

The background is a solid, vibrant red. In the corners, there are clusters of yellow, autumnal leaves. Some leaves have small, clear dew drops on them. The leaves are arranged in a way that they appear to be framing the central text.

# Lecture 3

## The Enlightenment

# CONTENTS:

1. The Enlightenment – as a progressive movement of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
2. Daniel Defoe – a founder of the Robinsonnade genre.
3. Jonathan Swift – a writer of satire.
4. Henry Fielding – a founder of the picaresque novel.
5. Sentimentalism and preromanticism.
6. Robert Burns – a representative of Non English-language literature.

# **1. The Enlightenment, main features in literature**

- Believe in the human power and possibilities;
- Ideas can change the world;
- Reflection of contradiction in literature – human natural kindness vs. natural sinness;
- The great role is assigned to education.



# Genres

- **Classicism**
- **Realism – the brightest**
- **Sentimentalism**
- **Preromanticism**

# Stages of the English Enlightenment

- Early Enlightenment (1688-30s of the 18<sup>th</sup> century) - classicism – Alexander Pope, Joseph Addison, D. Defoe, J. Swift – a pamphlet, a story



# Stages of the English Enlightenment

- Middle Enlightenment (40-60s of the 18<sup>th</sup> century) – realism – Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding, Tobias Smollett – a novel; George Lillo, John Gay, Richard Sheridan – drama

# Stages of the English Enlightenment

- Later Enlightenment (60-80s of the 18<sup>th</sup> century) – *sentimentalism* – James Thomson – poetry; Thomas Gray, Oliver Goldsmith, Laurence Sterne – novels; *preromanticism* – Thomas Chatterton, William Godwin, Robert Burns - poetry



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# Market of literature

- Novels and romances – as market goods;
- The integration of prose fiction into the market of histories;
- Satirical romances – Cervantes’s “Don Quixote”;
- The center - fictions
- Delarivier Manley “New Atalantis” – a romance;
- Novel – realistic, short and stimulating



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# Market of literature

- Sandras - a private story - a version of d'Artagnan's story;
- New reforms - Jane Barker – the old antiquated romance – "Exilius";
- The poetry of Alexander Pope holds an acknowledged place in the canons of English literature - quotations; witty satires

# Market of literature

- Joseph Addison and Sir Richard Steele- the outstanding essayists of the Augustan Age (1700-1750);
- Periodicals: “The Tattler” and “The Spectator”;
- Samuel Johnson- “Dictionary of the English language”; “The Lives of the English Poets” – literary criticism



## 2. Daniel Defoe

- A pioneer of economic journalism;
- A founder of the English novel;
- “The True-Born Englishman” – the most successful poem;
- “Robinson Crusoe” is based on the true story of the Scottish castaway Alexander Selkirk;
- a new genre “The Robinsonnade”



### 3. Jonathan Swift

- “A Tale of a Tub” and “The Battle of the Books” – first success;
- Martinus Scriblerus Club – with A. Pope, John Gay, and John Arbuthnot (1713);
- 1726 – an immediate hit of “Gulliver’s Travels”;
- “Gulliver’s Travels” – a misanthropic anatomy of human nature, a sardonic looking-glass



## 4. Henry Fielding

- The first theoretician of a novel;
- The first major novelist to admit that his prose fiction was pure artifact;
- A wide range of characters taken from all social classes;
- “Tom Jones, a Foundling” – an establishment of a new standard of novel-writing – drama+novel (picaresque)

# Novels as literature (1740-1800)

- Classics of prose fiction inspired living authors;
- Aphra Behn – a celebrated author posthumously;
- Delarivier Manley, Jane Barker, Eliza Haywood followed French models – to gain fame with real names instead of their pseudonyms;



# Novels as literature (1740-1800)

- The second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century – literary criticism;
- Market division: a low field of popular fictions (Laurence Sterne's "Tristram Shandy") and a critical literary production (Samuel Richardson's "Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded")

# Novels as literature (1740-1800)

- New design of title pages – short description of the novel to indicate the discussion by the critical audience – S. Richardson's novels





# Tobias George Smollett

- “Roderick Random” and “Peregrine Pickle” – picaresque novels;
- Translated Miguel de Cervantes’s “Don Quixote”;
- “A Complete History of England” – his major work

## 5. Sentimentalism - the first wave

- Appeared in 30-40s of the 18<sup>th</sup> century;
- A reaction on the rationalism;
- The novel is the dominant genre;
- The early 18<sup>th</sup> c. heroine – bold, ready to protect her reputation, secrets and effective intrigues; mid 18<sup>th</sup> c. descendant – too modest and shy, a feeling of modesty, search for friends and intimacy;



## 5. Sentimentalism - the first wave

- Contradiction of feelings to rationalism and practicisim;
- Criticism of bourgeois orders;
- Feelings and sympathy – idealized;
- Depiction of nature, pictures of rural life;
- The human being is absorbed by his own thoughts, lonely and melancholic;

# Sentimentalism- the second wave

- More radical heroes;
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe “The Sorrow of Young Werther” – at the forefront of the new movement – a wave of compassion;
- A discussion of the nature of the human psyche;
- The novel – the medium of an avant garde;
- New sciences – sociology and psychology



# Laurence Sterne – a representative of sentimentalism

- Best known for the novel “The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman”;
- Humour was dismissed in England as being too corrupt;
- He inserted sermons, essays and legal documents into the pages of the novel;
- He explored the limits of typography and print design – marbled pages and entirely black page within the narrative;
- His innovations – highly influential to Modernist writers

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# Preromanticism

- A transition to romanticism;
- Emotions are poeticized;
- Depiction of everything in a more mysterious and enigmatic way;
- Actions take place in remote countries or the past;
- Thomas Gray and William Cowper



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# Drama

- Richard Sheridan – an Irish playwright
- “The Rivals” - first play – a failure and a smash;
- “The School for Scandal” – one of the greatest comedies of manners

## 6. Robert Burns

- A great Scottish poet who supported ideals of freedom and equality;
- Depiction of simple people;
- Political rhymes, epigrams, rhymes about love