

Aula 4

THE RESTORATION LITERATURE

META

Apresentar, de forma panorâmica e esquemática, o contexto sócio-histórico da Restauração e suas implicações na literatura.

OBJETIVOS

Ao final desta aula, o aluno deverá:
Compreender a Restauração como o resultado de processos políticos, econômicos, mas também de acordos e conflitos que acabaram por derrubar, durante um período, a monarquia inglesa.
Compreender a relação entre o contexto sócio-político do período e sua produção cultural e literária.

PRÉ-REQUISITOS

Familiaridade com os períodos formativos da literatura inglesa;
Conceitos-chave da Teoria da Literatura e da história literária.

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INTRODUÇÃO

After Cromwell's death, in 1658, he was succeeded by his son, Richard, in the position of Lord Protector of England. But the new ruler was not like his father and had no support in Parliament. He was then forced to abdicate in 1659 and the Protectorate was abolished after a series of conflicts. George Monck, 1st Duke of Albemarle, (1608-1670) and governor of Scotland, marched with his army into the city of London, forcing **the Rump Parliament (1)** to admit members of the Long Parliament who were excluded in 1648 during **Pride's Purge**. For the first time in almost 20 years, there was a general election. The result of the elections is well represented in the House of Commons, which returned to be divided between Royalists and Parliamentarians. On religious grounds, it was a division between Anglicans and Presbyterians. In 1660, the people in the streets and coffee houses were already talking about the Declaration of Breda, in which Charles agreed to forgive many of his father's enemies. The English Parliament, then, invited him to return. In Ireland, a convention had already declared for Charles.

Ver glossário no final da Aula

DESENVOLVIMENTO

The Restoration

Charles II arrived in England on 25 May 1660, reaching London on 29 May, the day of his thirtieth birthday. Despite of the amnesty which had been granted by the king and the Parliament to Cromwell's supporters – **Act of Indemnity and Oblivion (3)** –, 50 people were excluded. According to historians, nine of the regicides were executed. The condemned puritans were hanged, drawn and quartered. Others were given life imprisonment or excluded from office. In a dramatic and symbolic act, the bodies of Oliver Cromwell, Henry Ireton (1611-1651) and John Bradshaw (1602-1659) were subjected to posthumous decapitations. He was crowned at Westminster Abbey, on 23 April 1661.

The Convention Parliament was dissolved in December 1660, and, after the coronation, the second English Parliament assembled. Needless to say that it was Royalist and Anglican in its majority. That is why they passed several acts to secure Anglican dominance. The Corporation Act 1661 required municipal officeholders to swear allegiance; the Act of Uniformity of 1662 made the use of the *Anglican Book of Common Prayer* compulsory; the Conventicle Act of 1664 prohibited religious assemblies of more than five people; and the Five Mile Act of 1665, finally, prohibited expelled non-conforming clergymen from coming within five miles (8 km) of a parish from which they had been banished. These acts came to be

known as the Clarendon Code, in a reference to Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon (1609-1674), even though he was not directly responsible for them. The Restoration was followed by a radical cultural and social change. Theaters were reopened after having been closed during the protectorship of Oliver Cromwell. The “Restoration comedy” became almost a genre. Theater licences granted by the king required that female parts be played by women, rather than by boys, as during the Elizabethan period. In 1665, Charles had a great challenge: the Great Plague of London. The number of deaths reached a peak of 7.000 per week. The king, his family and his court fled to Salisbury. Another tragedy brought an end to the plague: the Great Fire of London, which started on 2 September 1666 and consumed about 13.200 houses and 87 churches, including St Paul’s Cathedral.

The Cavalier Parliament which initially supported the king now was feeling it was being alienated by the king’s wars and religious policies. In 1672, Charles issued the Royal Declaration of Indulgence, determining to suspend all penal laws against Catholics and other religious dissenters. In the same year, he supported Catholic France and started the Third Anglo-Dutch War. The conflict began when the Cavalier Parliament opposed the Declaration of Indulgence, claiming that the King had no right to suspend laws passed by Parliament. By 1674, England had gained nothing from the Anglo-Dutch War and the Parliament refused to provide further funds, forcing the king to make peace.

As Queen Catherine, after four attempts, was unable to give him an heir, Charles’s heir presumptive was his Catholic brother, James, Duke of York. In order to avoid the impression that the royal Family was too catholic, he accepted that James's daughter, Mary, should marry the Protestant William of Orange (1650-1702). The idea of a catholic monarch was opposed by the Parliament, which in 1679 introduced the Exclusion Bill, in order to exclude the Duke of York from the line of succession. There were people who wanted to give the title to his the protestant Duke of Monmouth, the eldest of Charles’s illegitimate children. As an answer to this attitude, the king dissolved the English Parliament for the second time in the year. When a new Parliament assembled in 1681, Charles dissolved it for a fourth time. When the popular support for the Exclusion Bill diminished, he ruled without Parliament for the remainder of his reign.

Charles II died in 1685 at the age of 54. The suddenness of his illness and death led to suspicion of murder. It is said that in his deathbed the king asked his brother, James, to look after his mistresses. He was then succeeded by his brother, who became James II of England and Ireland and James VII of Scotland.

Film to be watched



Restoration is a 1995 American historical drama film directed by Michael Hoffman. It stars Robert Downey, Jr. as a 17th-century medical student exploited by the king. The film, which is based on the novel of the same title by Rose Tremain, was filmed in Wales and won two Academy Awards. Fonte: http://mycavalier.com.br/wp-content/uploads/582173954325dec04c214ce82cddd7a7_jpg_290x478_upscale_q90.jpg

Literature

A very importante figure of the period is Samuel Pepys (1633-1703), naval administrator and member of Parliament who became famous because of his *Diary*, in which he recorded for a decade everything he thought was worth recording. Under Charles II, he became the Chief Secretary to the Admiralty. His reforms at the Admiralty were important to the process of professionalization of the Royal Navy.

The private diary that Pepys kept from 1660 to 1669 was only published in the nineteenth century, being one of the richest resources for the study of the period. Great historical events of the time are here described with a richness of details only possible for someone who really experienced such events as the Great Plague of London, the Second Dutch War and the Great Fire of London.



Samuel Pepys (1633-1703) was an English naval administrator and Member of Parliament who is most famous for the diary that he kept for a decade while still a relatively young man. Pepys had no maritime experience, but he rose to be the Chief Secretary to the Admiralty under both King Charles II and King James II through patronage, hard work, and his talent for administration. His influence and reforms at the Admiralty were important in the early professionalisation of the Royal Navy. Fonte: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Pepys

During the restoration period, there is a strong development of prose. John Bunyan (1628-1688) wrote two allegorical prose Works, *The Pilgrims Progress* (1678) and *The Holy War* (1682). The first presents Christian's journey to the heaven. The book was so influential that even the English language has borrowed some of its phrases and words, such as "Vanity Fair", "Slough of Despond" and "Mr. Great Heart". In the second work, he narrates his own experience of the civil war. Bunyan sets an example of writing prose in clear and simple style. John Locke (1632-1704), likewise, had a prose so clear and without ornament, though without the rhythm of Bunyan's style. Locke's *Essay on the Human Understanding* (1690) is one of the most important works of English philosophy, having influenced many other countries, inside and outside Europe.



John Dryden (1631-1700) was an English poet, literary critic, translator, and playwright who was made England's first Poet Laureate in 1668. Fonte: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dryden

John Dryden (1631-1700), the most important man of letters of the period, wrote and published his critical work *Essay on Dramatic Poesy* (1688), in which he compares English drama with French drama. As anyone can imagine, he points out the limitations of French drama and considers English drama to be superior.

For the playwrights of the period, there was a Restoration in more than a political sense, once the drama, at least initially, was inspired by pre-Commonwealth plays. According to some historians, there was no new plays available when the theaters were re-opened. Besides, authors like William D'Avenant (1606-1668) and Thomas Killigrew (1612-1683) belonged to an earlier period, like most of the surviving actors. Thus, during the Restoration period, about 175 pre-Commonwealth plays were revived, and among plays acted frequently over the years, about half date from before 1660. However, for the next forty years, the English drama was given specific characteristics. The major contribution of the period were the comedy of manners or wit and the heroic tragedy, both of which emerged throughout the era.

John Dryden (1631-1700)

After the Restoration, Dryden established himself as the leading poet and literary critic of his day, consolidating his allegiances to the new government through the publication of apologetical panegyrics, like *Astraea Redux* (1660), in which he welcomes the new regime; “To His Sacred Majesty” (1662), and “To My Lord Chancellor” (1662). As the titles suggest, the poet was looking for a patron. His other nondramatic poems are also circumstantial, written to celebrate public and official events. This explains how he attained the posts of historiographer royal (1670) and Poet Laureate (1668). In 1662, he had been proposed for membership in the Royal Society and was elected an early fellow. However, he was expelled in 1666 for non-payment of his dues.

With the reopening of the theatres, Dryden wrote plays. *The Wild Gallant* (1663) was his first play. From 1668 on, he was contracted to produce three plays a year for the King’s Company, of which he became a shareholder. During a certain period of time, he wrote plays to make a living. Soon he became the leading author in Restoration comedy, with *Marriage à la Mode* (1672). But he also produced some tragedies, like the great success *All for Love* (1678). In 1667, he had published *Annus Mirabilis*, a long historical poem describing, among other things, the Great Fire of London. Literary critics believe that it was due to this poem that he attained the posts of Poet Laureate (1668) and historiographer royal (1670).

The theaters were closed again with the Great Plague of London, in 1665. During this period, Dryden wrote the essay *Of Dramatick Poesie* (1668). It takes the form of a dialogue in which four characters – each based on a prominent contemporary, with Dryden himself as 'Neander' – debate the merits of classical drama. But Dryden became a canonical writer mainly because of his satiric verses, like *Mac Flecknoe* (1682). *Absalom and Achitophel* (1681) and *The Medal* (1682) are other examples of this kind of poetry. He wrote also religious poems, like *Religio Laici* (1682) and *The Hind and the Panther* (1687).

CONCLUSÃO

When James II was deposed in the Glorious Revolution, Dryden’s refusal to take the oaths to the new monarchs, William and Mary, left him out of favour at court. Consequently, Thomas Shadwell (c. 1642-1692) succeeded him as Poet Laureate, and he was forced to give up his public offices and live by the proceeds of his pen. As it wasn’t enough, Dryden was a great translator too, being responsible for translating into English classical Works. In 1694 he began his most ambitious work as a translator: *The Works of Virgil* (1697). The publication of the book brought Dryden the sum of £1,400. In *Fables Ancient and Modern* (1700), he translates a

series of episodes from Homer, Ovid and Boccaccio and also wrote modern adaptations from Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1343-1400). He died on 12 May 1700 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

The dates for Restoration literature are a matter of convention, differing from genre to genre. Thus, the “Restoration” in drama lasts until 1700, while in poetry lasts only until 1666 and the *annus mirabilis*; and in prose it might end in 1688, with the tensions over the succession and the rise of journalism and periodicals, or not until 1700, when those periodicals were stabilized. In general, the term “Restoration” is used to denote the literature that was produced under Charles II.



RESUMO

Restoration literature is the English literature written during the historical period commonly referred to as the English Restoration (1660-1689), which corresponds to the last years of the direct Stuart reign in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. It is a literature that encompasses both *Paradise Lost* and the Earl of Rochester's *Sodom*, the high-spirited sexual comedy of *The Country Wife* and the moral wisdom of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. It saw Locke's *Treatises of Government*, the founding of the Royal Society, the experiments and holy meditations of Robert Boyle, the attacks on theaters from Jeremy Collier and the pioneering of literary criticism from John Dryden. The period also witnessed the essay developed into a periodical art form and the beginnings of textual criticism.



ATIVIDADES

Leia cuidadosamente o poema abaixo e em seguida responda às perguntas:

London After The Great Fire, 1666
Methinks already from this chymic flame
I see a city of more precious mould,
Rich as the town which gives the Indies name,
With silver paved and all divine with gold.

Already, labouring with a mighty fate,
She shakes the rubbish from her mounting brow,

And seems to have renewed her charter's date,
Which Heaven will to the death of time allow.

More great than human now and more August,
New deified she from her fires does rise:
Hew widening streets on new foundations trust,
And, opening, into larger parts she flies.

Before, she like some shepherdess did show
Who sat to bathe her by a river's side,
Not answering to her fame, but rude and low,
Nor taught the beauteous arts of modern pride.

Now like a maiden queen she will behold
From her high turrets hourly suitors come;
The East with incense and the West with gold
Will stand like suppliants to receive her doom.

The silver Thames, her own domestic flood,
Shall bear her vessels like a sweeping train,
And often wind, as of his mistress proud,
With longing eyes to meet her face again.

The wealthy Tagus and the wealthier Rhine
The glory of their towns no more shall boast,
And Seine, that would with Belgian rivers join,
Shall find her lustre stained and traffic lost.

The venturous merchant who designed more far
And touches on our hospitable shore,
Charmed with the splendour of this northern star,
Shall here unlade him and depart no more.

- 1) O poema faz referencia a um famoso episódio da história da Inglaterra do período. Como o autor o aborda.
- 2) Escreva algo sobre a estrutura do poema. Isso interfere no conteúdo do poema? Justifique sua resposta.

COMENTÁRIO SOBRE AS ATIVIDADES

A intenção desta atividade é fazer com que o aluno reflita criticamente sobre a representatividade poética de episódios históricos na medida em que analisa o poema.

GLOSSÁRIO

- (1) The Rump Parliament was the English Parliament after Colonel Thomas Pride purged the Long Parliament, on 6 December 1648, of those members hostile to the Grandees' intention to try King Charles I for high treason. "Rump" normally means the hind end of an animal. Its use meaning "remnant" was first recorded in the above context in English. Since 1649, the term "rump parliament" has been used to refer to any parliament left over from the actual legitimate parliament.
- (2) Pride's Purge was an event that took place in December 1648, during the Second English Civil War, when troops of the New Model Army under the command of Colonel Thomas Pride forcibly removed from the Long Parliament those who were not supporters of the Grandees in the New Model Army and the Independents. It is arguably the only military coup d'état in English history.
- (3) The Indemnity and Oblivion Act of 1660 is an Act of the Parliament of England (12 Cha. II c. 11), the long title of which is "An Act of Free and General Pardon, Indemnity, and Oblivion". This act was a general pardon for everyone who had committed crimes during the Civil War and Interregnum with the exception of certain crimes such as murder (without a licence granted by King or Parliament), piracy, buggery, rape and witchcraft, and people named in the act such as those involved in the regicide of Charles I.



PRÓXIMA AULA

The Eighteenth Century

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