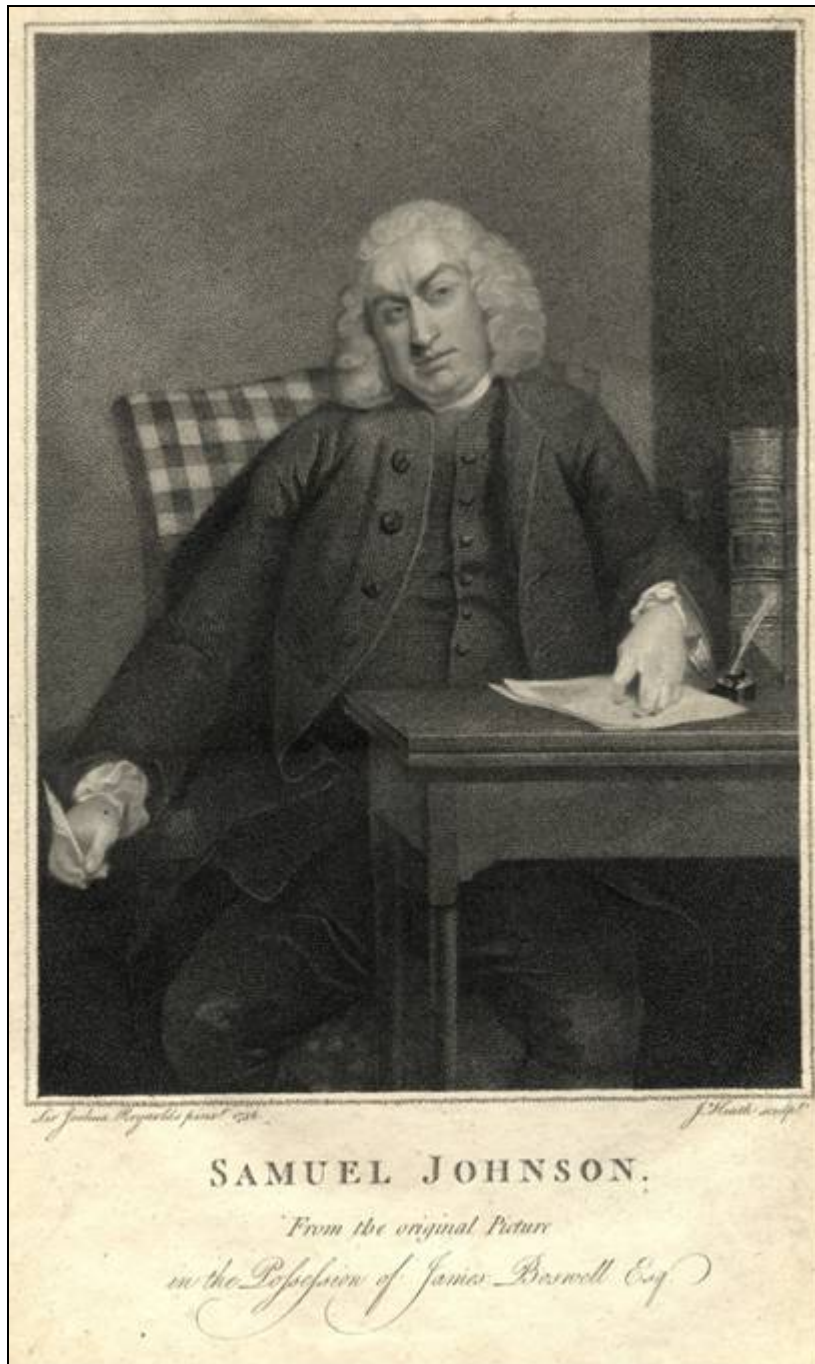


University of Tennessee Libraries Research Guides

Samuel Johnson and Friends



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Samuel Johnson on the Life of a Scholar:

*There mark what ills the scholar's life assails,
Toil, envy, want, the patron, and the jail.*

The Vanity of Human Wishes (1749).

Samuel Johnson and Friends

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Samuel Johnson

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), nick-named the Great Cham by Tobias Smollett, was born in Litchfield, the son of a bookseller and local magistrate, Michael Johnson and his wife Sarah. Young Johnson was a sickly child, undergoing several maladies in his youth. His left eye became infected, leaving him near blind; he also contracted scrofula --- scrofula is a tuberculosis of the lymph nodes --- and small pox, which left him much scared. Additionally he had an operation on his neck glands that left him more scars. As a child of two, his mother took him to London to receive the Queen's touch as a potential cure for his scrofula. He received a gold touchpiece as a souvenir of his visit to the Queen, which he wore the rest of his of his life on a chain around his neck. Additionally Johnson was deaf in his left ear.

Being sickly did not stop Johnson from being intellectually precocious. Before entering Litchfield's grammar school at about eight, he had been educated at a dame's school and by a tutor provided by his parents. At Litchfield, though -- and possibly because -- the discipline was stern, Johnson became quite skilled in Latin and received the education in classical writing that was to be the foundation of his future learning. In 1725, Johnson's cousin, the Rev. Cornelius Ford, arranged for him to attend as a border King Edward VI School at Stourbridge. Additionally the ungainly and scared child spent many hours in solitary reading at his father's bookstore, which was on the ground floor of the family home.

After leaving Stourbridge in 1726, Johnson spent two years at home before proceeding to Pembroke College, Oxford. Johnson's time at Oxford was troubled by finances; his father's business had declined to the point that he could not assist his son and the promise of one of the younger Johnson's friends for financial assistance failed to materialize. Johnson's stay at Pembroke was only a little more than a year, leaving in December 1729.

Some have cited the failure in his finances as the cause of his departure. The historian Jonathan Clark (*Samuel Johnson: Literature, Religion and English Cultural Politics from Restoration to Romanticism*) notes that other equally impoverished scholars managed to find ways to stay in college and pursue their education, -- an education that Johnson had prepared himself for and clearly

desired. Clark makes a plausible case that politics determined Johnson's otherwise mysterious departure,

The so-called "Glorious Revolution" of 1688 that replaced the legitimate king, James II, with his son-in-law and his daughter, the Dutchman William of Orange and his wife Mary had eventually fractured English civil life. The two contending political factions for control of parliament were the Whigs and the Tories. The Whigs had brought about the revolution and the Tories tended to have been opposed to it, supporting James II and successor son, James III, or grudgingly acquiescent, consoling themselves that at least a Stuart in the form of Mary was on the throne. Where William and Mary supported the Whigs, their successor, Queen Anne, another of James' daughters, supported the Tories.

Both parties maneuvered to control the succession when the childless and frequently ill Anne inevitably died. One faction of the Tories -- called Jacobites -- wanted to restore the mainline of the Stuarts by placing Anne's brother James III on the throne. The Whigs and another faction of the Tories wished to have a Stuart cousin, the Elector of Hanover, placed there instead. The Jacobite leaning Viscount Bolingbroke convinced the ailing Anne to replace with himself the Hanover leaning Lord Oxford as her principal minister. Before Bolingbroke could consolidate his power in order to control the succession, Anne died and the Privy Council controlled by Hanoverian Tories, such as Lord Oxford, and by the Whigs, offered the throne to the Elector of Hanover, who became George I. King George, upon arriving in England, banished the Tories, Jacobite and Hanoverian, from political power, entrusting the state to the Whigs.

The Whigs and George were attempting to rule a country whose public opinion was strongly Tory and Jacobite, -- having to militarily crush active rebellion within almost a year of Anne's death. To maintain themselves in control of the parliament and the country, they resorted to oppression and corruption. The power, patronage, and wealth of the crown were used to maintain parliamentary dominance for the Whig minority. The intellectual life of the country was politically censored; plays were banned; Jacobite journalists and editors faced fines, imprisonment, and even execution. The Whigs extensively relied upon loyalty oaths to bar Jacobites from receiving college scholarships, graduating from college, becoming priests in the Church of England, and receiving other forms of employment.

"Johnson, like other men of high religious or political principle," Clark argues, "was confronted by a major dilemma." In order to receive the aid from his

college that he needed to continue his education, Samuel Johnson would have had to have taken a loyalty oath to the Hanoverian dynasty; in order to graduate, the oaths would have had to have been taken; to become a priest and follow a career as a professor at Oxford or Cambridge or to receive a parish, the loyalty oaths would have had to have been taken. Johnson was loyal to the old dynasty of the Stuarts. While others of similar loyalties could find ways to take the oaths and square their consciences with sufficient mental reservations, Johnson could not. The oaths deprived him of the means and the ends to continue his college education. Johnson left Pembroke.

With his career blocked, Johnson returned home and descended into a depression of some three years duration. Extreme lassitude numbered one of the symptoms that beset him. Johnson attempted various remedies without success, such as walking 30 miles a day to shake himself out of his dark mindset.

His mental state was not aided to recovery by events in his life. His father died during this time, leaving a very near bankrupt estate. Johnson's attempt to find a career as a school teacher – teachers, though liable to the loyalty oaths, managed in good numbers to avoid them – was for the most part a failure. When he did achieve a school position, the school was so awful that unemployment seemed preferable and he quickly quit.

The turning point in his mental state came in 1733 when Johnson returned to scholarly work with the translation of Fr. Lobo's book on Abyssynia, though his translation was not fully finished 'till 1735. Also at this time, Johnson embarked upon the practice of journalism, writing for the *Birmingham Journal*. For the rest of his life, journalism would be arguably the most important staple of his financial support.

Also adding to his state of mental improvement, Johnson became acquainted with Harry and Elizabeth Porter in June of 1733. In September of the next year, Harry Porter died and within months of his demise, Johnson was courting the widow, whom he married toward the middle of 1735. Mrs. Johnson, or as she was called "Tetty," was 20 years Johnson's senior with an estate from her deceased husband of close to 600 pounds.

Johnson's biographers are divided on whether or not Johnson married for love or money. Sir John Hawkins (*The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D*) found Tetty unattractive and felt his friend must have married for the money. John Wain (*Samuel Johnson: a Biography*) argues the contrary:

In terms of physical attractiveness, a woman of forty-six may have very little ahead of her. Johnson, however, was willing to settle not for what his wife had ahead of her but for what his wife had at the time. It was a love match, on both sides. (page 66)

With the temporary security that came from his wife's small inheritance, Johnson again cast around for a means of self-support. At first his mind turned once more to finding a teaching position, but gradually he came enamored to the thought of establishing his own school. In 1736, a small ad appeared in the June and July issues of *The Gentleman's Magazine*:

At Edial, near *Litchfield* in *Staffordshire*, Young Gentlemen are Boarded and Taught the *Latin* and the *Greek* Languages by Samuel Johnson.

The exact number of students attracted to the school is open to dispute. What is clear is that the number was too small to keep the school open, and soon Johnson had to face yet another failure. In 1737, Johnson closed the school and returned to Litchfield.

Johnson, reflecting on his failures in the field of juvenile education, decided to give the country's capital a try. Perhaps in London he could find a job or make a living as a writer. In March, he set forth. And, though he left Tetty in Litchfield, Johnson did have a companion on the journey, -- a former pupil of Johnson's, David Garrick. John Wain writes of the journey:

Johnson once said to Garrick, at an evening gathering that he himself had arrived in London with twopence-ha'penny -- "and thou Davy, with three-halfpence in thine." Garrick for his part, used to tell people that they journeyed by the method known as "ride and tie", which allowed two men to use one horse.

Johnson's wife was to join him within a few months.

Samuel Johnson was to succeed in London, where he had failed in the town of his birth. And important to his success was the contact he established with the

printer/publisher Edward Cave. Cave started his career in publishing working for the Tory publisher and later Lord Mayor of London John Barber. Barber in the heyday of Tory political fortunes under Queen Anne published Jonathan Swift's quasi-official journal *The Examiner* and the later Jacobite journal *Mist's Weekly Journal*. Cave upon receiving a government appointment to the Post Office became a very moderate Whig, a Whig who was not Tory unfriendly. In 1731, Cave established the *Gentleman's Magazine* and in 1736 accepted for publication several of Johnson's writings. Quickly Johnson became "Cave's right hand man in running" the magazine. (Pat Rogers, "Samuel Johnson," *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* --- see databases on the University of Tennessee Library's website: <http://www.lib.utk.edu/cgi-perl/dbBroker.cgi?subheading=35>.)

The Gentleman's Magazine had a very diverse content. It contained news of political events and domestic occurrences, foreign news, poetry, reviews, and listings of births, deaths, appointments, and crimes. Politically the most important section was the coverage of the activities of parliament. In 1738, the House of Commons banned reportage of its debates as a violation of the privilege of the House. Cave and Johnson under the literary device of ascribing to a grandson of Lemuel Gulliver reports of the speeches and actions of the senate of Lilliput presented the supposed speeches made by the various politicians in the House of Commons. Johnson did not literally transcribe the speeches made in the Commons, but instead created the speeches the parliamentarians would have given on the topics before the House had they the literary ability of Samuel Johnson. So effective were the "debates" that some historians in lieu of anything else still refer to them in discussing the politics of the time. Later in life, Johnson was bothered by the chance that people would confuse these "debates" with the actual ones in parliament. As Boswell (*Life of Johnson*) notes,

He said, that the Parliamentary Debates were the only part of his writings that then gave him any compunction: but that at the time he wrote them, he had no conception he was imposing on the world, though they were written from very slender materials, and often from none at all, -- the mere coinage of his imagination.

In 1738, Johnson published, not with Cave, but with another publisher his first major poem, *London: a Poem in Imitation of the Third Satire of Juvenal*. Johnson, not only in this poem, but within all his writings, conformed to the conventions of the Anglo-Latin tradition or the classical tradition. These conventions set the controlling standard for English literature, governing how

things were said and also what was said. In regards the former, R. J. White has written

The men of the eighteenth century believed that one could learn to do anything by knowing the rules.... The rules were the salvation of taste, and talent could come to the rescue of genius. The general level of prose-writing in an age of high technical competence made it almost impossible for an educated person to write badly. (*Europe in the Eighteenth Century*, pages 284-285.)

In regards the latter, embedded within Roman literature, particularly that of Republican Rome, was a moral critique of virtue and decadence that appealed to Tory English intellectuals confronting the Whig Ascendancy. Johnson's *London* is an outstanding example of how the classical was used to dissect and denounce contemporary corruption, allowing republican virtue to combine with monarchical government.

In *London*, Johnson adopted the persona of someone abandoning the corruption of the city for the virtue of the rural life. Johnson puts a political point to his poem by clearing denouncing corruption in the context of Whig public policy. An example:

A single jail, in Alfred's golden reign,
Could half the nation's criminals contain;
Fair justice then, without constraint adored,
Held high the steady scale, but dropped the sword;
No spies were paid, no special juries known,
Blest age! But ah! how different our own.

The next year Johnson continued the attack against the Whigs with prose satires *Marmor Norfolciense* and *Vindication of the Licensers*. In the former Johnson writes as a Whig antiquarian discoursing on a prophetic inscription found on a stone in Walpole's native county. The humor comes in in that the Whig does not see the prophecy of coming corruption and political despotism as being currently consummated within the Whig Ascendancy. *Vindication* makes an ironic attack on Whig extreme censorship of the stage. The engendering incident was the banning of Henry Brooke's historical play *Gustavas Vasa*, dealing with the fall of a corrupt prime minister and the king, who supported him.

Johnson in this work writes again as a Whig, making ridiculous by his arguments the policies of the Whig party.

Tory intellectuals, such as Pope, welcomed Johnson's works. Not unnaturally, the Whigs were less happy. Sir John Hawkins stated that the government had an arrest warrant issued for Johnson. Boswell had a friend search in the Home Office records and could not find any confirmatory evidence of this. Clark makes a persuasive case that whether or not an actual warrant was issued, Johnson and his wife may have prudently gone into hiding to prevent the possibility of an arrest happening. Whig oppression of writers makes that not an overreaction on Johnson's part.

In 1743, Johnson stepped outside his role as journalist and poet to accept the task of cataloging the Harleian Library for the bookseller Thomas Osborne, who had purchased the collection of some 40,000 antiquarian books and manuscripts from the heirs of Queen Anne's principal minister Robert Harley, Lord Oxford. Besides giving an always-needed salary, Johnson's work as cataloger had two results. First, he achieved the dream of many a worker to punch out his boss. Apparently, Johnson fell victim to the cataloger's greatest temptation and spent his employer's time reading the books and manuscripts instead of just cataloging them. With increasing frustration, Osborne attempted to speed up the workflow by first complaining to Johnson and then later berating him for his slowness. One day Osborne passed from complaint to outright abuse; Johnson replied by seizing a folio volume and using it as club laid out his contumacious employer. Second, Johnson wrote the introduction for a set of the pamphlets from the collection published by Osborne. This introduction was later republished on its own as a separate work, *An Essay on the Origins and Importance of Small Tracts and Fugitive Pieces*. As John Wain notes, "Johnson made a piece of professional hack work the occasion of putting into circulation some real ideas." (page 119)

Probably around this time, Johnson began vaguely exploring with bookseller Robert Dodsley the idea of doing a dictionary. In 1746, the project entered the realm of reality when Dodsley made him a concrete proposal. Johnson almost immediately set to paper his thoughts on the project and on how to proceed with it. Soon six other booksellers joined Dodsley in backing the proposed dictionary to the tune of 1,575 pounds.

With this money, Johnson could afford to rent a nice house that would double as the project's headquarters. The attic area provided a convenient workspace for Johnson and his six assistants. Johnson would pick the words and define them.

Additionally Johnson would provide examples of use from classic British authors. His assistants would copy the words and definitions and the cited examples from marked passages in the books of the various authors. Only Johnson's prodigious reading and phenomenal memory made the dictionary and these examples possible.

This work went on for nine years, finishing in 1755. Publication was considered a major cultural event, receiving great praise. Among those praising the work was the supposed patron of the dictionary, Lord Chesterfield. Chesterfield at the start gave Johnson a little of his time and 10 pounds in cash and nothing thereafter. Johnson had expected more of a patron. Chesterfield's last minute praise in two articles just before official publication spurred Johnson to address his famous letter to Lord Chesterfield, scourging the noble lord with disdain.

Seven year, My Lord, have now passed since I waited in your outward rooms, or was repulsed from your door, during which time I have been pushing on work through difficulties of which it is useless to complain, and have brought it at last to the verge of publication without one act of assistance, one word of encouragement or one smile of favour. Such treatment I did not expect, for I never had a patron before.

Chesterfield responded – perhaps in the spirit of the proverbial student that the dog had ate his homework – that no inattention had been meant, but that Johnson had moved and darned if he just couldn't find him. Johnson remained unpersuaded. Further expressing his irritation, Johnson in that year's edition of his poem *Vanity of Human Wishes* changed the couplet referring to the evils befalling a scholar's fate from reading garret to reading patron.

During the work on the dictionary, Johnson had not abandoned other literary efforts. His long delayed play *Irene* at last found its way to the stage thanks to David Garrick. Also during this time, Johnson wrote his series of essays called *The Rambler*. *The Rambler* – and the later *The Idler* --- was composed as an exercise in Anglican moral theology, using the form of the essay to counter the perceived decadence and corruption of the time. Though neither in initial, individual release made much money, they were quite well received by critics and sold well when published collectively. Rev. Samuel Richardson, who was attempting to use the novel – *Clarissa*, *Sir Charles Grandison*, etc. – for the same

purpose, was particularly a fan of the essays, contributing an essay to series himself and money to help with publication.

With the dictionary and the essays came public honors. In 1755, Oxford University conferred upon him an honorary master's degree, which it followed up years later with an honorary doctorate. The Royal Academy presented him with a professorship. In 1762, George III granted Johnson a pension of 300 pounds a year.

This pension was considered controversial due to Johnson's long opposition to the Hanoverian dynasty and support of the exiled Stuarts. What critics ignored was the change in political circumstances. First, Jacobitism had simply ceased to be viable. On a secret visit to London in 1750, Prince Charles severely disillusioned Stuart supporters due to his apparent lack of political judgment and personal attainment. The increasingly drunken pretender failed to fulfill the idealized version of himself that the Jacobites had built up as a counter to the contemptible first two Georges. In contrast, George III would later seem everything an English king should be, -- educated, gracious, knowledgeable in national history and literature, a patron of the arts, etc. George III was Bolingbroke's patriotic king incarnate. Second, by the time George came to the throne in 1760 the Hanoverians had been on the throne some 45 years. Many Tories felt, as Johnson did, that, though the exiled Stuarts, as *de jure* kings, had rights that could not be denied, such long tenure conferred upon the current occupants of the throne a right to obedience and loyalty. In short, the moral case for political loyalty to the Stuarts had become muddied and less compelling. Third, with the Tory friendly Lord Bute as prime minister, government influence and patronage ceased to be granted exclusively to Whigs of questionable talent but was open also to Tories of ability. No longer was the cultural politics of the regime anti-Tory. In these changed political circumstances, Johnson felt morally free to accept the crown's pension. With George III the Tories and Samuel Johnson had once again a king worthy of their loyalty.

With the effective closure of the dynasty question, Johnson became much more politically active. In his Tory friend Henry Thrale's campaigns for parliament, Johnson served as something akin to a campaign manager/speech writer. Under his own name, Johnson contributed to the political debates of the time various pamphlets, most important of these was *Taxation No Tyranny* written against the claims of the rebellious American colonies. Johnson had been for a long time an enemy of slavery -- once he had shocked a dinner party by offering as a toast,

“Here’s to the next slave rebellion” -- and considered it morally absurd for slaveholders to shout about freedom.

Samuel Johnson’s last major work was a book about his visit to Scotland, *Journey to the Western Islands*. The trip was made at the urging of the doctor’s young friend James Boswell; the Scottish lawyer had long wanted to show-off his famous friend to his fellow Scots, particularly his father, the judge Lord Auchinleck. Together the two toured the north, visiting specifically places of interest to Jacobites. Dr. Johnson enjoyed himself immensely and Boswell was sufficiently proud of having Johnson visit Scotland to publish his diary of the trip, -- the first of his famous diaries to see the public light.

Johnson lived another nine years after publishing his book on Scotland in 1775. These had been years of declining and problematic health, -- with him suffering dropsy, asthma, and a stroke. As he wrote Boswell in November of 1784,

I have this summer sometimes amended, and sometimes relapsed, but, upon the whole lost ground, very much. My legs are extremely weak, and my breath very short....

A little more than a month later, Samuel Johnson died on 13 December 1784. His last words he addressed to the daughter of a friend, who had come to ask him for a blessing. Johnson turned in his deathbed and said to her, “God bless you, my dear.” On the 20th of December, his body was buried in Westminster Abbey.



JAMES BOSWELL
From a drawing by George Dance

James Boswell

James Boswell (1740-1795) was born in Edinburgh on 29 October 1740, the eldest son of Alexander Boswell and his wife Euphemia. On his mother's side, he was descended from the earls of Mar and his father was a prominent lawyer, whose family were lairds of Auchinleck. Upon being appointed to the Court of Sessions – the Court of Sessions was the supreme civil court in Scotland – his father received the courtesy title of Lord Auchinleck.

In Boswell's case, the child was father to the man. As a child, Boswell had a romantic temperament and suffered nervous complaints. As a man, Boswell was the same. Despite being from a staunchly Whig family, Boswell maintained from early childhood an admiration and loyalty for the Stuarts and their Jacobite supporters. (This did not prevent him from also being a great admirer of George III.) Several times as a child, Boswell had to be sent to spas to recover from severe bouts of depression. Perhaps the worst attack occurred when he was studying law at Utrecht; the depression was so deep that Boswell feared for his own sanity. Such flare-ups occurred throughout his life. In fact, Boswell used this experience as title for a series of essays, he published in *The London Magazine* collectively called *The Hypochondriack* (1777-1783).

Boswell's relationship with his father was difficult. Their respective characters led to continuing conflict and disappointment with each other. Boswell thought his father was unsympathetic, not appreciating his son's imagination and dreams. His father thought his son unsteady and of unsound judgment. In a minor way, each was right. What Boswell missed was that his father's attitude sprung from a desire to see his son succeed and such success depended upon practical considerations. What the father missed was that his son's imagination and romantic temperament opened up for his son more paths to success and fame than just practicing law. Tensions between them were such that Boswell led the mob that broke out his father's windows after the Douglas decision, which caused the father to plead with authorities to arrest his son.

Dissatisfied with his biological father, Boswell found in Samuel Johnson a surrogate. Before coming to London, he had conceived the idea of achieving literary renown through the art of biography. One of the reasons that he wanted to come to London – to avoid a legal career by securing a commission in the Guards was another – was to meet the great men of the capitol, particularly Dr. Johnson.

The first meeting between the two did not go well. Boswell was in the back of a booksellers shop when Johnson entered. Boswell bungled the introduction. When the bookseller, Sam Davies, told Johnson that Boswell was from Scotland, Boswell interjected, "I do indeed come from Scotland, but I cannot help it." Johnson proceeded to snub Boswell with "That, Sir, I find is what a very great many of your countrymen cannot help." Boswell withdrew into silence. Soon Johnson, realizing that he had been too short with Boswell, led him back into the conversation. As Boswell's biographer, Frederick Pottle wrote, "Within a few minutes he was leading the conversation....The great friendship had been born." (Frederick A. Pottle, *James Boswell: the Early Years 1740-1769* pages 115-116.)

The friendship between the two was rooted in many things. The first was a common love of conversation, of verbal jousting. The second was political. Both men were Tories, though there was here a difference between the two. Johnson's conservatism was one of "Aristotelian balance (a position tending neither to excess nor to defect) which Johnson looked for in himself and others." (Ian Crowther, "Samuel Johnson," *Conservative Thinkers*, edited by Roger Scruton, page 46.) Johnson typified the moral realism of the Anglican tradition. Boswell's conservatism was the product of romanticism; Boswell was in many ways an example of David Hume's teaching on passion controlling reason. His sensibilities formed his politics. This difference existing in an area of agreement no doubt enlivened their discussions.

Boswell used his friendship to memorialize Johnson. He would prepare for their meetings by thinking of topics to discuss and issues to consider. Upon returning to his lodgings, Boswell would record the Great Cham's conversations in his diaries and in memorandums. These formed the basis for his massive biography of his friend, *The Life of Samuel Johnson*.

The book, though preceded in print by those of Piozzi and Hawkins, was a runaway best seller. On 16 May 1791, the first edition in a run of some 1,700 appeared and quickly sold out. Other editions soon followed with expanded material. Boswell at the time of his death four years later was working with his friend Thomas Malone on a third edition.

Dr. Johnson's biography was not Boswell's only literary endeavor. While studying in Edinburgh, Boswell began writing theater reviews for the press. At the age of 20, Boswell published in London a fifty-page pamphlet entitled *A View of the Edinburgh Theatre During the Summer Season*. From his travels in Corsica, he published *An Account of Corsica, the Journal of a Tour to that Island, and Memoirs of Pascal Paoli*, which was soon translated into Dutch, French, and German. From this book, Boswell acquired the nickname "Corsica Boswell." Also, Boswell turned his hand to fiction, writing a novel *Durando*, based on the Douglas Case. Boswell even published several poems, such as *Elegy on the Death of an Amiable Young Lady (1761)* and *The Cub at Newmarket (1762)*. Additionally Boswell published on law and politics with his *The Essence of the Douglas Cause (1767)* and his *Letter to the People of Scotland (1783)* supporting the King and Tories against Fox and the Whigs. In 1786, he published the precursor of the great biography his *Journal of a Tour in the Hebrides*, a diary of a trip with Dr. Johnson around Scotland. Due to its candid self-portrayal, the book was a literary sensation, going through three editions in its first year.

Boswell achieved the success in literature that he had desired since youth, but Boswell also followed his father's wish for him to be a lawyer. Here his career was less successful than his literary efforts. Boswell won some cases and lost others, just as all lawyers do. Historically his most important case was the Donaldson Case, which was a conflict between two booksellers. The ultimate decision of the case in the House of Lords established the basis for Anglo-American copyright. Something that Boswell as an author had a personal interest in.

In 1782 Boswell's father died. Two years later his surrogate father, Samuel Johnson died and five years later Boswell's wife died, leaving him with five children. Boswell himself died on 19 May 1795. On the 14th of April, at a meeting of the club, Boswell took sick. His symptoms were fever, chills, stomach pains and headache. Speculation is that the cause of his death was a chronic urinary infection due to frequent bouts of venereal disease. His body was sent to Scotland and buried on the 8th of June 1795 in the family tomb.

Edmund Burke

Edmund Burke (1729-1797) was born in Dublin to Richard Burke and his wife Mary. The exact date is not known for certain. 1 January 1729 is the consensus guess. Like Ireland itself, Burke's family was religiously divided between Protestants and Catholics. His father was a Protestant lawyer and his mother from a poor, but socially respectable Catholic family. As is often the case in such mixed marriages, the sons of the family were raised as Protestants, while the daughter was raised a Catholic.

In 1744, Edmund Burke was sent for his education to a Quaker school in Ballitore. Three years later Burke returned to Dublin to enter Trinity College, where he was a classmate of Oliver Goldsmith. Philosophical studies at the school remained rooted in scholasticism and natural law. Natural law was to become core of his political philosophy. Two years after his graduation in 1748, Edmund Burke left for London to study law in the Middle Temple.

Like many another young eighteenth century man sent to London at parental behest to become a lawyer, young Burke quickly found that legal study held no appeal for him. Burke preferred literature and though he continued his legal studies, increasing he turned his interests to writing.

In 1756, Burke published his first important work, *A Vindication of Natural Society*. *Vindication* was a satire on the recently published posthumous Deistic writings of Viscount Bolingbroke. As satire, the work was not a success, since many took the work as a serious, straightforward argument for Lord Bolingbroke's opinions. That was not Burke's intent, since he despised Deism.

In any case, the twenty pounds paid for the book provided him enough money to marry a Catholic doctor's daughter, Jane Nagel. The two were to have a happy

marriage and produce two sons, Richard and Christopher. Only Richard was to survive childhood.

Burke's next book was to be a major success, *A Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful*. The first edition of this work on aesthetics appeared in 1757 and a second edition two years later. It was to influence profoundly the development of aesthetic philosophy in England and was also well received on the continent. Adam Smith stated that Burke should be given an academic chair at a university and Immanuel Kant called Burke a leader in "the empirical exposition of aesthetic judgments." (Quoted in Stanley Ayling, *Edmund Burke: His Life and Opinions*, page 15.)

In 1758, Burke received what would have been to an eighteenth century writer a dream appointment. He was hired as the first editor for the new periodical, the *Annual Register*, which provided him with the financial stability of a guaranteed yearly salary. The *Annual Register* reviewed the previous year's events in politics and culture, both domestic and foreign. Burke was to remain editor for next thirty-two years.

Having moved from law to letters, Burke made many friends among the nation's writers. Oliver Goldsmith, for one, had been a fellow student at Trinity, but the two did not really become acquainted until after they had both relocated to London and close friends until both were founding members of the literary dining club "The Club." Their friendship became so close that when David Garrick rejected Goldsmith's play *The Good Natured Man*, Edmund Burke "invited a group of friends to his house for a reading of the play, which was then successfully recommended to the Covent Garden playwright-manager George Colman, the elder." (Stanley Ayling, *Edmund Burke: His Life and Opinions*, page 145.) Another great friend was Dr. Samuel Johnson. Burke and Johnson, despite party differences, were great admirers of each other's ability and deeply enjoyed each other's company and conversation. Burke was among those who would come and sit with Johnson as he lay dying. Boswell tells their last time together:

"Burke said to him, "I am afraid, Sir, such a number of us may be oppressive to you." "No, Sir, (said Johnson,) it is not so; and I must be in a wretched state, indeed, when your company would not be a delight to me." Mr. Burke, in a tremulous voice, expressive of being very tenderly affected, replies, "My dear Sir, you have always been good to me." Immediately afterwards he went away. This was the last circumstance in the acquaintance of these two eminent men."

(James Boswell, *Life of Samuel Johnson*, page 1385.)

Burke's editorship of the *Annual Register* served as a bridge between the world of literature and that of politics. With the editorship, Burke became better known to the nation's political elite as a man of understanding and insight. In 1759, Burke accepted the position of private secretary to William Gerard Hamilton of the Board of Trade. When Hamilton achieved promotion to the office of chief secretary of Ireland, Burke came with him to Ireland. In 1763, Hamilton once more advanced in official rank as chancellorship for the exchequer of Ireland. Unfortunately, Hamilton soon alienated the officials superior to him and he was recalled from Ireland. Burke returned to London with him, but the two soon quarreled and parted.

The next year the Marquis of Rockingham assumed the office of prime minister, hiring Burke to be his private secretary. A place in parliament was found for Burke, who took his seat on 14 January 1766. Burke's career received a setback with the dismissal in July of 1766 of the Rockingham government by the King due to splits in the cabinet. William Pitt had succeeded in maneuvering Rockingham out of office and assuming office himself. Rockingham went into opposition and so too did his private secretary.

Burke was to spend his parliamentary career in opposition to governments of other Whig factions or Tories. Burke only held office for two brief periods, both as Paymaster of the Forces: First in the second Lord Rockingham government from March 1782 to July 1782, when Lord Rockingham suddenly died; the second in the coalition of Charles James Fox and Lord North under the nominal leadership of the Duke of Portland as prime minister. These two six month terms constituted the whole of his time in government. For the rest of his parliamentary career Burke was usually in opposition.

Over the course of his career in parliament, several important issues stand out. The first involves the troubles the home country had with their American colonies. The Whigs were in favor of appeasing the colonies. Burke supported the party's position and in fact was a paid agent of the New York Colony to act for their interests on issues effecting New York. Burke's oration in 1775 entitled *Speech on the Conciliation of the Colonies* became a favorite of nineteenth century American educators. The second big issue was the impeachment of Warren Hastings. Hasting had been the Governor of the Bengal Colony in India. His political opponents succeeded in convincing the Whigs that his conduct rendered the government vulnerable to attack and the Whigs succeeded in securing his impeachment by the House of Commons. Burke was one of the

prosecutors picked to present the case against Hastings in the House of Lords. The case lasted from 1788 till 1795 when Hastings was acquitted, a decision most historians agree with. In fact, had not Charles James Fox, the Whig leader in the Commons, not been late for a crucial meeting, the charges probably would have been dropped as too weak to go forward with. The third was the French Revolution and the wars with revolutionary France. Burke had at first taken either a mildly approving attitude or a wait and see one. Soon Burke became intensely opposed to the course of events in France, publishing in 1790 his famous book *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. At first, the bulk of the party followed Fox in favoring the revolution. The overall leaders of the party the Duke of Portland and the Earl Fitzwilliam were ill at ease with what was happening in France, but held back from acting out of a friendship for Fox. Burke was not similarly restrained. Burke broke with Fox, ending their friendship of twenty-two years. Portland, Fitzwilliam, and other Whigs gradually broke also with Fox and the supporters of the revolution. Eventually even Fox realized his error.

In 1794, Burke retired from parliament. Burke convinced the patron of his parliamentary seat to support his son Richard to succeed him. Richard was duly elected and sadly died some two weeks later. Richard's death ended the king's plan to elevate Burke to the House of Lords with the title Lord Beaconsfield (the title that Disraeli was to receive later.). With no son to inherit, Burke disclaimed any desire for the offered title. Burke did accept a pension from the crown for his long political and literary service to the nation.

Burke spent his last years supporting and encouraging with his writings the government's resistance to revolutionary and Napoleonic France. Burke also founded a school for the children of French émigrés. He spent a great deal of time with the school and the children. In fact, his concern for the school was so great that his cook had to rebuke him for talking food to the school that she had meant for his own meals.

On 9 July 1797, Edmund Burke died of stomach cancer. His body was buried six days at Beaconsfield.

Frances Burney

Frances Burney (1752-1840), called familiarly Fanny, was born on the 13th of June 1752 to musician Charles Burney and his first wife Esther. As a child, Fanny acquired a love of reading, which progressed into a desire to write. By the age of ten, she composed a novel – now lost – called *The History of Caroline Evelyn* and by the age of fifteen she had written plays, poems, and stories, which she burned in a bonfire in an attempt to break herself of the habit of constantly writing. The effort failed and she went on in later life to write various well-received novels and plays.

Her first success was the novel *Evelina*, which appeared in print in January of 1778. The book was favorably received in the press and, perhaps, more importantly by her father's circle of friends, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Samuel Johnson, and Edmund Burke. All admired the work, – Burke supposedly stayed up all night to read it – which not only encouraged her to continue to write, but also gave her entrée to their acquaintance and friendship in her own right. Many more novels and plays were to follow *Evelina*.

One of the new friends brought to her by her literary career was Mary Delany. Delany was an artist and writer, who had known most of the great English writers of the time, such as Jonathan Swift. Also, she was popular at Windsor with the King and Queen. Soon after being presented to the royal family through Delany's efforts, Fanny was appointed to the royal household as second keeper of the Queen's robes. The position's salary of 200 pounds made her financially independent and secure. Also with the position came an apartment in the palace and her own servants.

Outside her literary career and serving the Queen, much of Burney's life revolved around her family. It was not until she was in her 40's that Burney married. Her husband Alexandre-Jean-Baptiste Piochard D'Arblay, a former adjutant to Lafayette, had fled to England from France to avoid the terrors of the French Revolution, coming to rest with fellow refugees Madame de Stael and Talleyrand at house near some friends of Fanny's, who introduced them. On 28 July 1793, they married, though her father declined to attend the wedding, and on 18 December their son Alexander was born.

In 1802, temporary peace came between Britain and France. The D'Arblays moved to Paris and remained there for ten years. In 1811, Fanny suffered breast cancer and underwent without anesthetic a mastectomy. The next year she returned to England with her son Alexander, so he could enter Cambridge. In 1814, her last novel was published to disappointing sales and also her father died.

In 1814, Frances returned to France to join her husband, who had resumed his military career and been promoted to general by Louis XVIII. In the Waterloo Campaign, D'Arbly was wounded and forced to retire. They moved back permanently to England in 1815, where in 1818, her husband died of colon cancer. In 1837, her son Alexander died of fever.

Burney's last major literary work was editing and rewriting in part her father's three volume memoirs of his musical career. On 6 January 1840, Frances Burney died.

David Garrick

David Garrick (1717-1779) was born in Hereford on the 19th of February to army Capt. Peter Garrick and his wife Arabella. David, their son, was initially educated at a grammar school in Litchfield. On the advice of a family friend, David and his brother George entered a recently established school, whose young headmaster was Samuel Johnson.

In 1737, the school folded, leaving both Johnson and the nineteen-year-old Garrick adrift. The two decided to go to London; Johnson to pursue a writing career and Garrick to study law. Between the two of them, they only had one horse, so they took turns walking and riding. Dr. Johnson used to joke that they reached London with only a few pence between them.

Soon after Garrick arrived in London, his father died and then his wine merchant uncle died. Receiving an inheritance of a thousand pounds from his uncle David and only a shilling from his father, David with his brother Peter set up as wine merchants. The partnership was not a success, in part because David had discovered his passion, -- the theater.

Garrick had always had a latent interest in the theater – as a twelve year old he had organized a children's production of the playwright George Farquhar's *The Recruiting Officer* – but now freed from his father's restraining hand and with the wine shop to support him, he began to increasingly indulge his interest. Within three years of arriving in London, Garrick's first play, *Lethe, or, Esop in the Shades*, was produced at Drury Lane Theater. Soon Garrick was himself performing in amateur theatricals. His first appearance as a professional was as a

substitute for an ailing actor in a pantomime and on 19 October 1741, Garrick made his London debut as Richard III. His success was immediate and enduring. Among his earliest fans were William Pitt the Elder and Alexander Pope, who proclaimed “that young man never had his equal as an actor and he will never have a rival.” Upon their applause and others, Garrick built an acting career that only ended with his last performance some 35 years later. He was considered then, as he is now, the greatest actor of his age.

Garrick contributed to the theater, not only his skills as an actor, but also as a theater manager and playwright. In 1747, he entered into an agreement with fellow actor James Lacy to buy the properties, leases and patent for the Drury Lane Theater. Garrick’s share of the purchase price was eight thousand pounds. Within three years Garrick and his partner had recouped their investment. By the time Garrick retired from management in 1776, the price for his share of the theater was thirty-five thousand pounds.

In addition to his acting and managing, Garrick was the author of over twenty plays. These ranged from dramas, such as *The Lying Valet*, to comedies, such as the farce *Miss in her Teens*. Garrick was also a skilled epigramist and poet.

Garrick was a very convivial man and maintained his friendship with his teacher Samuel Johnson. Both men delighted in conversation. Johnson said of Garrick, “He is the first man in the world for sprightly conversation.” (James Boswell, *Life of Johnson*, page 282.) Sometimes though Garrick irritated the good doctor. When Garrick announced without invitation his willingness to join a dining club Johnson was a member of, Johnson was indignant at the actor’s presumption. When asked by Mr. Thrale if he would really blackball Garrick, Johnson replied, “Why, sir, I love my little David dearly – better than all or any of his flatters do: but surely one ought to sit, in a society like our, ‘Unelbowed by a gamester, pimp, or player.’” (Ralph Nevill, *London Clubs: Their History and Treasures*, page. 265.) But when later the numbers of the club were expanded under a motion by Oliver Goldsmith, Johnson was one of those who most welcomed Garrick’s election to the membership.

On 20 January 1779, David Garrick died of kidney disease. On the 1st of February, his funeral was held at Westminster Abbey, where he was interred in the Poets’ Corner. His pallbearers included two earls, a baron, a viscount, and a duke. Garrick’s estate was estimated at a hundred thousand pounds. His widow outlived him for another forty-three years.

Oliver Goldsmith

Oliver Goldsmith (1728-1774) was born in Ireland on 10 November 1728 to Charles Goldsmith and his wife Ann. On both sides of his family, his ancestry was clerical; his father a poor curate and his maternal grandfather a master at the diocesan school. Soon after the young Oliver's birth, his father accepted a cure in Kilkenny West at a more sizable salary with a more spacious vicarage.

Initially Goldsmith's education came at the hands of a dependant female relation. At seven, his instruction was taken over by a retired quartermaster, who had limited educational skills and a large fund of fantastic stories that appealed to the young boy's imagination. At the age of nine, he continued his education at a string of grammar schools, where he gained a basic knowledge of Greek and Latin. And at the age of sixteen, Goldsmith entered Trinity College as a "sizar," a student, who in exchange for free tuition and food and a discount on housing, had to perform menial services to other members of the college.

Goldsmith's time at Trinity was a misery to him. His status as a sizar offended his *amore proper*. Worse still, his tutor, Dr. Theaker Wilder, was a brute. In one notorious incident, Goldsmith gave a noisy party to celebrate winning one of his few awards, when the tutor burst "into the middle of the party, knocked his pupil down, while the rest fled in confusion....Wilder was hitting a weaker man who had no possible redress." (Stephen Gwynn, *Oliver Goldsmith*, page 32.)

Goldsmith sold his books the next day and left the school for home. After awhile he succumbed to persuasion to return and finish his degree. On 27 January 1749, Oliver Goldsmith graduated from Trinity with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

With his degree in hand, Goldsmith set out to find a career. His efforts were crowned with failure. At first, he attempted to enter the church but was rejected as a candidate for the Anglican priesthood. Next, he tried being a private tutor, but he soon gave it up to emigrate to America, but missed his boat. Then an uncle gave him tuition to study law in London, only to have Goldsmith to lose the money gambling.

Still his family did not abandon him. When Goldsmith announced his desire to study medicine at the University of Edinburgh, the means were found. More money was forthcoming when he decided to further his medical education by attending the University of Leyden in Holland. Soon Goldsmith left that university to wander around Europe earning money playing a flute.

In late winter of 1756, the wander returned to England and, after several failed attempts at alternative employment, set himself up as a doctor to the poor in Southwark. Through one of his patents, a journeyman printer, Goldsmith made the acquaintance of novelist Samuel Richardson, who started him on the road to be a writer.

Soon Goldsmith abandoned the practice of medicine and became a fulltime denizen of Grub Street, producing reviews and articles for sundry magazines and newspapers and even writing children's books. He accepted a position with the Whig *Monthly Review*, but found the work uncongenial, -- part of his pay was to have to live with the editor and his wife -- and eventually gravitated to its Tory rival, the *Critical Review*, run by Tobias Smollett. By 1759, Goldsmith published his first book, *An Inquiry into the Present State of Polite Learning in Europe*. The next year Goldsmith began to contribute to the *Public Ledger* a series of articles on contemporary life in the guise of letters written home by a Chinaman living in London. These were a success and when gathered together two years later, as *The Citizen of the World, or, Letters from a Chinese Philosopher, Residing in London, to his Friends in the East*, became his first truly successful literary effort. The book was soon translated into French and German. Goldsmith was now well established as a professional author.

Over the course of his career, Goldsmith succeeded in each of the various types of literary endeavor. His novel *The Vicar of Wakefield* was not only an immediate success, but also an enduring one. The same could be said of his major play *She Stoops to Conquer*, which has become a theatrical standby. His poem *The Deserted Village* is considered a classic of English poetry. Less enduring, but of historical import are his various histories of England and Rome. Though little read today, these histories, whether in abridged form or full editions, were much republished in the eighteenth and nineteenth century to be used as school texts. Many a young nineteenth century American owed his knowledge of Roman and English history to Goldsmith. Even Thomas Jefferson owned a copy of Goldsmith's history of Rome.

The literary world of eighteenth century London was less a world than a small village. Everyone came to know everyone else with greater or lesser intimacy. A close friendship existed between Oliver Goldsmith and Samuel Johnson. Each admired the other's writings, with Johnson telling Boswell, "Dr. Goldsmith is one of the first men we now have an author...." (James Boswell, *The Life of Samuel Johnson*, page 289.) A further cement to their friendship lay in the arena of

politics. Both men were Jacobites and despised the Whig party. Some things further they shared in common were a great love of conversation and an even greater empathy with those who suffered. Both men's lives had known great poverty. These men, who had little, routinely gave to those with less. Also, disease had left a mark on their respective faces, Johnson from scrofula and Goldsmith from smallpox.

Goldsmith did have some vices that the two did not share. Women and money joined charity as drains upon his purse. Also, where Johnson may have been aggressive in conversation, but always wise, frequently Goldsmith in an excess of a desire to shine could be absurd. Perhaps the best summary of his character was given in a poem by David Garrick:

Here, Hermes! says Jove, who with nectar was mellow,
Go fetch me some clay – I will make an odd fellow.
Right and wrong shall be jumbled, -- much gold and some dross;
Without cause be he pleas'd, without cause be he cross;
Be sure, as I work, to throw in contradictions,
A great lover of truth, yet a mind turn'd to fictions;
Now mix these ingredients, which, warm'd in the baking,
Turn to learning and gaming, religion and raking.
With the love of a wench, let his writings be chaste;
Tip his tongue with strange matter, his pen with fine taste;
That the rake and poet o'er all may prevail,
Set fire to his head, and set fire to his tail;
For the joy of each sex, on the world I'll bestow it,
This scholar, rake, Christian, dupe, gamester, and poet.

(Stephen Gwynn, *Oliver Goldsmith*, page 315.)

Goldsmith died on 4 April 1774. His health broke under the stress of debt. A kidney and bladder infection set in that he attempted to treat himself. Vomiting and diarrhea soon resulted. All combined to bring about his end. Goldsmith's body was buried in the graveyard at Temple Court Church. His friends erected a memorial to him in the Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey.

Sir John Hawkins

Sir John Hawkins (1719-1789) was born in London on 29 March 1719 to John Hawkins and his wife Elizabeth. Over the course of his life, Hawkins had many occupations. Starting out in architecture, Hawkins moved to the practice of law. Soon his interests turned to writing and he began contributing to *The Gentleman's Magazine*, which brought him into Samuel Johnson's circle of friends. Next Hawkins developed an interest in music, becoming a lyricist and scholar of music. Additionally Hawkins served as a magistrate and chaired the Middlesex Quarter Sessions.

Despite Hawkins being a Whig, he and Johnson were close friends. Hawkins was one of the nine original founders of the Ivy Lane Club started by Johnson. Also, Sir John was appointed to be one of Johnson's executors at his death, which brought him into conflict with Johnson's heir, his black servant Frances Barber, over a gold tipped cane. Despite the urgings of the other trustees, Hawkins refused to turn it over and later claimed that it had been destroyed by accident. Boswell, prone to be critical of Hawkins as a rival Johnson biographer, felt on this score, despite appearances against him, Hawkins had a good case.

In the course of his literary efforts, Hawkins published a number of works. In the field of law, he was the author of *Observations on the State of Highways*, which led to a change in the law. His principle work on music was the five volume set entitled *A General History of the Science and Practice of Music*. It was one of the two major English works on musicology produced in the 18th century and was reprinted twice in the 19th. Hawkins, as requested by Johnson and at the behest of a consortium of publishers, wrote a biography of his friend called *The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL. D.*

Hawkins died on 21 May 1789 and was buried on the 28th in Westminster Abbey.

Hester Piozzi (Thrale)

Hester Piozzi, better known as Mrs. Thrale, was born on 16 January 1741, the daughter of John Salusbury and his wife Hester Maria. On both sides of her parents, she was connected to many of the leading families of Wales. Growing up, she was educated in philosophy, rhetoric, and French. At the urgings of her aunt, Hester translated essays from *The Spectator* into Italian.

At her parents' behest, Hester entered into marriage with the brewer John Thrale (1728-1781). According to the record, the marriage was not happy. (Her twelve pregnancies might argue that there were some compatibilities between husband

and wife.) As a solace from married life, Hester turned to literature. Her husband's friend Samuel Johnson encouraged her in her writings and even further collaborated with her in a translation of Boethius and included Hester in other projects. Several volumes of his *Lives of the Poets* were composed in her library and benefited from his conversations with her.

In 1765, relations with Johnson became closer as a result of Mr. Thrale's decision to stand again for parliament as a Tory. In the election, Johnson served in a position akin to a cross between a campaign manager and chief speechwriter. Assisting him in writing the candidate's campaign material was Mrs. Thrale, who despite being pregnant – the baby was to die at two weeks of age from diarrhea -- threw herself into her husband's successful re-election effort.

The next year Johnson suffered a nervous breakdown. In his need, the Thrales repaid his friendship by offering him rooms in their town house and their country house. The next sixteen years of Johnson's life were spent with them. With Johnson came his friends, Reynolds, Goldsmith, Burke, Garrick and others. Soon Mrs. Thrale's was the leading artistic saloon in London. As the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* notes, "Membership of the Thrale coterie betokened social and cultural arrival."

The sundering of this circle of friends began with the death of Henry Thrale in 1782. With Dr. Johnson and the other trustees selling the brewery business, Mrs. Thrale, without an unloved husband and now personally wealthy, was free to pursue her own passions. These passions led her to fall in love with an Italian music teacher by the name of Gabriel Mario Piozzi. Her family was appalled and her friends were aghast. In 1784, Mrs. Thrale became Mrs. Piozzi and spent the next three years in European travel.

While the now Mrs. Piozzi was in Milan, she learned of Dr. Johnson's death. Due to his opposition to her marriage, she had cast aside his friendship, despite Johnson's effort to maintain it. "The birth of my second husband is not meaner than that of my first, his sentiments are not meaner, his profession not meaner...til you have changed your opinion of Mr. Piozzi, let us converse no more." (Wain, *Samuel Johnson*, page 363.) Her anger with Johnson remained even after his death. "Veneration for his virtue, reverence for his talents, delight in his conversation, and habitual endurance of a yoke my husband first put upon me, and of which he contentedly bore his share for sixteen or seventeen years, made me go along with Mr. Johnson ; but the perpetual confinement I will own to have been terrifying in the first years of our friendship, and irksome in the last;

nor could I pretend to support it without help, when my coadjutor was no more.” This line caused Boswell to comment, “Alas! how different is this from the declarations which I have heard Mrs. Thrale make in his life-time, without a single murmur against any peculiarities, or against any one circumstances which attended their intimacy.” (Boswell, *Life of Johnson*, page 1,327.)

This rancor at her dead friend did not prevent her from making him the subject of her first and second published books. In 1786, she published *Anecdotes of the Late Samuel Johnson*. Two years later, this was followed by *Letters to and from the Late Samuel Johnson*. Her later books were *Observations and Reflections made in the Course of a Journey through France, Italy, and Germany* (1789), *British Synonymy, or, An Attempt at Regulating the Choice of Words in Familiar Conversation* (1794), *Three Warnings to John Bull* (1798), and *Retrospection* (1801).

In 1809, her husband died of gangrene and Mrs. Piozzi herself died on 2 May 1821. Some forty years later in 1861, her *Autobiography, Letters, and Literary Remains of Mrs. Piozzi (Thrale)* was published .

Sir Joshua Reynolds

Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792) was born on 16 July 1723 to Samuel Reynolds and his wife Theophilia at Plympton Earl in Devonshire. His father was a schoolmaster and his family on both sides were educators and Church of England priests. Reynolds’ formal education was supplied by his schoolmaster father, but the young Reynolds was, also, encouraged to read on his own various classical authors – Ovid , Seneca, Plutarch were among the many he read – and the masters of English literature, such as Pope, Dryden, Shakespeare, Milton, and others.

Literature was not the only discipline that the Reynolds family expected their children to practice. Art, too, played a part in their education and early on Joshua displayed an aptitude in the field. At the age of 12, the young Reynolds completed his first known portrait – Thomas Stuart, a local clergyman. At the age

of 16, Reynolds was apprenticed to the portrait artist Thomas Hudson, who was located in London.

Hudson taught Reynolds the basic skills of the profession and introduced him to other artists in the capitol. In addition to his art instruction, Reynolds ran errands for his master, such as attending for him auctions, which exposed him to a wide variety of artistic work. Soon Reynolds became more a colleague than an apprentice and quickly established himself as a fellow portrait painter. By 1748, Reynolds was named by the Universal Magazine one of the 57 painters “who are justly deemed eminent masters.”

Despite this praise and his respect for Hudson, Reynolds felt that his artistic education was defective and the state of English art low. If he was to contribute to elevating English art, he had to improve his own knowledge and skills. Reynolds decided to journey to Italy and make of a study of Italian art. He conveyed this desire to his friend Capt. Augustus Keppel, the second son of the Earl of Albemarle, who had just been ordered to sail to the Mediterranean. Keppel invited Reynolds to accompany him on the trip. By Easter of 1750, he arrived at Rome and began his studies by copying old master paintings and drawings. From Rome, he continued on to the many regional centers of Italian art. Whether in Naples, Florence, or elsewhere, he copied master works and observed. Reynolds was particularly struck in his studies by the Italian artists’ use of light and dark (chiaroscuro) and by the dramatic figures in mannerist paintings.

The influence of this Italian trip can be clearly seen in the portrait of Keppel Reynolds did in 1753 upon his return to England. As Roy Strong comments,

Nothing quite like it had ever been seen before. He depicted the naval commander, Admiral Keppel, in a pose based on the famous “Apollo Belvedere” striding, windswept, along a stormy foreshore, the whole rendered with a rich chiaroscuro effect derived from studying the works of Titian and Tintoretto.

(Roy Strong, *The Spirit of Britain: a Narrative History of the Arts*, page 410.)

The demand for his work as a portraitist increased immediately. In fact, Reynolds would have some years around a 150 sitters for his paintings and within his first four years back, he had a total of 677.

Reynolds' contribution to art was not limited to paint on canvas. For decades, there had been talk of establishing an academy to advance English art. One of the driving forces in doing so was the Dilettanti Society, which had been founded in 1734 as a dining society for gentlemen who had taken the grand tour of Italy and wanted to encourage the growth in England in the artistic style they had learned there. On joining the club, the new member was to donate a painting of himself done by the club's painter. In 1766, Joshua Reynolds joined the club and succeeded George Knapton as club painter. As Robert Neville notes in his history of London clubs, "It was mainly through the influence and patronage of the Dilettanti Society that the Royal Academy obtained its charter." (*London Clubs: Their History and Treasures*, page 258.) Other groups also contributed and in 1768, George III granted his royal patronage to the project. Reynolds, after consulting with Dr. Johnson and Edmund Burke, accepted election as the Royal Academy's first president.

The Royal Academy provided the London art world with a venue for an annual exhibit of the best art being produced in the kingdom. More than that the academy provided a place to both instruct the public and would-be artists. One of Reynolds' tasks as president was to give a series of presidential lectures to celebrate special occasions at the academy, which when gathered together became his most famous book: *Discourses on Art*. Such was the literary quality, that some at the time speculated that Dr. Johnson had been the actual author. Johnson scotched these rumors conclusively, "Sir Joshua, sir, would as soon get me to paint for him as to write for him."

Though the critics were wrong about Johnson authoring the *Discourses*, relations between the men were close. The two had met at the home of Admiral Cotterell's daughters. As Boswell tells it,

Reynolds used also to visit there, and thus they met.
Mr. Reynolds ...had, from the first reading of his *Life of Savage*, conceived a very high admiration of Johnson's powers of writing. His conversation no less delighted him; and he cultivated his acquaintance with the laudable zeal of one who was ambitious of general improvement.
(James Boswell, *Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.*, page 173.)

Both men were, to use a phrase from Johnson, "clubbable men" and delighted in each other's company and discourse, -- founding several dining clubs together. And when Johnson died, Sir Joshua was one of the executors of his estate.

In addition to the friendship of Dr. Johnson and his circle, over the course of his life Reynolds received many honors. No only was he the president of the Royal Academy for most of its early years, but George III knighted him in 1769 and appointed him, after the death of Allan Ramsay, painter to the king.

Gradually age took its toll upon the painter. In his younger days, while studying in Rome, his hearing had been damaged by a cold. Some 37 years later, his eyesight began to fail Reynolds. causing him to announce his retirement in July of 1789, though he continued finishing up portraits already started. In 1791, in much pain, doctors failed to diagnose the disease besetting him and thought the cause was imaginary. Only a few weeks before his death was liver disease discerned as the culprit, -- too late for treatment. The great artist died 23 February 1792 and, after being on public display at the Royal Academy the evening before, his body was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral on the 3rd of March.

Chronology

<i>Events</i>	<i>Samuel Johnson</i>	<i>Friends</i>
1709 Nicolas Rowe's edition of Shakespeare. Limited copyright for authors established. French beaten at Battle of Malplaquet.	Birth of Samuel Johnson.	
1710 Trial of Dr. Sacheverell. Whigs lose control of Parliament to the Tories in first clear peaceful transfer of party power under modern party system.		
1711 South Sea Company incorporated. Pope's <i>Essay on Criticism</i> . Addison and Steele begin <i>The Spectator</i> . Shaftesbury's <i>Characteristicks</i> .		
1712 Pope's <i>Rape of the Lock</i> .	Johnson touched by Queen Anne as a cure for scrofula.	
1713 Treaty of Utrecht.		
1714 Despite an increased Tory majority, Lord Oxford, the leader of the government and a Hanoverian Tory, is dismissed by Queen Anne. His successful rival Viscount Bolingbroke, who leans to the Jacobites, finds his triumph short lived as Queen Anne soon dies and the Privy Council controlled by a coalition of Hanoverian Tories and Whigs arranges for George of Hanover to be King. George I becomes King and dismisses the Tories, Hanoverian and Jacobite alike, from office and gives		

	the Whigs a monopoly on power.		
1715	Jacobite rebellion defeated.		
1716	With the Septennial Act political corruption increases.		
1717	King George throws the Prince of Wales out of the royal palace.	Johnson enters Lichfield School.	Garrick born.
1718	War of the Quadruple Alliance.		
1719	Defoe's <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> .		John Hawkins born.
1720	Collapse of the South Sea Bubble.		
1721	Bach composes Brandenburg Concerto.		
1722	Sir Robert Walpole becomes clearly George's principal minister and the first true prime minister.		
1723	The Black Act passed that adds 50 new capital crimes.		Reynolds born.
1724	Swift's <i>Drapier's Letters</i> .		
1725	Hutcheson's <i>Inquiry into Beauty and Virtue</i> .	Johnson enters Stourbridge School.	
1726	Bolingbroke begins publishing in <i>The Craftsman</i> articles against Walpole and Whigs. Swift's <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> .	Johnson leaves Stourbridge to return Home.	
1727	George I dies. George II becomes King.		
1728	Copenhagen fire.	Johnson enters Pembroke College, Oxford.	
1729	Treaty of Seville.	Johnson leaves college.	Burke born.
1730	Josiah Wedgwood born.		Goldsmith born.
1731	<i>Gentlemen's Magazine</i> founded.	Johnson publishes a Latin translation of Pope's <i>Messiah</i> . Michael Johnson, Sam's father, dies.	
1732	George Washington born.	Johnson employed at Market Bosworth Grammar School.	
1733	Government forced to drop Excise Bill.	Johnson starts translation of Fr. Lobo's <i>Voyage to Abyssinia</i> . Begins writing for the Birmingham Journal.	
1734	George Romney born.		
1735	Hogarth's <i>A Rake's Progress</i>	Johnson's translation is published. Marries the widow Elizabeth Jervis Porter. Opens own school at Edial.	
1736	Porteous Riots in Edinburgh. John and Charles Wesley begin to establish evangelical societies that eventually become the Methodist Church.	Begins work on play <i>Irene</i> .	
1737	Theatrical Licensing Act passed.	Closes school as a failure. Johnson with his former student David Garrick leaves for London to find work.	Garrick goes to London with Johnson. Garrick enters Lincoln's Inn. Hawkins begins law studies.
1738	Parliament bans verbatim reporting of debates. Pope's <i>Epilogue to Satires</i> . Treaty of Vienna.	Becomes a major contributor to <i>The Gentleman's Magazine</i> . Begins series of supposed debates in the Senate of Lilliput, giving the substance of the actual debates in Parliament. Publishes poem <i>London</i> .	
1739	War with Spain. Hume's <i>Treatise on Human Nature</i> . Highwayman Dick Turpin hanged.	Publishes an annotated and corrected translation of a French commentary on Pope's <i>Essay on Man</i> . Publishes anti-Whig <i>Marmor Norfolciense</i> . Goes into hiding to prevent possible arrest for writing <i>Marmor</i> . Publishes anti-Whig tract attacking with satire the government's heavy political censorship of the stage.	Hawkins begins contributing to the <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> .
1740	Richardson's <i>Pamela</i> . War of the Austrian Succession. Hertford College, Oxford founded.	<i>Life of Barretier</i> <i>Life of Blake</i> . <i>Life of Drake</i> .	Birth of Boswell. Reynolds apprenticed to Thomas Hudson. Garrick's <i>Lethe</i> . Garrick appears in <i>The Mock Doctor</i> as an amateur actor. Garrick substitutes for a sick

1741 Famine in Ireland, 13% of pop. die. Arbuthnot's <i>Memoirs of Martin Scriblerous</i> . Hume's <i>Essays, Moral and Political</i> . Unsuccessful black plot to burn New York.		actor in a pantomime, -- first professional appearance. Hawkins writes words for William Boyce music. Garrick plays Richard III in unlicensed theater. Garrick appears in Cibber's <i>Love Makes a Man</i> . Garrick's <i>The Lying Valet</i> . Hester Salusbury (Thrale Piozzi) born. Burke enters school at Ballitore. Garrick joins the Drury Lane Theater. Hawkins writes words for John Stanley cantatas.
1742 Walpole falls. William Pitt denounces England's war in Europe as being waged for Hanover. Fielding's <i>Joseph Andrews</i> . John Wesley's <i>Character of a Methodist</i> .		
1743 Treaty of Worms.	Starts working on the Harleian library.	
1744 King George's War. Alexander Pope dies.	Publishes <i>Life of Mr. Richard Savage</i> .	Goldsmith enters Trinity College. Burke enters Trinity College.
1745 Jacobite Rebellion. <i>God Save the King</i> first preformed. Sir Robert Walpole dies. Jonathan Swift dies.	Proposes new edition of Shakespeare.	Garrick leaves for Dublin to co-manage two theaters. Reynolds' father dies.
1746 Battle of Culloden.	Signs contract for his dictionary.	Garrick returns to London and joins Covent Garden Theater.
1747 First venereal disease clinic opens. Lord Lovat executed by axe.	Publishes with dedication to Lord Chesterfield <i>Plan of the English Dictionary</i> .	Purchases with Lacy with the control of Drury Lane Theater, which Garrick will manage.
1748 Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. Montesquieu's <i>The Spirit of the Laws</i> .	Writes preface to <i>The Preceptor</i> .	Reynolds called by <i>The Universal Magazine</i> one of the country's top painters. Burke graduates college. Hawkins joins the Madrigal Society.
1749 Fielding's <i>Tom Jones</i> . Bolingbroke's <i>Idea of a Patriotic King</i> .	Publishes poem <i>Vanity of Human Wishes</i> . <i>Irene</i> preformed. Founds the Ivy Lane Club. Begins <i>The Rambler</i> .	Goldsmith graduates from Trinity. Garrick marries. Reynolds tours France and Italy. Burke goes to London. Reynolds visits Rome.
1750 The waltz becomes popular. Rousseau's <i>Discourse on the Sciences and the Arts</i> . Jockey Club founded.		
1751 Death of Frederick, Prince of Wales. Clive finishes driving the French from Southern India.	Writes <i>Life of Cheyenl</i> .	
1752 England adopts Gregorian Calendar. Franklin invents lightening rod.	Wife dies. Finishes <i>The Rambler</i> .	Goldsmith studies medicine in Edinburgh Fanny Burney born. Reynolds returns from Europe.
1753 Foundation of the British Museum. Richardson's <i>Sir Charles Grandison</i> .	Contributes to <i>The Adventurer</i> .	Boswell enters the University of Edinburgh. Hawkins marries.
1754 Chippendale publishes <i>The Gentlemen and Cabinet Makers Directory</i> . Hume's <i>History of Great Britain</i> .	<i>Life of Cave</i> .	
1755 French and Indian War. Lisbon earthquake. Rousseau's <i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i> .	Publishes dictionary. Awarded honorary M.A. by Oxford. Writes rebuke of Chesterfield.	
1756 Start of the Seven Years War. Black Hole of Calcutta. Mozart born. Admiral Byng court-martialed and executed.	Editor of <i>The Literary Magazine</i> <i>An Introduction to the Political State of Great Britain</i> . Writes review on various pamphlets on the Byng case. <i>Observations on the Present State Affairs</i> .	Goldsmith goes to London.. Reynolds' mother dies. Reynolds meets Johnson. Burke's <i>Vindication of Natural Society</i> .
1757 William Pitt becomes Prime Minister. William Blake born.	<i>Speech on the Rochefort Expedition</i> Writes devastating review of Soame Jenyns' <i>Origin of Evil</i> .	Burke marries.. Burke's <i>Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime...</i> Burke marries.
1758 Hume's <i>An Inquiry Concerning Human</i>	<i>Observations in the Universal Chronicle</i> .	Garrick's <i>Harlequin's Invasion</i> .

<p><i>Understanding.</i></p> <p>1759 Princess Augusta starts Kew Gardens. Battle of Quebec. Voltaire's <i>Candide</i>. Adam Smith's <i>Theory of Moral Sentiments</i> Robert Burns born.</p>	<p>Starts <i>The Idler</i>. Arrested for debt. His mother dies. <i>Rasselas</i>.</p>	<p>Burke becomes editor of the <i>Annual Register</i>. Boswell enters the University of Glasgow. Burke becomes private secretary to William Hamilton, MP. Reynolds publishes first essay on art <i>The Idler</i>.</p>
<p>1760 George II dies. George III is king. James Macpherson's <i>Fragments of Ancient Poetry</i>, supposedly by Ossian.</p>	<p>Stops <i>The Idler</i> <i>Bravery of English Common Soldiers</i>.</p>	<p>Reynolds exhibits in the first of the annual exhibitions held by the Society of Artists.</p>
<p>1761 Death of Samuel Richardson. London earthquakes.</p> <p>1762 Rousseau's <i>The Social Contract</i>. Joanna Baillie born.</p>	<p>Receives pension from the crown. Tours the west country with Reynolds.</p>	<p>Burke goes with Hamilton to Dublin. Hawkins becomes a magistrate. Goldsmith's <i>Citizen of the World</i>. Goldsmith's <i>Life of Richard Nash</i>. Reynolds on six week tour with Johnson. Boswell meets Johnson. Boswell studies law at Utrecht. Riots at theater over Garrick's abolition of half price admission after the third act of main play. H. Salusbury's <i>Imagination's Search after Happiness</i>. Salusbury becomes Mrs. Henry Thrale. Burke receives a 300 pound pension. Hawkins' <i>Observations on the State the Highways</i>. Goldsmith's <i>The Traveller</i>. Garrick's <i>The Sick Monkey</i>. Garrick's <i>The Clandestine Marriage</i>. Mrs. Thrale loses first of her 12 children. Mrs. Thrale meets Johnson. Burke becomes private secretary to Prime Minister Rockingham. Hawkins contributes some notes to Johnson's edition of Shakespeare. Goldsmith's <i>Vicar of Wakefield</i>. Boswell enters bar. Boswell's mother dies. Garrick's <i>Neck or Nothing</i>. Hester Thrale's <i>The Three Warnings</i>. Burke enters House of Commons. Burke's <i>A Short Account of a Late Short Administration</i>. Boswell's <i>Dorando</i>. Garrick's <i>A Peep Behind the Curtain</i>. Goldsmith's <i>Good-Natur'd Man</i>. Boswell's <i>An Account of Corsica</i>. Reynolds first president of the Royal Academy of Art. Boswell marries. Royal Academy opens with address by Reynolds, <i>A Discourse</i>. Reynolds knighted. Burke's <i>Observations on a Late State of the Nation</i>.</p>
<p>1764 Wilkes expelled from the House of Commons.</p> <p>1765 William Blackstone's <i>Commentaries on the Laws of England</i>. Horace Walpole's <i>Castle of Otranto</i>. Stamp Act passed. Marquis of Rockingham prime minister.</p>	<p>With others founds The Club. Publishes his edition of Shakespeare Meets Henry and Hester Thrale. Writes PR for Thrale's campaign for parliament.</p>	<p>Burke receives a 300 pound pension. Hawkins' <i>Observations on the State the Highways</i>. Goldsmith's <i>The Traveller</i>. Garrick's <i>The Sick Monkey</i>. Garrick's <i>The Clandestine Marriage</i>. Mrs. Thrale loses first of her 12 children. Mrs. Thrale meets Johnson. Burke becomes private secretary to Prime Minister Rockingham. Hawkins contributes some notes to Johnson's edition of Shakespeare. Goldsmith's <i>Vicar of Wakefield</i>. Boswell enters bar. Boswell's mother dies. Garrick's <i>Neck or Nothing</i>. Hester Thrale's <i>The Three Warnings</i>. Burke enters House of Commons. Burke's <i>A Short Account of a Late Short Administration</i>. Boswell's <i>Dorando</i>. Garrick's <i>A Peep Behind the Curtain</i>. Goldsmith's <i>Good-Natur'd Man</i>. Boswell's <i>An Account of Corsica</i>. Reynolds first president of the Royal Academy of Art. Boswell marries. Royal Academy opens with address by Reynolds, <i>A Discourse</i>. Reynolds knighted. Burke's <i>Observations on a Late State of the Nation</i>.</p>
<p>1766 Stamp Act repealed. Declaratory Act passed. Bread riots over high price. Henry Cavendish isolates hydrogen. Rockingham replaced by Earl of Chatham (William Pitt).</p>	<p>Helps William Chambers with his Vinerian law lectures.</p>	<p>Burke receives a 300 pound pension. Hawkins' <i>Observations on the State the Highways</i>. Goldsmith's <i>The Traveller</i>. Garrick's <i>The Sick Monkey</i>. Garrick's <i>The Clandestine Marriage</i>. Mrs. Thrale loses first of her 12 children. Mrs. Thrale meets Johnson. Burke becomes private secretary to Prime Minister Rockingham. Hawkins contributes some notes to Johnson's edition of Shakespeare. Goldsmith's <i>Vicar of Wakefield</i>. Boswell enters bar. Boswell's mother dies. Garrick's <i>Neck or Nothing</i>. Hester Thrale's <i>The Three Warnings</i>. Burke enters House of Commons. Burke's <i>A Short Account of a Late Short Administration</i>. Boswell's <i>Dorando</i>. Garrick's <i>A Peep Behind the Curtain</i>. Goldsmith's <i>Good-Natur'd Man</i>. Boswell's <i>An Account of Corsica</i>. Reynolds first president of the Royal Academy of Art. Boswell marries. Royal Academy opens with address by Reynolds, <i>A Discourse</i>. Reynolds knighted. Burke's <i>Observations on a Late State of the Nation</i>.</p>
<p>1767 Duke of Grafton replaces Chatham. First iron railroad built by John Wilkinson.</p> <p>1768 Wilkes again elected to parliament. <i>Encyclopedia Britannica</i> starts publication.</p>	<p>Works with Chambers to defend the East India Company. Helps Thrale with parliamentary campaign.</p>	<p>Burke receives a 300 pound pension. Hawkins' <i>Observations on the State the Highways</i>. Goldsmith's <i>The Traveller</i>. Garrick's <i>The Sick Monkey</i>. Garrick's <i>The Clandestine Marriage</i>. Mrs. Thrale loses first of her 12 children. Mrs. Thrale meets Johnson. Burke becomes private secretary to Prime Minister Rockingham. Hawkins contributes some notes to Johnson's edition of Shakespeare. Goldsmith's <i>Vicar of Wakefield</i>. Boswell enters bar. Boswell's mother dies. Garrick's <i>Neck or Nothing</i>. Hester Thrale's <i>The Three Warnings</i>. Burke enters House of Commons. Burke's <i>A Short Account of a Late Short Administration</i>. Boswell's <i>Dorando</i>. Garrick's <i>A Peep Behind the Curtain</i>. Goldsmith's <i>Good-Natur'd Man</i>. Boswell's <i>An Account of Corsica</i>. Reynolds first president of the Royal Academy of Art. Boswell marries. Royal Academy opens with address by Reynolds, <i>A Discourse</i>. Reynolds knighted. Burke's <i>Observations on a Late State of the Nation</i>.</p>
<p>1769 Wilkes expelled from parliament. Wilkes reelected to parliament. Wilkes expelled again. Wilkes once more elected. Wilkes once more expelled and his opponent declared by parliament the winner. James Watt invents the steam engine. <i>Letters of Junius</i>. Napoleon born.</p>	<p>Writes <i>The False Alarm</i> on the Wilkes affair.</p>	<p>Burke receives a 300 pound pension. Hawkins' <i>Observations on the State the Highways</i>. Goldsmith's <i>The Traveller</i>. Garrick's <i>The Sick Monkey</i>. Garrick's <i>The Clandestine Marriage</i>. Mrs. Thrale loses first of her 12 children. Mrs. Thrale meets Johnson. Burke becomes private secretary to Prime Minister Rockingham. Hawkins contributes some notes to Johnson's edition of Shakespeare. Goldsmith's <i>Vicar of Wakefield</i>. Boswell enters bar. Boswell's mother dies. Garrick's <i>Neck or Nothing</i>. Hester Thrale's <i>The Three Warnings</i>. Burke enters House of Commons. Burke's <i>A Short Account of a Late Short Administration</i>. Boswell's <i>Dorando</i>. Garrick's <i>A Peep Behind the Curtain</i>. Goldsmith's <i>Good-Natur'd Man</i>. Boswell's <i>An Account of Corsica</i>. Reynolds first president of the Royal Academy of Art. Boswell marries. Royal Academy opens with address by Reynolds, <i>A Discourse</i>. Reynolds knighted. Burke's <i>Observations on a Late State of the Nation</i>.</p>
<p>1770 William Wordsworth born. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel born. Ludwig von Beethoven born. Lord North becomes prime minister.</p>	<p>Writes <i>The False Alarm</i> on the Wilkes affair.</p>	<p>Burke receives a 300 pound pension. Hawkins' <i>Observations on the State the Highways</i>. Goldsmith's <i>The Traveller</i>. Garrick's <i>The Sick Monkey</i>. Garrick's <i>The Clandestine Marriage</i>. Mrs. Thrale loses first of her 12 children. Mrs. Thrale meets Johnson. Burke becomes private secretary to Prime Minister Rockingham. Hawkins contributes some notes to Johnson's edition of Shakespeare. Goldsmith's <i>Vicar of Wakefield</i>. Boswell enters bar. Boswell's mother dies. Garrick's <i>Neck or Nothing</i>. Hester Thrale's <i>The Three Warnings</i>. Burke enters House of Commons. Burke's <i>A Short Account of a Late Short Administration</i>. Boswell's <i>Dorando</i>. Garrick's <i>A Peep Behind the Curtain</i>. Goldsmith's <i>Good-Natur'd Man</i>. Boswell's <i>An Account of Corsica</i>. Reynolds first president of the Royal Academy of Art. Boswell marries. Royal Academy opens with address by Reynolds, <i>A Discourse</i>. Reynolds knighted. Burke's <i>Observations on a Late State of the Nation</i>.</p>

1771 Tobias Smollett's <i>Humphrey Clinker</i> . Walter Scott born.	<i>Thoughts on Falkland's Islands</i> . Considered as possible government candidate for parliament.	Reynolds starts the Royal Academy of Arts annual dinners. Burke becomes parliamentary agent for the colony of New York. Hawkins begins publishing his multi-volumed <i>A General History of the Science and Practice of Music</i> . Garrick's <i>The Irish Widow</i> . Mrs. Thrale raises money to prevent husband's bankruptcy. Hawkins knighted. Goldsmith's <i>She Stoops to Conquer</i> presented. Garrick's <i>A Christmas Tale</i> . Reynolds given doctorate of law by Oxford.
1772 Samuel Coleridge born. Watauga Association formed. First Polish partition.		Goldsmith dies. Garrick's <i>The Meeting of the Company</i> . Burke becomes Bristol's MP.
1773 Tea Act passed. Boston Tea Party. Metternich born. Lord Chesterfield dies.	Tours Scotland with Boswell.	
1774 Quebec Act passed. Boston Port Act passed. Intolerable Acts passed. Louis XVI becomes king. Robert Southey born. Goethe's <i>The Sorrows of the Young Werther</i> .	Attacks Wilkes in <i>The Patriot</i> . Tours Wales with the Thrales. Helps with Thrales parliamentary campaign.	
1775 Armed conflict begins in the American colonies. Jane Austen born. J. M. W. Turner born.	<i>Taxation No Tyranny</i> . <i>Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland</i> Visits France with the Thrales. Awarded honorary LL. D. by Oxford.	Garrick's <i>Bon Ton</i> . Garrick's <i>May Day</i> . Garrick's <i>The Theatrical Candidates</i> . Burke urges conciliation of the of the colonies. Garrick retires. Henry Thrale depressed over venereal disease.
1776 American Declaration of Independence. Smith's <i>Enquiry into the Wealth of Nations</i> . Gibbon's <i>Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire</i> . John Constable born. St. Leger Horse Race established.	Has friendly dinner with Wilkes.	
1777 Sheridan's <i>School for Scandal</i> . Christianity introduced to Korea. Rev. William Dodd executed for forgery.	Agrees to do <i>Lives of the Poets</i> series. Writes speeches and prayers for Dodd in unsuccessful attempt to save his life.	Burke's <i>A Letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol</i> .
1778 France recognizes American Independence. France declares war on Britain. Rousseau dies. Catholic Relief Act passed. Beethoven's first public concert.		Burney meets Johnson. Burney's <i>Evellina</i> . Reynolds publishes first edition of his Academy addresses.
1779 First iron bridge built. Capt. Cook dies in the Sandwich Islands.	First of the <i>Lives of the Poets</i> published.	Garrick dies.
1780 Lord George Gordon riots.		
1781 Immanuel Kant's <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> . Uranus discovered. Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown.	Finishes publishing <i>Lives of the Poets</i> .	Henry Thrale suffers strokes and dies. Reynolds visits Flanders. Boswell's <i>Ode by Samuel Johnson to Mrs. Thrale</i> . Burney's <i>Cecilia</i> . Reynolds suffers paralysis. Burke becomes paymaster general the army. Burke loses office of paymaster general upon Rockingham's death. Boswell's <i>Letter to the People of Scotland</i> . Burke returns to office as paymaster general of the army.
1782 Lord North barely beats no confidence vote. Lord North resigns. Rockingham becomes prime minister. Rockingham dies. Shelburne becomes prime minister.		
1783 Treaty of Paris ends American Revolution. Treaty of Versailles ends war with France. C. J. Fox and Lord North form successful coalition to drive Shelburne from office. Duke of Portland prime minister. Fox-North coalition falls. William Pitt the Younger prime minister.	Suffers stroke.	
1784 Diderot dies. Painter Allan Ramsay dies.	Samuel Johnson breaks with Mrs. Thrale over her proposed remarriage. Johnson dies.	Reynolds succeeds Ramsay as painter to the King. Mrs. Thrale becomes Mrs. Gabriel Piozzi over objections of family and friends, particularly Johnson.

- 1785 Audubon born.
Cartwright invents power loom.
Thomas De Quincy born.
Thomas Love Peacock born.
Prince of Wales illegally marries Mrs. Fitzherbert.
- 1786 Beckford's *Vathek*.
Frederick the Great dies.
- 1787 Hamilton et al. *Federalist Papers*.
Paris Parlement demands the Estates General be summoned.
- 1788 George III temporarily insane.
Louis XVI summons Estates General.
Warren Hastings impeached by the House of Commons.
Byron born.
Kant's *Critique of Practical Reason*.
- 1789 Estates General declares itself the National Assembly.
Bastille stormed.
- 1790 Death of Adam Smith.
- 1791 Louis XVI arrested trying to leave France.
Death of John Wesley.
- 1792 French monarchy abolished.
Percy Shelley born.
- 1793 Louis XVI executed.
Marat murdered.
Marie Antoinette executed.
France declares war.
Robespierre starts "The Terror."
- 1794 Robespierre executed.
Danton executed.
French Directorate established.
Death of Gibbon.
- 1795 New sedition and treasonable conspiracy laws.
Warren Hastings acquitted.
Napoleon takes command of French armies.
France invades Italy.
Thomas Carlyle born.
- 1796 Death of Catherine the Great.
Coleridge's *Poems on Various Subjects*.
Southey's *Joan of Arc*.
- 1797 Troops disperse seditious meeting in London.
Horace Walpole dies.
French forces under an American commander invade Britain and quickly surrender.
Nelson wounded.
- 1798 Napoleon invades Egypt and seizes Cairo.
Nelson defeats French fleet in the Battle of the Nile.
Irish rebel with French the aid of French troops.
- 1801 William Pitt resigns as prime minister.
Addington become prime minister.
George III has another bout of insanity.
- 1809 Napoleon captures Vienna.
Peninsular War.
Royal Opera House opens in London.
- Reynolds visits Flanders again.
- Burney appointed Second Keeper of Robes to Queen Charlotte.
Boswell joins English bar.
Mrs. Piozzi's *Anecdotes of the Late Samuel Johnson*.
Hawkins' *Life of Samuel Johnson*.
- Mrs. Piozzi's *Letters to and from the Late Samuel Johnson*.
- Reynolds retires.
Mrs. Piozzi's *Observations and Reflections made in the Course of a Journey through France...*
Hawkins suffers stroke.
Hawkins dies.
Reynolds blind in one eye.
Burke's *Reflections on the French Revolution*.
Burke's *Appeal from the New Whigs to the Old Whigs*.
Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*.
Reynolds almost totally blind.
Reynolds dies.
- Burney marries.
- Mrs. Piozzi's *British Synonymy...*
Burke sums up case against Hastings in a speech lasting nine days.
Burke retires from parliament.
Burke receives 2,500 pound pension from the crown.
Burke's only son dies.
Boswell dies.
- Burke's *Letter on a Regicide Peace*.
Burney's *Camilla*.
Reynolds' estate sells contents of his studio.
Burke dies.
- Mrs. Piozzi's *Three Warnings to John Bull*.
- Mrs. Piozzi's *Retrospection*.
- Mr. Piozzi dies.

Abraham Lincoln born.	
1813 Robert Southey becomes poet laureate.	First retrospective exhibition
Battle of Vitoria.	Reynolds' paintings.
1814 Allies enter Paris.	Burney's <i>The Wanderer</i> .
Napoleon abdicates.	
British troops burn Washington.	
Treaty of Paris.	
Treaty of Ghent.	
Louis XVIII king of France.	
1821 George IV crowned king.	Mrs. Piozzi dies.
Napoleon dies.	
1832 Cholera outbreak in London.	Burney's <i>Memoirs of Doctor</i>
Greek independence.	<i>Burney</i> .
Parliamentary Reform Act passed.	
Sir Walter Scott dies.	
1840 Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert.	Burney dies.

Samuel Johnson

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**"DR. JOHNSON IN HIS TRAVELLING DRESS
as Described in Boswell's Tour"**

*From an engraving titled as above, dated 1786, and further
described as "Drawn from the Life and Engraved by T. Trotter"*