the poet, Hannah More, and William Wilberforce. Thomas Paine returns to England from America. The Philadelphia Convention meets to frame a new constitution for America, which is duly agreed and signed. Revolution in Netherlands put down but new revolution in Austrian Netherlands (Belgium) (1787-1790) breaks out. The Parliament of Paris demands that the Estates-General should meet, but Louis XVI proposes to postpone this until 1792. Captain Bligh embarks on the voyage of HMS Bounty to undertake agricultural research for Joseph Banks, (from 1787 to 1789). Mont Blanc climbed by Horace de Saussure. Publication of Lavoisier's "Méthode de nomenclature chimique". Foundation of the Marylebone Cricket Club, who move to Lord's Cricket Ground. Death of Gluck (1714-1787), composer. Mozart

1787 (continued)

completes "Don Giovanni" and "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik".

Leopold Mozart (1719-1787), the composer's father, dies in Salzburg. American Dollar currency introduced.

1788 Birth of George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824). Trial of Warren Hastings begins, prosecuted by Burke, Fox and Sheridan. Robert Burns marries Jean Armour. Death of the Reverend Thomas Russell (1762-1788), who helped to popularise the sonnet form again. Publication of Kant's "Critique of Practical Reason". Publication of



Goethe's "Egmont". Goethe and Schiller become close friends. Death of Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788), artist. Birth of Robert Peel (1788-1850), politician. Birth of Arthur Schopenhauer (1787-1860), philosopher. George III's first mental breakdown and the Regency Crisis. The Abolition of the Slave Trade is discussed in Parliament. Parliament of Paris submits list

of grievances to Louis XVI who recalls Jacques Necker as Minister of Finance and calls States-General for May 1789. New York is made the federal capital of the United States of America and New Hampshire is accepted as the ninth state. Mozart completes his last three symphonies – 39, 40 and 41 (Jupiter) – in a 46-day creative burst. Convicts are sent from Britain to Australia. Hortensia and Fuschia plants imported from Peru.

1789 Outbreak of the French Revolution and the storming of the Bastille. Drafting of the "Declaration des Droits de L'Homme et du Citoyen". George Washington is inaugurated as the first President of the United States of America (serves from 1789 to 1796). Publication of Bentham's "Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation". The first steam-driven cotton factory operational in Manchester. William Blake publishes his own "Songs of Innocence". Death of Baron d'Holbach (1723-1789), philosopher. Publication of "The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne" by Gilbert White. Publication of "The Botanic Garden" by Erasmus Darwin (completed 1791). Publication of "Fourteen Sonnets" by the Reverend William Lisle Bowles, admired by Coleridge. Posthumous publication of the "Sonnets" of the Reverend Thomas Russell. Publication of "Mountains and Lakes of Cumberland and Westmoreland" by William Gilpin. Opening of the Thames and Severn canal. The Mutiny on the Bounty takes place. Mozart completes his "Clarinet Concerto". Charles Burney completes his "History of Music". The building of Edinburgh University commences, following the designs of Robert Adam. Birth of James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851), writer. Chrysanthemums are first introduced from China.

1790 Publication of Edmund Burke's "Reflections" of the French Revolution. Wordsworth enjoys Grand Tour of the Alps. Death of the Reverend Thomas Warton (1727-1790), Poet Laureate. Henry James Pye becomes the new Poet Laureate (from 1790 to 1813). Death of Adam Smith (1723-1790), political economist. Death of Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), scientist and statesman. Publication of "Tam O'Shanter" by Robert Burns. Publication of "A Sicilian Romance" by Mrs. Ann Radcliffe. Kant's "Critique of Judgement" published. Publication of "Horae Paulinae" by William Paley. The Firth-Clyde canal is completed and the Oxford-Birmingham canal starts. Revolution in Belgium put down. Short-lived revolution in Hungary. Foundation of Washington DC. Birth of Géricault (1790-1824), artist. Foundation of the Royal Literary Fund. Publication of "Travels to Discover the Sources of the Nile, 1768-1773" by James Bruce. Vancouver explores the North-West coast of America. Mozart's "Cosi Fan Tutti" performed.

1791 Publication of Boswell's "Life of Johnson". Wordsworth gains B.A. and travels to France to learn French. Publication of Cowper's translation of Homer. Death of John Wesley (1703-1791), theologian. William Cobbett leaves Canada (there from 1784 to 1791, marrying Ann Reid). Coleridge goes to Jesus College, Cambridge from Christ's Hospital. Leigh Hunt commences education at Christ's Hospital (from 1791 to 1799). Publication of

"The Romance of the Forest" by Mrs. Ann Radcliffe. Burke quarrels with Charles James Fox. Death of Richard Price

1791 (continued)

(1723-1791), controversialist. Priestley's house is wrecked by anti-revolutionaries. Paine's "Rights of Man" published in answer to Burke's "Reflections" of 1790. Goethe made director of the Duke of Weimar's Theatre (1791-1813). The Society of United Irishmen founded to encourage France to invade Ireland and set up an independent republic. Mirabeau elected President of the French Assembly. The Canada Act passed. Revolution in Poland (1791-1794).

Slave uprising in Haiti and rise to power of Toussaint L'Ouverture. "The Observer" newspaper is founded. The waltz craze comes to England. Haydn commences symphonies 94 and 101 (completed 1791-1794). First performance of Mozart's "Magic Flute". Death of Mozart (1756-1791), leaving work on his "Requiem", commissioned by an unknown patron (Count F von Walsegg), unfinished. Birth of Michael Faraday (1791-1867), scientist.

1792 Death of Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792), artist. Birth of Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822), poet. Wordsworth's affair with Annette Vallon results in the birth of a daughter. William Cobbett lives in America (1792-1800). Scott called to the Bar. Publication of "The Pleasures of Memory" by Samuel Rogers. Publication of the "Vindication of the Rights of Woman" by Mary Wollstonecraft. Publication of Holcroft's "The Road to Ruin", the earliest English melodrama. Publication of "Evidences of Christianity" by William "Pigeon" Paley. Burke publishes "Thoughts on French Affairs" and causes a sensation by throwing a dagger onto the floor of the House of Commons. Paine completes publication of his "Rights of Man" (1791-1792) and is forced to flee to France to avoid prosecution. Paine is elected a member of the French Convention. Paine's "Age of Reason" published. Death of Richard Arkwright (1737-1792), inventor of the spinning frame. Death of John Smeaton (1724-1792), civil engineer. Birth of John Keble (1792-1866), poet and theologian. Birth of Charles Babbage (1792-1871), mathematician and father of the computer. Foundation of the London Corresponding Society. Foundation of the Baptist Missionary Society. The Libel Act is passed. Austria and Prussia invade France but are driven back. The National Convention meets and declares France a Republic. The Paris communes are set up. Jacobins under Danton seize power from the Girondins. The September Massacre of royalists in Paris. French pass decree offering to help other revolutionaries to overthrow monarchies. Rouget de Lisle writes "La Marseillaise". Beethoven becomes Haydn's pupil. Birth of Rossini (1792-1868), composer. Death of Robert Adams (1728-1792), architect. Denmark is the first nation to abolish the slave trade.

1793 Publication of Wordsworth's "An Evening Waltz" and "Descriptive Sketches". Death of Gilbert White (1720-1793), naturalist. Death of William Robertson (1721-1793), historian. Birth of John Clare (1793-1864), poet. Publication of "Political Justice" by Godwin. Southey at Balliol College, Oxford. Kant's "Religion within the Boundaries of Pure Reason" published. The Reign of Terror begins in Paris. Louis XVI and the French royal family are executed. Napoleon returns to Paris. Outbreak of war between Britain and France (1793-1797). Death of Marat. Paoli's second revolt in Corsica against French government is crushed by Napoleon. Revolution in Sardinia. Flaxman completes his illustrations to the "Iliad" and "Odyssey". Jacques Louis David paints "The Death of Marat". Construction of the Washington Capitol building begins. Death of Guardi (1712-1793), artist. The Louvre made into the French National Gallery.

1794 Death of Edward Gibbon (1737-1794), historian. William Cowper receives pension. William Blake publishes his own "Songs of Experience". Death of Jean Antoine Nicolas Caritat, Marquis de Condorcet (1743-1794), philosopher. Coleridge leaves Cambridge without a degree but having made friends with Southey and formulated pantisocracy. Southey leaves Oxford without taking a degree. Publication of "Caleb Williams" by Godwin. Publication of "The Mysteries of Udolpho" by Mrs Ann Radcliffe. Publication of "Auld Lang Syne" by Robert Burns.

1794 (continued)

Mary Wollstonecraft has a daughter, Fanny, by Gilbert Imlay.

Publication of "Zoonomia" by Erasmus Darwin. William Henry Ireland perpetrates his Shakespeare forgeries. Burke leaves the House of Commons in favour of his son Richard. Publication of "Essay on the Picturesque" by Sir Uvedale Price. Birth of John Gibson Lockhart (1794-1854), novelist. Death of George Colman the Elder (1733-1794), dramatist. Goethe and Schiller become close friends. "Crimp house" riots against recruiting. Lord Howe leads British fleet to victory over the French at

Brest. Revolution in Poland put down. Paris commune abolished. Danton, Desmoulins, Robespierre and St. Just all executed as is Antoine Lavoisier (1743-1794), scientist. First telegraph line operational

from Paris to Lille.

- 1795 Death of James Boswell (1740-1795), biographer. Wordsworth settles with sister Dorothy in Dorset and befriends Coleridge. Coleridge marries Sara Fricker. Robert Southey marries Edith Fricker and is temporarily estranged from Coleridge. Publication of "Poems" by Southey. Birth of John Keats (1795-1821), poet. Birth of George Darley (1795-1846), poet and critic. Lamb suffers bout of madness. Publication of "The Poems of Walter Savage Landor". Acquittal of Warren Hastings. Publication of "Letters to a Noble Lord" by Burke. Publication of "Letters to Literary Ladies" by Maria Edgeworth. Birth of Thomas Arnold (1795-1842), educationalist. Birth of Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), historian. Death of Josiah Wedgwood (1739-1795), founder of the Wedgwood potteries. Final separation of the Methodist and Anglican churches. Britain declares war against Dutch and Spain declares war against Britain. Britain takes the Cape of Good Hope. Food riots and attack on the King's coach in London. Bread riots and White Terror in Paris. Napoleon made Commander-in-Chief of French forces in Italy. Mungo Park explores the Niger. Haydn's London Symphonies performed. The Pump-room in Bath is rebuilt. Birth of Charles Barry (1795-1860), architect. Sir John Soane begins work on the Bank of England (completed by 1827).
- 1796 Death of Robert Burns (1759-1796), poet. Death of James Macpherson (1736-1796), "translator" of Ossian. Coleridge and Southey estranged. Birth of Hartley Coleridge (1796-1849), Coleridge's eldest son. Mary Lamb murders her mother in fit of madness. Publication of "Thoughts on the Prospect of a Regicide Peace" by Burke. Publication of "The Monk" by Matthew Gregory Lewis. Widespread food riots. Failure of French expedition to Ireland due to the weather. Napoleon marries Josephine de Beauharnais. Sardinian Revolution quelled. Britain captures Elba. Smallpox vaccine introduced by Jenner. Work begins on Beckford's Fonthill Abbey.
- 1797 **Death of Horace Walpole (1717-1797), fourth Earl of Orford, and close friend to Gray.** Death of Edmund Burke (1729-1797), statesman and writer. Death of John Wilkes (1727-1797), radical politician. DeQuincey attends Bath Grammar School. Scott joins Royal Edinburgh Light Dragoons and marries Charlotte Carpentier. "Anti-Jacobin" (continued to 1798) edit by Gifford. Publication of "The Enquirer" by Godwin. Godwin marries Mary Wollstonecraft, who dies later in the year giving birth to Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin (the future Mary Shelley) (1797-1851). Coleridge writes "Kubla Khan", interrupted by the man from Porlock (published 1816). Publication of "The Italian" by Mrs. Ann Radcliffe. Publication of Goethe's "Hermann and Dorothea". Birth of Heinrich Heine (1797-1856), poet. London Corresponding Society has its last mass meeting broken up by the police. Newspaper Act increases the tax on newspapers. Publication of "A Practical View of the Prevailing Religious System of Professed Christians" by William Wilberforce. Suppression of mutinies in the English fleet. Nelson and Jervis defeat Spanish fleet off Cape St. Vincent. Duncan defeats Dutch at Camperdown. Napoleon completes victorious campaign in Italy and returns to Paris in triumph. George Washington refuses to accept a third term and is succeeded by John Adams (President 1797-1801). Birth of Franz Schubert (1797-1828), composer.
- 1797 (continued)
- Death of Joseph Wright of Derby (1734-1797), artist. Birth of Hiroshige (1797-1858), artist. Turner paints "Millbank, Moonlight". Haydn completes his "Emperor Quartet". Thomas Bewick's "British Birds" first appear (continues to 1804).
- 1798 Publication of "Lyrical Ballads" by Wordsworth and Coleridge. Hazlitt and Coleridge meet. Publication of "The Castaway" by Cowper. Birth of Auguste Comte (1798-

1857), philosopher. Publication of "Gebir" by Landor. Publication of "Essay on the Principles of Population" by Malthus. The War with France followed by the First War against Napoleon (1798-1802). Nelson destroys the French fleet at the Battle of the Nile following successful French invasion of North Africa, but Napoleon defeats British and Turks at Aboukir. French capture Rome and declare a

Roman Republic. The Irish Rebellion fails. Birth of Eugène Delacroix (1798-1863), artist. Death of Casanova (1725-1798), amorous adventurer.

1799 **Publication of "The Poetical Works of Thomas Gray" edited by Stephen Jones.** Wordsworth moves to Dove Cottage, Grasmere. Sheridan's production of "Pizarro" (adapted from Kotzebue) staged. Publication of "Pleasures of Hope" by Thomas Campbell. Coleridge falls in love with Sara Hutchinson. Scott appointed Sheriff-Deputy of Selkirkshire. Birth of Thomas Hood (1799-1845), poet. Charles and Mary Lamb share a house. Publication of "Wallenstein" by Schiller, translated by Coleridge in 1800. Birth of Pushkin (1799-1837), writer. Death of Beaumarchais (1732-1799), dramatist and music-master. Birth of Balzac (1799-1850), writer. London Corresponding Society and United Societies banned. Combination Act passed to prevent unionisation of workers. Napoleon invades Syria and defeats Turks at Aboukir, then returns to France and overthrows the Directory. Pitt introduces Income Tax to pay for the war with France. The Church Missionary Society founded. Britain wins war against Tippoo Sahib in India. Beethoven completes his first symphony. The Rosetta Stone is found. Death of George Washington (1732-1799). David paints "Rape of the Sabine Women". Goya paints "Los Caprichos".

1800 **Second, enlarged edition of "The Poetical Works of Thomas Gray", by Stephen Jones, appears.** Death of William Cowper (1731-1800), poet. Elizabeth Montagu (1720-1800), conversationalist, writer and Queen of the Blue-Stockings. Death of Joseph Warton (1722-1800), critic and poet. William Cobbett returns to England from America (there from 1792 to 1800 and previously in Canada from 1784 to 1791). Coleridge settles in Keswick and his health fails. DeQuincey attends Manchester Grammar School. "Castle Rackrent" by Maria Edgeworth published. "Epistle to Peter Pindar" by Gifford published. Publication of "Translations from Anacreon" by Moore. Publication of "Maria Stuart" by Schiller. Napoleon defeats Austrians at the Battle of Marengo and the Turks at Heliopolis. Napoleon made First Consul. Pitt enacts the Act of Union of Great Britain and Ireland. Robert Owen starts new industrial society in New Lanark. Richard Trevithick builds first high-pressure steam engine. Alessandro Volta announces his invention (made in 1799) of the electric cell battery.

1801 Jane Austen and family move to Bath. Lord Byron enters Harrow (1801-1805). Coleridge becomes an opium addict. Publication of "Belinda" and "Practical Education" by Maria Edgeworth. Leigh Hunt's "Juvenilia" published. Death of Robert Bage (1728-1801), novelist. Birth of John Henry Newman (1801-1890), theologian. Publication of "Die Jungfrau von Orleans" by Schiller. Britain liberates Egypt from the French. Henry Addington becomes Prime Minister for 4 years, interrupting the office of Pitt. Slave uprising in Haiti finally succeeds in driving out Spanish, but the French seize the island instead. Death of Count Carl Graf von Zeppelin (1767-1801), German minister of state. Union Jack becomes British flag. Thomas Jefferson succeeds John Adams as America's third President (serves 1801-1809). Birth of Joseph Paxton (1801-1865), architect. Beethoven's "Piano Sonatas"

1801 (continued)

appear (1801-1804). The "Nautilus" submarine launched.

1802 Wordsworth married to Mary Hutchinson. Appearance of "Cobbett's Weekly Political Register" (1802-1835). Maria Edgeworth tours continent. Birth of Harriet Martineau (1802-1876), writer, feminist and social commentator. Publication of Scott's "Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border". "The Edinburgh Review" founded (1802-1929). Hazlitt in Paris, 1802-1803. Scott meets James Hogg. Publication of "Poetry, by the author of Gebir" by Landor. Publication of "Poetical Works of the Late Thomas Little"

by Moore. Birth of Richard Parkes Bonnington (1802-1828), influential landscapist. Turner first visits the continent. Death of Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802), naturalist and poet. Publication of "Natural Theology" by William Paley. Thomas Paine returns to America. Napoleon made First Consul

for life and made President of the Italian Republic. Peace of Amiens concludes First War of Britain against Napoleon. Building of the West India Dock in London. Publication of Madam de Staël's "Delphine". Beethoven writes his second symphony. Births of Alexandre Dumas, père (1802-1870), and

Victor Hugo (1802-1885), novelists. Death of George Romney (1734-1802), artist. John Dalton pioneers atomic theory in chemistry.

- 1803 Byron's infatuation with Mary Chaworth. DeQuincey attends Worcester College, Oxford, and begins to take opium. Maria Edgeworth becomes a literary celebrity in London. Godwin's "Life of Chaucer" is published. Southey moves to Keswick with the Coleridges. Birth of Edward George Earle Lytton Bulwer (1803-1873), writer. Death of Herder (1744-1803), dramatist. Publication of "Die Braut von Messina" by Schiller. Sir Arthur Wellesley ends war against Mahrattas in India by victory at Assaye. Invention of the bombshell by Henry Shrapnell. Birth of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), poet, essayist and philosopher. Birth of Berlioz (1803-1869), composer. Turner exhibits "Calais Pier". The Louisiana Purchase.
- 1804 Death of James Beattie (1735-1803), poet. Death of Charlotte Lennox (1720-1804), novelist and translator. Death of Sarah Siddons (1720-1804), actress. Shelley at Eton (1804-1810). Coleridge visits Malta and Italy (1804-1806). Keats, 10 years old, loses his father. Thomas Moore visits Canada and America (1804-1806). Death of Joseph Priestley (1733-1804), scientist and politician. Birth of Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864), writer. Birth of Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881), statesman. Publication of "Wilhelm Tell" by Schiller. Birth of Johann Strauss (1804-1849), composer. Death of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), philosopher. Death of William Gilpin (1724-1804), pioneer of picturesque descriptive writing. The British and Foreign Bible Society is founded. Napoleon crowned Emperor. Pitt returns as Prime Minister for a further two years (1804-1806) until his death. Revolution in Serbia. Dahlias introduced into British gardens.
- 1805 Wordsworth finishes first draft of "The Prelude". Death of Arthur Murphy (1727-1805), dramatist. Publication of Thomas Campbell's "Poems". Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel" published. Publication of "Essay on the Principles of Human Action" by Hazlitt. Publication of "Palmyra, and Other Poems" by Thomas Love Peacock. Death of William Paley (1743-1805), theologian. Death of Schiller (1759-1805), poet and dramatist. Nelson mortally wounded in victory of British fleet against the French at Trafalgar. Austrian and Russian armies defeated by Napoleon at Austerlitz. Treaty of St Petersburg by Austria, Britain and Russia against France. Mungo Park explores the Niger. Turner paints the "Shipwreck". Beethoven's "Fidelio" first performed. Paganini tours Europe.
- 1806 Publication of Byron's "Fugitive Pieces", immediately suppressed. Publication of Moore's "Epistles, Odes and Other Poems". Publication of the Reverend William Lisle Bowles' edition of Pope which infuriates Byron. Birth of Elizabeth Barrett (1806-1861), poet. Birth of John Stuart Mill (1806-1873),
- 1806 (continued)

philosopher and political theorist. Death of Mungo Park (1771-1806), explorer. Death of Charles James Fox (1749-1806), politician. Death of William Pitt (1759-1806), Prime Minister, succeeded by Grenville who serves for one year. Napoleon

defeats Prussians at Jena. The Holy Roman Empire collapses. Napoleon enters Berlin and issues edict prohibiting British vessels from entering European ports. Beethoven's "Violin Concerto" performed. Death of George Stubbs (1724-1806),

artist. Death of Fragonard (1732-1806), artist. Beaufort introduces his wind scales.

- 1807 Death of Pascal Paoli (1725-1807), Corsican democratic leader in exile. Coleridge separated from Sara Hutchinson and his wife. DeQuincey and Coleridge meet. Wordsworth writes his "Odes on Intimations of Immortality". Publication of Crabbe's "Poems". Scott visits London and becomes a literary celebrity. Publication of "The Mountain Bard" by James Hogg. Publication of Lamb's "Tales from Shakespeare". Moore's Irish Melodies" (1807-1834) begin to appear. Publication of "Letters from England by Don Manuel Espriella" by Southey. Publication of Hegel's "Phenomenology of Spirit". The Duke of Portland replaces Grenville as Prime Minister. Abolition of the Slave Trade by Act of Parliament. Napoleon defeats Russian armies at Eylau. Admiral Bligh becomes Governor of New South Wales on the recommendation of Joseph Banks. Gas lighting appears in London streets. Death of Angelica Kauffman (1741-1807), artist. Birth of Longfellow (1807-1882), poet. David paints the "Coronation of Napoleon" and Turner paints "Sun Rising in a Mist". The Ascot Gold Cup inaugurated.
- 1808 "The Examiner" (1808-1880) launched by John Hunt and his brother Leigh Hunt. DeQuincey leaves Oxford without a degree. Publication of "Coelebs in Search of a Wife" by Hannah More. Covent Garden Theatre burns down causing death of 23 firemen and loss of manuscript scores by Handel. Manchester Cotton-weavers strike. Goethe meets Napoleon in Erfurt. Napoleon invades Spain and installs his brother, Joseph, as King of Spain. The Peninsular War (1808-1814) begins. Wellesley has initial victories against French at Roliça and Vimiero aided by popular revolution in Spain. Beethoven's Fifth and Sixth symphonies completed. The source of the Ganges is discovered. Excavations commence at Pompeii (1808-1815). Dalton publishes his "New System of Chemical Philosophy" (completed in 1827).
- 1809 Birth of Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892), poet. Birth of Charles Darwin (1809-1882), naturalist. Birth of Edward Fitzgerald (1809-1883), poet and translator of the "Rubáiyat". Birth of Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849), pioneer of horror, detective and science fiction. Jane Austen and family move to Chawton. Publication of Byron's "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers". The start of Byron's tour in Albania (1809-1811). Appearance of Coleridge's "The Friend" (1809-1810). DeQuincey moves to Grasmere. Foundation of "The Quarterly Review". Leigh Hunt marries Marianne Kent. Publication of "Rip van Winkle" by Washington Irving. Death of Thomas Paine (1737-1809), radical. Death of Thomas Holcroft (1744-1809), dramatist. Death of Matthew Boulton (1728-1809), entrepreneur and sponsor of James Watt. Covent Garden Theatre re-opens with increased prices, leading to O.P. (Old Price) riots. Drury Lane burns down. Grimaldi and other pantomime performers appear on English Stage. Spencer Perceval succeeds the Duke of Portland as Prime Minister and serves for 3 years until his assassination. British driven from Spain, but troops able to embark due to victory at Corunna. Wellesley returns to Peninsular and has great victory at Talavera. Wellesley created Viscount Wellington. Napoleon defeats Austrians at Wagram. Napoleon and Josephine are divorced. Short-lived rebellion in the Tyrol. Metternich becomes chief minister of Austria. James Madison succeeds Jefferson as America's fourth President (1809-1817). Birth of Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865). Death of Haydn (1732-1809), composer. Birth of Mendelssohn (1809-1847), composer. Beethoven's "Emperor Concerto"
- 1809 (continued)
- completed. Birth of Gogol (1809-1852), writer.
- 1810 Wordsworth and Coleridge quarrel. Appearance of "The Reflector" (1810-1811) by Leigh Hunt. Keats, aged 16, is orphaned by the death of his mother and is taken under the guardianship of Richard Abbey. Publication of Scott's "Lady of the Lake". Birth of Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-

1865), novelist. George III falls insane once more. Durham Miners Strike. Wellington defeats French at Masséna in Portugal. Venezuela proclaims its independence. Births of composers Chopin (1810-1849) and Schumann (1810-1856). Beethoven composes music to accompany Goethe's "Egmont". Birth of the great showman, Phineas T Barnum (1810-1891). The Krupp works open in Essen. Death of John Hoppner (1759-1810), artist. Goya starts his "Disasters of War" (1810-1813).

1811 Publication of Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility". Byron and Thomas Moore become friends. Shelley sent down from Oxford after publication of "The Necessity of Atheism". Shelley marries Harriet Westbrook. Godwin meets Shelley. Keats takes apprenticeship to a surgeon. Death of Richard Cumberland (1732-1811), dramatist. Birth of Thackeray (1811-1863), novelist. George III declared insane and Prince of Wales becomes Regent. Luddite machine-breaking riots in England. John Nash lays out Regent's Park and designs Regent Street. John Rennie commences Waterloo Bridge. Birth of Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896), writer. Birth of Liszt (1811-1886), composer.

1812 Publication of first two cantos of Byron's "Childe Harold" and his intrigue with Lady Caroline Lamb. Publication of "Tales" by Crabbe. Scott moves to Abbotsford. Publication of Moore's "Twopenny Postbag". Publication of "The Tour by Dr. Syntax in Search of the Picturesque" (1812-1821) by William Combe. Birth of Robert Browning (1812-1889), poet. Birth of Charles Dickens (1812-1870). Death of Edmond Malone (1741-1812), author/critic. Drury Lane re-opens thanks to financial intervention of Samuel Whitbread. The Earl of Liverpool succeeds Spencer Perceval as Prime Minister following Perceval's assassination, and serves as Prime Minister for 15 years (1812-1827). Wellington defeats French at Salamanca and enters Madrid. Napoleon invades Russia, wins battle of Borodino, enters Moscow, but is then forced to begin perilous retreat. The first steam vessel, "The Comet" sails on the Clyde. Luddite riots continue in Yorkshire and Lancashire. America declares war on Britain. Beethoven and Goethe meet. Beethoven completes his Seventh and Eighth symphonies. The Elgin marbles brought to Britain. Publication of "Fairy Tales" by the Brothers Grimm. Sarah Siddons makes her farewell appearance on the English Stage. Goya paints "Portrait of the Duke of Wellington".

1813 Death of Henry James Pye (1745-1813), Poet Laureate. He is succeeded by Robert Southey (from 1813 to 1843) after Sir Walter Scott declines the honour. Publication of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice". Publication of "Queen Mab" by Shelley. Publication of "The Queen's Wake" by James Hogg. Leigh Hunt imprisoned (1813-1815) for libel against the Prince Regent and becomes a celebrity, being visited by Byron, Moore, Bentham and Lamb. Publication of Robert Owen's "New View of Society". Wellington drives French from Spain and invades France. Napoleon defeated by Coalition of Allies at the "Battle of the Nations" in Leipzig. French expelled from Holland. HMS Shannon captures USS Chesapeake. British forces take Fort Niagara but lose York and Detroit. Simon Bolivar becomes Dictator of Venezuela. Birth of Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855), philosopher. Birth of composers Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1903) and Richard Wagner (1813-1883). London Philharmonic Society founded.

1814 **Publication of "The Poems of Thomas Gray", edited by John Mitford.**  
**Publication of "The Works of Thomas Gray", edited by T J Mathias in two volumes.** Death of Charles Burney (1728-1814), musicologist. Publication of "Mansfield Park" by

1814 (continued)

Jane Austen. "New Monthly Magazine" (1814-1884) appears. Percy Bysshe Shelley and Mary Godwin fall in love and go to Switzerland. Publication of "Waverley" anonymously by Scott. Publication of "The Corsair" by Byron. Wordsworth writes "The

Excursion". The Wesleyan Missionary Society is founded. Death of Matthew Flinders (1774-1814), explorer. Landor in France. Napoleon abdicates following the First Treaty of Paris and is sent to Elba. Louis XVIII returns as King of France. British forces defeated by Americans at Chippewa, but raze Washington DC and burn the Library of Congress. Birth of Millet (1814-1875). Ingres paints L'Odalisque".

1815 Publication of "Emma" by Jane Austen. Byron marries Annabelle Milbanke and befriends Scott. Publication of "Guy Mannering" by Scott. Landor lives in Italy (1815-1835). Publication of "Headlong Hall" by Thomas Love Peacock. Birth of Anthony Trollope (1815-1882), novelist. Corn Laws passed in Britain. Napoleon escapes from Elba, gains support of French army and

marches on Paris. Finally defeated at Waterloo by Wellington, Blücher and allied forces and is exiled to St. Helena. The Holy Alliance formed in Europe (between Russia, Austria, Prussia and France) to promote peace and suppress liberalism. British forces defeated at New Orleans. Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812 between Britain and America. Birth of Otto von Bismarck (1815-1898), statesman. Invention of the Davy Lamp. Canova completes "The Three Graces". Death of John Singleton Copley (1738-1815), artist. John Nash remodels Brighton Pavilion in an exotic oriental style.

1816 **Publication of "The Works of Thomas Gray", edited by John Mitford in two volumes.** Death of Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816), dramatist and politician. Birth of Charlotte Brontë (1816-1855), novelist. Scandal causes Byron and his wife to separate and Byron leaves England for good. Percy Bysshe Shelley and Mary Godwin marry. Byron meets the Shelleys' in Switzerland. "The Story of Rimini" by Leigh Hunt published. Coleridge moves to Highgate. Hazlitt and Leigh Hunt arrange for one of Keats' sonnets to be published in "The Examiner". Coleridge's "Kubla Khan" published. Jane Austen's "Emma" published. Schubert's "Fifth Symphony" completed. Rossini's "Barber of Seville" performed. Death of Friedrich Schröder (1744-1816), actor who introduced Shakespearean drama to German stage.

1817 Death of Jane Austen (1775-1817). Publication of Coleridge's "Biographia Literaria". Publication of "Ormond" by Maria Edgeworth. Publication of "Characters of Shakespeare's Plays" by Hazlitt. Publication of "Poems" by Keats, encouraged by Shelley. Publication of "Lalla Rookh" by Moore. Publication of "Melincourt" by Thomas Love Peacock. "Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine" launched. "The Scotsman" newspaper launched in Edinburgh. Publication of Byron's "Manfred". Publication of Ricardo's "Principles of Political Economy and Taxation". Attack on the Prince Regent's coach in London. James Monroe succeeds Madison as America's fifth President (1817-1825). Death of William Bligh (1754-1817), mariner and colonial governor. Birth of Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), writer and philosopher. John Constable paints "Flatford Mill".

1818 Death of Warren Hastings (1732-1818), colonial governor. Publication of "Northanger Abbey" and "Persuasion" by Jane Austen. The Shelleys' leave England for Italy (completed in 1823). Byron commences "Don Juan" in Italy. Publication of "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley. Publication of Cobbett's "Grammar of the English Language". Birth of Karl Marx (1818-1883). Publication of "Heart of Midlothian" and "Rob Roy" by Scott. Publication of "Mandeville" by Godwin. Death of Keats' younger brother Tom. Publication of "Endymion" by Keats, savaged in "Blackwood's Magazine" and "The Examiner". Keats commenced "Hyperion". Thomas Love Peacock's "Rhododaphne" and "Nightmare Abbey" are published. Death of Matthew Gregory "Monk" Lewis (1775-1818), gothic

1818 (continued)

novelist. Death of Mrs. Mary Brunton (1778-1818), novelist. Birth of Ivan Turgenev (1818-1883), writer. John Evelyn's "Diary" published. Chile proclaims independence. The Prado founded in Madrid. Crossing of the Atlantic by the "Savannah" in 26 days.



- 1819 Publication of "Invariable Principles of Poetry" by William Lisle Bowles which provoked Byron's defence of Pope. Publication of "The Cenci" by Shelley. Appearance of "The Indicator"
- (1819-1821) edited by Leigh Hunt. Keats starts "The Eve of St Agnes" and finishes "La Belle Dame sans Merci". Keats works on his odes "On Melancholy", "To Autumn", "To a Nightingale", "On a Grecian Urn", "On Indolence" and "To Psyche". Keats falls in love with Fanny Brawne. Publication of "Human Life" by Samuel Rogers. Publication of "The Battle of Marathon" by Elizabeth Barratt. Birth of John Ruskin (1819-1900), critic, artist and writer. Birth of Mary Anne Evans ("George Eliot") (1819-1880), novelist. Birth of Walt Whitman (1819-1892), poet. Publication of "Odes" by Victor Hugo. Publication of Goethe's "Der West-östliche Divan" and Schopenhauer's "Die Welt als Wille und Vorstellung". The Peterloo massacre occurs in Manchester. Simon Bolivar made President of Columbia. British settlement established in Singapore. Macadam introduces "tarmacadamized" roads. Death of James Watt (1736-1819), inventor. Schubert's "Trout Quintet" completed. Birth of Princess Victoria and Prince Albert. Géricault paints "The Raft of the Medusa". Birth of Gustave Courbet (1819-1877), artist. Turner paints "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage". The Burlington Arcade opens in Piccadilly.
- 1820 Publication of "Poems Descriptive of Rural Life and Scenery" by John Clare. Publication of "Prometheus Unbound" by Shelley. Publication of "Ivanhoe" by Scott. Malthus publishes "Principles of Political Economy". Cobbett's "Rural Rides" features in his "Political Register" from 1820 to 1830. Publication of "Lamia and other poems" by Keats who has now grown seriously ill. Keats sails for Italy. Lamb's "Essays of Elia" appear in "London Magazine" (1820-1825). Death of George III and accession of George IV. The Cato Street Conspiracy plots to assassinate the Cabinet. Publication of "Ruslan and Ludmila" by Pushkin. Death of Joseph Banks (1743-1820), explorer and botanist. Death of Arthur Young (1741-1820), agricultural economist. Death of Benjamin West (1738-1820), artist. Birth of Herbert Spencer (1820-1903), political and social theorist. Birth of John Tenniel (1820-1914), artist and book illustrator. The Venus de Milo discovered.
- 1821 Death of Hester Thrale-Piozzi (1741-1821), writer, literary hostess and friend of Johnson. Death of Keats (1795-1821) in Italy, mourned by Shelley. Clare's "The Village Minstrel and Other Poems" published. Publication of "Confessions of an English Opium-Eater" by DeQuincey. Publication of "Kenilworth" by Scott, who becomes a baronet. Publication of "Table Talk" by Hazlitt. Publication of "Elements of Political Economy" by James Mill. Publication of "A Vision of Judgement" by Southey. Death of John Rennie (1761-1821), civil engineer. Foundation of the "Manchester Guardian". Death of Napoleon (1769-1821) in exile on the island of St. Helena. Peru, Guatemala, Panama and Santo Domingo proclaim their independence. Birth of Flaubert (1821-1880), writer. Birth of Dostoevsky (1821-1881), writer. Beginning of the National Rising in Greece (1821-1827) against the Turks. Constable paints "The Haywain" which wins a gold medal at the Paris Salon of 1824.
- 1822 Appearance of "The Liberal" (1822-1823) edited by Leigh Hunt. Leigh Hunt joins Byron and Shelley in Italy. Shelley (1792-1822) drowns in the Bay of Spezia. Publication of "Italy" by Samuel Rogers. Sir Robert Peel becomes Home Secretary. Death of Sir William Herschel (1738-1822), astronomer and scientist. Death of Canova (1757-1822), sculptor. Pushkin starts "Eugene Onegin" (completed in 1832). Publication of "De l'amour" by Stendhal. Delacroix paints "Dante and Virgil crossing the Styx".
- 1822 (continued)
- John Martin paints "The Destruction of Herculaneum".

- 1823 Bentham founds "Westminster Review". Byron goes to Greece to aid Greek Revolution. Maria Edgeworth visits Scott at Abbotsford. Death of Mrs. Ann Radcliffe (1764-1823), novelist. Publication of "The Pioneers" by James Fenimore Cooper. Charles Kemble pioneers "historically accurate" drama, starting with "King John". Death of Dr. Edward Jenner (1749-1823), pioneer of vaccination. Mexico declares her independence. The freedom of South American countries recognised by Britain. Babbage works on calculating machines. Beethoven completes the "Missa Solemnis". Sir Robert Smirke designs the new British Museum building (completed 1847). The Oxford Union Society is founded. Rugby football is invented.
- 1824 Death of Lord Byron (1788-1824). Landor's "Imaginary Conversations" (1824-1829) begin to appear. Serialization of Mary Mitford's "Our Village" (completed in 1832). Francis Place and Joseph Hume help to pass the new Combination Act, allowing workers to form unions. British forces savaged in the Ashanti war.
- War in Burma. Simon Bolivar made Emperor of Peru. Birth of Alexandre Dumas, fils (1824-1895), novelist. Death of Géricault (1790-1824), artist. Beethoven completes his Ninth symphony. The National Gallery founded in London.
- 1825 Publication of "The Spirit of the Age" by Hazlitt. Publication of "Odes and Addresses to Great People" by Hood. Publication of "Boris Godunov" by Pushkin. Publication of the diaries of Samuel Pepys. The Great Money Panic in England caused by speculations and loans. The Stockton to Darlington railway is opened. Haiti gains her independence. Bolivia and Uruguay formed. Death of Salieri (1750-1825), composer and rival to Mozart. Death of Jacques Louis David (1748-1825), artist. Bonnington brings Delacroix to England to study Constable's painting. Tea roses introduced to Britain from China.
- 1826 Scott is financially ruined. Death of William Gifford (1756-1826), editor of "The Quarterly Review" from 1809 to 1824. Publication of "Woodstock" by Scott. Publication of "Vivian Grey" by Disraeli. Publication of "The Last of the Mohicans" by James Fenimore Cooper. Death of John Flaxman (1755-1826), artist and engraver. Power-looms destroyed in riots in Lancashire. Stamford Raffles founds the Royal Zoological Society in London.
- 1827 Death of William Blake (1757-1827), visionary artist and poet. Publication of Clare's "Shepherd's Calendar". Publication of Heine's "Buch der Lieder". Death of Samuel Crompton (1753-1827), inventor of the spinning "mule". Canning and Goderich were successively Prime Minister for brief spells, replacing Lord Liverpool. Combined British, French and Russian fleets destroy the Turkish and Egyptian fleets at Navarino Bay and end the Greek War (1821-1827). Baedeker starts publishing travel guides. Death of Beethoven (1770-1827).
- 1828 Wellington became Prime Minister for 3 year term. The Treaty of Adrianople gives formal recognition to the new kingdom of Greece. Death of Thomas Bewick (1753-1828), artist and engraver. Death of Richard Parkes Bonnington (1802-1828), artist. Death of Schubert (1797-1828), composer. Death of Goya (1746-1828), artist. Birth of Ibsen (1828-1906), dramatist. Birth of Tolstoy (1828-1910), novelist.
- 1829 Publication of "The Shepherd's Calendar" by Hogg. Publication of "The Misfortunes of Elphin" by Thomas Love Peacock. Publication of "Deveraux" by Bulwer-Lytton. Policemen ("Bobbies") introduced by Sir Robert Peel. General Union of Spinners formed. Catholic Emancipation Bill passed. The Royal Zoological Society takes over the collection of animals at the Tower of London, founding London Zoo.
- 1830 Death of William Hazlitt (1778-1830), critic and essayist. Cobbett's "Rural Rides" collected and published. Thomas Hood commences "Comic Annual". Appearance of "The

1830 (continued)

Tatler" (1830-1832) edited by Leigh Hunt. Moore's "Life of Byron" is published. Sir Edward Grey replaces Wellington as Prime Minister. Liverpool-Manchester Railway opened. The Second French Revolution: Charles X forced to abdicate and replaced by the Duke of Orleans.

1831 Publication of "Thoughts on Man" by Godwin. Hogg's "Scottish Pastorals" published. "Crotchet Castle" by Thomas Love Peacock is published. Publication of "Poetry and Truth", Goethe's autobiography. Death of Hegel (1770-1831), philosopher. The First and Second Reform Bills are passed. Death of Thomas Telford (1757-1831), engineer. Charles Darwin embarks on voyage on the HMS Beagle.

1832 Death of Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), philosopher and political economist. Death of George Crabbe (1754-1832), poet. Death of Sir Walter Scott (1772-1832), writer. Death of Goethe (1749-1832) after completion of "Faust". Harriet Martineau's "Illustrations of Political Economy" begin to appear (1832-1834). Publication of Palmer's "Origines Liturgicae" which becomes an important text for the Oxford Movement. The Third Reform Bill passed.

1833 Death of Hannah More (1745-1833), poet. Death of William Wilberforce (1759-1833), abolitionist, philanthropist and, together with Hannah More and Bishop Porteus, a leading member of the Evangelical Movement. Publication of "Prometheus Bound" by Elizabeth Barrett. Act passed to abolish slave trade in all British colonies. The First Factory Bill passed. John Keble's sermon on national apostasy is later said by Newman to have started the Oxford Movement. Keble's "Tracts for the Times" begin to appear. Death of Edmund Kean (1787-1833), actor.

1834 Death of Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), poet and conversationalist. Death of Charles Lamb (1775-1834), writer. Birth of William Morris (1834-1896), artist, craftsman, writer and political theorist. Appearance of "Leigh Hunt's London Journal" (1834-1835), edited by Leigh Hunt. Lord Melbourne replaces Grey as Prime Minister and serves in the office for 7 years (1834-1841), interrupted briefly by Sir Robert Peel's first brief ministry in 1834.

1835 **Publication of an expanded, four volume edition of "The Works of Thomas Gray", edited by John Mitford.** Death of William Cobbett (1762-1835), journalist and political commentator. Publication of "The Rural Muse" by Clare. Benjamin Haydon begins his lectures on Art. Death of James Hogg (1770-1835), poet. Publication of "Sketches by Boz" by Dickens.

1836 Death of William Godwin (1756-1836), writer and political theorist. Death of George Colman the Younger (1762-1836), dramatist. Birth of William Scwenck Gilbert (1836-1911), lyricist. Publication of "The Pickwick Papers" by Dickens. Massive reduction of the Stamp Tax on newspapers.

1837 George IV dies and Queen Victoria accedes to the throne. Invention of electric telegraph.

1838 Publication of "Oliver Twist" by Dickens.

1840 Death of Fanny Burney (1752-1840), novelist. Leigh Hunt's "A Legend of Florence" produced at Covent Garden.

- 1842 Publication of "Poems" by Tennyson.
- 1843 Death of Robert Southey (1774-1843), Poet Laureate. He is succeeded by William Wordsworth (from 1843 to 1850).
- 1844 Death of William Beckford (1760-1844), pioneer of the gothic revival.
- 1845 Death of Thomas Hood (1799-1845), poet. Death of the Reverend Sydney Smith (1771-1845), writer and wit.
- 1846 Death of Benjamin Haydon (1786-1846), artist. Dickens becomes editor of the "Daily News".
- 1847 Leigh Hunt awarded a pension.
- 1848 The Year of Revolutions in Europe. Women admitted to London University.
- 1849 Death of Maria Edgeworth (1767-1849), novelist.
- 1850 Death of William Wordsworth (1770-1850), Poet Laureate. Laureateship is declined by Samuel Rogers and there is a seven year gap before Wordsworth is succeeded by Alfred Tennyson (from 1857 to 1892). Death of the Reverend William Lisle Bowles (1762-1850) who helped to make the sonnet form popular again.
- 1851 Death of Mary Shelley (1797-1851).
- 1854 **Publication of "The Correspondence of Thomas Gray and William Mason", edited by John Mitford.**

### NOTES ON THE CHRONOLOGY

This chronology does not claim to be exhaustive in coverage of all spheres of human endeavour. Rather it is intended to provide some idea of the context of Gray's writing, of the period in which his formative influences thrived, and of the period in which his poems had their reception and influence. The main focus is on the period 1710-1825 with only summary details given outside of these dates. Where birth and death dates are given for individuals a category (e.g. "poet") has also been added as an *aide memoire*, but no more than this. It is often impossible to summarise the talents and interests of individuals in one or two words.