Early Modern Literature

Poetry
Selected sonnets
  • Anne Locke, *A Meditation of a Penitent Sinner* (1560)
  • Philip Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* (1591)
  • Edmund Spenser, *Amoretti* (1595)
  • William Shakespeare, *Sonnets* (1609)
  • John Donne, *Holy Sonnets* (1633)

Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (1590)
Christopher Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love” (1599) and two replies,
  • Walter Raleigh, “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd” (1600)
  • John Donne, “The Bait” (1633)

George Herbert, “The Collar” (1633)
John Milton, “Lycidas” (1638)
Robert Herrick, “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time” (1648)
Andrew Marvell, “Horation Ode upon Cromwell’s Return from Ireland” (1651)

Drama
  • Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy* (ca. 1587)
  • Christopher Marlowe, *Tamburlaine* (1587) or *Dr Faustus* (ca. 1588)
  • Thomas Dekker, *The Shoemaker’s Holiday* (ca. 1599)
  • William Shakespeare, *Richard II* (ca. 1595) or *1 Henry IV* (ca. 1597)
  • William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (ca. 1599) or *King Lear* (ca. 1605)
  • William Shakespeare, *As You Like It* (ca. 1599) or *Twelfth Night* (ca. 1601)
  • Ben Jonson, *Volpone* (ca. 1606) or *The Alchemist* (1610)
  • Francis Beaumont, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* (ca. 1606)
  • Thomas Middleton, *The Roaring Girl* (1611)
  • John Webster, *The White Devil* (1612) or *The Duchess of Malfi* (ca. 1614)

Prose Fiction
  • Thomas More, *Utopia* (1516)
  • John Lyly, *Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit* (1580)
  • Robert Greene, *Pandosto: The Triumph of Time* (1588)
  • Philip Sidney, *Arcadia* (1590)
  • Thomas Nashe, *The Unfortunate Traveler* (1594) or Thomas Deloney, *The Pleasant History of John Winchcomb, in his Younger Years called Jack of Newbury* (1597)
Mary Wroth, The Countess of Montgomery’s Urania (1621)

**Non-Fictional Prose**

Thomas Elyot, The Book Named the Governour (1531) or Roger Ascham, The Schoolmaster (1570)

Philip Sidney, Defence of Poetry (1595)

John Stow, A Survey of London (1598)

Thomas Dekker, The Wonderful Year (1603) or News from Gravesend (1604)

John Florio, Essayes, or Morall, Politike, and Militarie Discourses (1603) [Translation of Montaigne’s Essays]

Francis Bacon, The Advancement of Learning (1605) or New Organon (1620)