

ESSAYS ON THE DRAMA

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Essays on the Drama by John Dryden & Jr. Strunk

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JOHN DRYDEN & JR. STRUNK

**ESSAYS ON
THE DRAMA**

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DRYDEN

ESSAYS ON THE DRAMA

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in financial reporting.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for consistent and reliable data collection processes to ensure the validity of the results.

3. The third part of the document describes the different types of data that are collected and analyzed. It includes information on both quantitative and qualitative data, as well as the various sources and methods used to gather this information.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the various statistical methods and techniques used to analyze the data. It covers topics such as descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and regression analysis, among others.

5. The fifth part of the document discusses the various ways in which the results of the analysis can be presented and communicated. It includes information on the use of tables, graphs, and other visual aids to make the data more accessible and understandable.

6. The sixth part of the document discusses the various ways in which the results of the analysis can be used to inform decision-making and policy-making. It highlights the importance of using the data to identify trends, patterns, and areas for improvement.

7. The seventh part of the document discusses the various ways in which the results of the analysis can be used to evaluate the performance of different programs and initiatives. It includes information on the use of key performance indicators (KPIs) and other metrics to measure success and effectiveness.

8. The eighth part of the document discusses the various ways in which the results of the analysis can be used to identify areas for improvement and to develop strategies for addressing these areas. It includes information on the use of data to identify gaps and weaknesses, and to develop targeted interventions and programs.

9. The ninth part of the document discusses the various ways in which the results of the analysis can be used to inform the development of new programs and initiatives. It includes information on the use of data to identify opportunities and areas for innovation, and to develop new and improved programs and services.

10. The tenth part of the document discusses the various ways in which the results of the analysis can be used to inform the development of policies and procedures. It includes information on the use of data to identify areas for policy change and to develop new and improved policies and procedures.

INTRODUCTION.

I. CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE.

[Besides histories of England and biographies of Dryden, the following books treat of the literary history of Dryden's time: Beljame, *Le public et les hommes de lettres en Angleterre au dix-huitième siècle* (1881; 2d ed., 1897); Masson, *Life of Milton*, vol. vi. (1879), pp. 273-387, 606-615; Garnett, *The Age of Dryden* (1895). The following table, which mentions the principal events of English political and literary history during Dryden's life, is intended as a background for the biographical sketch which follows.]

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1640. Meeting of the Long Parliament. | |
| 1642. Outbreak of the Civil War. | 1642. Closing of the theatres. |
| | 1643. Sir Thomas Browne's <i>Religio Medici</i> . |
| | 1644. Milton's <i>Areopagitica</i> . |
| | 1645. Milton's <i>Poems in English and Latin</i> . |
| | 1648. New ordinance against theatres. |
| 1649. The King's trial and execution. | |
| | 1651. Hobbes's <i>Leviathan</i> . |
| 1653. Cromwell made Lord Protector. | 1653. Walton's <i>Compleat Angler</i> . |

1658. Death of Cromwell.
1660. The Restoration.
- 1664-67. First Dutch War of the Restoration.
1665. Naval victory over the Dutch, June 3. The Plague.
1666. The Great Fire.
1667. The fall of Clarendon.
1670. The Treaty of Dover.
- 1672-74. Second Dutch War of the Restoration.
1678. The Popish Plot.
1679. The Exclusion Bill.
- 1682-83. Flight and death of Shaftesbury.
1685. Death of Charles. Accession of James II. Monmouth's Rebellion.
1688. Birth of the Prince of Wales. Landing of William of Orange. Flight of James.
1689. William and Mary proclaimed joint sovereigns.
1656. Davenant's *Siege of Rhodes*.
1660. Pepys begins his *Diary*.
1663. First part of *Hudibras*.
1665. Theatres closed from May until Christmas, 1666.
1667. *Paradise Lost*. Birth of Swift.
1670. Birth of Congreve.
1671. *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes*. *The Rehearsal*.
1672. Births of Addison and Steele.
1674. Death of Milton.
1678. First part of *The Pilgrim's Progress*.
1682. Otway's *Venice Preserved*.
1687. Newton's *Principia*.
1688. Birth of Pope.
1690. Locke's *Essay on the Human Understanding*.
1693. Congreve's first play, *The Old Bachelor*.

1694. Death of Mary.
1697. Peace of Ryswick.

1698. Collier's *Short View of the Immorality and Profaneness of the English Stage.*

II. SKETCH OF DRYDEN'S LIFE.

[Four biographies of Dryden are of permanent excellence: Johnson's *Dryden* in *The Lives of the Poets* (1779-81); Scott's *Life of Dryden* (1808), now forming vol. i. of the Scott-Saintsbury edition of Dryden; Mr. Saintsbury's *Dryden* (1881) in the *English Men of Letters*; Mr. Leslie Stephen's article (1888) in *The Dictionary of National Biography*. The third is of especial value for its appreciative criticisms; the fourth is the most convenient for reference in matters of detail. Less valuable than these, but still of interest, are the essays by Macaulay (1828) and by Lowell (*Among My Books*, first series, 1870). The reader will also find some space devoted to Dryden in Macaulay's *History of England* (1849-61), and in Green's *History of the English People* (1877-80); the former account is hostile, even abusive; the latter is harsh, and partly unjust.]

John Dryden is the greatest figure in English letters in the age between the Commonwealth and the reign of Anne; in the age, that is, of the Restoration. Born twenty-three years later than Milton, he was in every way representative of a new generation. His authorship extended from the last years of the Commonwealth to near the end of the reign of William III. From the days of his first successes, early in the reign of Charles II., he was the central figure in literature of many kinds, the greatest master of the language that the nation knew. Turning from one field of literature