

THE GRAMMAR OF GOTHIC

APPENDIX A.

A CHRONOLOGY FOR THE LONG EIGHTEENTH ENTURY

This chronology is meant to supplement the historical survey in Chapter 1. The headings ('The Coming of Protestantism' and so forth) and the periods they cover were decided, to some extent, in an arbitrary manner. Scientific and industrial breakthroughs are marked with an asterisk (*), major Gothic novels with a cross (+).

1. The Coming of Protestantism

The Reformation gives rise to a long-enduring conflict between the Catholic and the Anglican churches. Two major currents of thought are set in motion. On the one hand, Protestantism initiates a tradition of challenging received readings of the Bible and promoting instead thoughtful reading, debate and authoritative interpretation, all of which prepares the ground for a massive bid for education and, eventually, for the birth of literary criticism from the 18th century onwards. On the other hand, the period witnesses the beginnings of 'natural philosophy' in the work of Bacon and Descartes, which will lead to the birth of modern science. Scientific research and textual criticism are of course two sides of the same coin.

1517	Martin Luther publishes his 95 theses: beginning of the Reformation in Europe.
1531	Henry VIII proclaims himself Head of the Church of England.
1534	Act of Supremacy: Parliament confirms the Anglican State-Church union.
1543	* Nicolaus Copernicus publishes <i>De revolutionibus orbium coelestium</i> .
1547	Death of Henry VIII. Son crowned Edward VI , aged 10.
1553	Death of Edward VI at age 16. His Catholic sister Mary Tudor (Mary I , 'Bloody Mary') crowned Queen of England and Ireland. Catholicism restored (1555).
1558	Mary I dies. Her sister crowned Elizabeth I . Anglican Church restored. Rise of Puritanism ('Advanced Protestantism') seeking a 'purer' Reform.
1603	Death of Elizabeth I.
1604	James Stuart, VI of Scotland is crowned James I of England . He tries to steer a middle way for the Anglican Church between Catholicism and Puritanism.
1605	Guy Fawkes' 'Gunpowder Plot' to assassinate James I and replace him with his Catholic daughter, Elizabeth Stuart, fails.
1609	Official colonisation of Catholic Ulster with Protestant English and Scots begins. * Johannes Kepler publishes <i>Astronomia Nova</i> .
1611	Publication of the English translation of the Bible (<i>King James Version</i>).
1618	The Thirty Years War begins.
1620	* Bacon publishes <i>Novum Organum</i> .
1621	<i>The Weekly Newes</i> , first periodical published in England.
1625	Death of James I. His son Charles I becomes king of England and Scotland.
1630-43	The Great Migration: massive exodus of English Puritans to New England.

- 1632 * Galileo Galilei publishes *Dialogo sopra i due massimi sistemi del mondo*
1637 * René Descartes publishes his *Discourse on Method*.

2. The Puritan Revolution

This period witnesses the consolidation of the Anglican Church and, after much strife between Crown and Parliament, the end of absolutist Monarchy. The English Civil Wars amount to the first revolution in the West against the feudal order, anticipating the American and French revolutions. The period is marked by the gradual rise of Great Britain and the British Empire (with Ulster as, de facto, its first colony, providing the plantation model that will be established in the American colonies).

- 1641 The king seeks to strengthen his absolute powers; this, and his conservative Anglican policies, are suspected of Catholic sympathies. Parliament introduces legislative measures to reduce royal powers, and identifies with the cause of advancing the Protestant Reformation. Puritans support Parliament against king.
- 1642-46 The first English Civil War. 'Cavaliers' (royalists allied to the Church Party) oppose 'Roundheads' (Parliamentarian Party allied to Puritans and Presbyterians who defend a protestant church without bishops, ruled only by the priests—*presbiters*—themselves). Charles I is defeated and imprisoned.
- 1642 A Puritan-influenced Parliament closes the London theatres (see 1660).
- 1648 Treaty of Westphalia ends the Thirty Years War.
- 1648-49 The second English Civil War.
- 1649 Execution of Charles I by Oliver Cromwell.
- 1649 The Puritan Commonwealth (a form of republic) is established.
- 1653 The Commonwealth is replaced with The Protectorate (a form of dictatorship). Cromwell becomes 'Lord Protector'. Under his rule, Ireland and Scotland are united with England. The Protestant colonisation of Catholic Ulster is completed, and begins to be extended to the rest of Ireland.
- 1660 Restoration of the Stuarts: the son of Charles I is enthroned as **Charles II**. End of the Puritan revolution.

3. The Restoration of the House of Stuart

The period marks the end of absolutist tendencies in Britain. It signals the end of Catholic (Stuart) power and the consolidation of the Anglican Church as a 'middle way' between what appeared as absolutist Catholics and radical Puritans. Struggles between Crown and Parliament at last subside as a result, and a form of parliamentary monarchy is introduced. This leads to a new political stability thanks to the rise of the two-party system (liberal *Whigs* and conservative *Tories* with Catholic sympathies), all of which paves the way for the triumph of 'natural philosophy', of the Scientific Revolution, and of mercantilism, an early form of capitalism.

- 1660 Reopening of theatres.
- 1662 * The Royal Society founded.
- 1665 The Great Plague kills 100000 in London.

- The London Gazette* begins publication (twice a week).
- 1666 The Great Fire devastates 2 thirds of London for three days.
- 1678 'Popish Plot' to murder the king and restore Catholicism is 'uncovered' by Titus Oates. As a result, Catholics are banned from both Houses of Parliament.
- 1680 'Petitioners' support an Exclusion Bill to prevent Catholic James from succeeding his brother Charles II, while 'Abhorrers' oppose it. These will become, respectively, the WHIGS (despective term for insurgent Presbyterians in Scotland) and TORIES (ib. for outlawed Roman Catholics in Ireland).
- 1685 Death of Charles II. Crowning of **James II**, who is soon feared to try to restore Catholicism (and absolutism).
- 1687 * Isaac Newton publishes *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica*.
- 1688 The Glorious Revolution: William of Orange (married to James II's daughter Mary) is offered the crown of England as **William III**. James II flees to France.
- 1689 William signs the Bill of Rights, which further curtails the power of the monarchy.
- Last execution for witchcraft in England.
- 1690 Battle of the Boyne: William defeats James, who flees to France.

4. The age of stability

Curtailement of royal powers and the political stability provided by the two-party system greatly encourage investment. Ensuing developments include the 'end of superstition' and the triumph of Rationalism, mercantile capitalism, the rise of the press and of the *public sphere* (Habermas). The agrarian, financial, scientific and industrial revolutions can now proceed largely unchecked, and will transform Britain and, eventually, Europe. This period witnesses the decline of the Spanish Empire and the rise of the British Empire.

- 1689 Last execution for witchcraft in England.
- 1692-1693 Salem witch trials (Mass.). After hysterical fits on the part of some young girls, a panic fear leads to a witch-hunt; denunciations mount; nearly 150 people are arrested, 31 tried, 20 executed; two die in jail. These are the last deaths for witchcraft in the North-American colonies (see 1722).
- 1690s The 'Agrarian Revolution' begins.
- 1693 'Financial Revolution': beginning of the National Debt.
- 1694 Establishment of the Bank of England.
- 1695 'The Great Recoinage': debased or clipped silver coins are replaced and the alloy system modified.
- The Bank of England begins issuing banknotes on a permanent basis.
- 1696 First Jacobite Rebellion (by followers of James Stuart) fails (see 1715, 1745).
- 1698 * Thomas Savery invents the 'fire engine' pump.
- 1702 *The Daily Courant*, first English daily periodical.
- 1702 Death of William III. James II's daughter **Anne** is crowned queen.
- War of the Spanish Succession ('Queen Anne's War' to the colonists). Charles II of Spain names Philip of Anjou as his successor. Fearing a Spanish-French alliance, England, supported by the Netherlands and most German states, declares war on France.
- 1704 *The Boston News Letter*, first American newspaper

1707	Act of Union of England and Scotland.
1708	* Thomas Newcomen improves Savery's steam engine (see 1698).
1709	* Abraham Darby proposes a new smelting method.
1709	First Copyright Act.
1709-11	Richard Steele edits <i>The Tatler</i> .
1711	Alexander Pope publishes <i>Essay on Criticism</i> .
1711-12	Joseph Addison and Richard Steele edit <i>The Spectator</i> .
1713	Treaty of Utrecht ends War of the Spanish Succession. Britain gains Gibraltar, Minorca, Nova Scotia, Hudson Bay, and Newfoundland. Spain loses all its European territories and, so, its connections with the Habsburg empire.
1714	Death of Queen Anne, without succession.

5. The Age of Sensibility

The end of Stuart aspirations to the crown contributes to the growing stability of the kingdom and the consolidation of the British Empire. This is an age of unchecked optimism in the possibility of improvement on both the individual and the social levels. The words 'modern', 'system', 'progress' and 'liberty' acquire their modern sense. Museums, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, academies and the press help consolidate the public sphere. Simultaneously, the drive towards Rationalism finds a countercheck in the emotionalism of new religious movements, an aesthetics of emotion and a new type of poetry (the 'Graveyard School'), the birth of the English novel, the rise of the novel of sensibility. The rediscovery of folklore (Percy) looks back to a past now perceived with both fear and nostalgia. This is the climate that paves the ground for Romanticism.

1714	George of Hanover (great grandson of James I) is crowned George I .
1715	Second Jacobite rebellion ('the Fifteen') defeated. Tories, who supported it, fall from power for 45 years.
1719	Daniel Defoe publishes <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> .
1720-1721	Boylston introduces smallpox inoculation in Boston.
1722	Last execution for witchcraft in the English-speaking world (Scotland).
1727	Death of George I. His son succeeds him as George II . Jonathan Swift publishes <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> .
1728	Chambers' <i>Cyclopaedia</i> .
1733	* John Kay invents the flying shuttle, revolutionising the craft of weaving.
1734-1740	The Great Awakening: a surge of religious fervour kindled by Jonathan Edwards in the American colonies.
1735	The Witchcraft Act penalises anyone who accuses others of witchcraft.
1738	The Great Revival (Methodism) initiated by John Wesley and George Whitefield in Britain.
1740	Samuel Richardson publishes <i>Pamela</i> .
1741	Benjamin Franklin begins editing the <i>General Magazine</i> , first such venture in America.
1742-47	Edward Young publishes <i>The Complaint, or Night Thoughts</i>
1743	James Blair publishes <i>The Grave</i>

- 1745 Third Jacobite rebellion ('the Forty-Five'; see 1696, 1715): the Young Pretender (Bonnie Prince Charlie) is defeated at the battle of Culloden in 1746. End of Stuart intrigues.
- 1748 Tobias Smollett publishes *The Adventures of Roderick Random*
- 1749 Henry Fielding publishes *The History of Tom Jones*
- 1751 Thomas Gray publishes his poem *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*
- 1753 Founding of the British Museum
- 1754 Dr. Samuel Johnson publishes his *Dictionary of the English Language*, basis for *The Oxford English Dictionary*
- 1756 Edmund Burke publishes *Enquiry Concerning our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful*.
- 1756-63 Seven Years' War against France. Britain captures Quebec.
- 1760 Death of George II. Grandson **George III**.
- 1760-67 Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*.
- 1762 James Macpherson publishes *Fingal, An Ancient Epic Poem*, the first of the Ossian poems.
- 1763 First Treaty of Paris ends Seven Years' War.

6. The Age of Revolutions

The rise of Gothic literature consolidates an aesthetics of fragmentation and loss. Triumph of the Industrial Revolution. The expansion of the British Empire is checked by the independence of the Thirteen Colonies in America, and the American Revolution continues a process initiated with the English Civil Wars and is followed by the French Revolution. All these events herald the coming of another revolutionary movement, Romanticism.

- 1764 + Walpole publishes *The Castle of Otranto*, first Gothic novel.
Eight-year old Mozart visits England for a year.
- 1765 The Stamp Act imposes unwanted taxation on American colonists.
* James Watt perfects Thomas Newcomen's steam engine (see 1698, 1708).
Bishop Percy publishes his *Reliques of English Poetry*.
- 1766 * James Hargreaves invents the spinning jenny.
- 1767 Herder publishes *Fragmente über die neuere deutsche Literatur*.
- 1768 The Royal Academy of Arts founded.
The Encyclopaedia Britannica founded.
- 1769 * James Watt's improved steam engine patented.
- 1769 * Richard Arkwright invents a water-powered frame for spinning.
- 1771 Henry Mackenzie publishes *The Man of Feeling*.
Benjamin Franklin begins his *Autobiography*.
- 1773 Phillis Wheatley publishes *Poems on Various Subjects*.
+ Clara Reeve publishes the second Gothic novel, *The Old English Baron* (originally titled *The Champion of Virtue*).
- 1774 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe publishes *The Misadventures of Young Werther*.
- 1775-83 American War of Independence.
- 1776 Thomas Paine publishes *Common Sense* in Philadelphia.
The *Declaration of Independence* is adopted by Congress (July 4th).
- 1777 Thomas Chatterton's *Poems* (posthumous).

- 1778-79 Johann Gottfried Herder publishes *Folk Songs* (second ed. of 1807 titled *The Voices of Peoples in Songs*).
- 1779 * Samuel Crompton invents the spinning 'mule'.
- 1780 'Gordon Riots' (anti-Catholic) in London.
- 1781 Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller's *Die Räuber*.
Immanuel Kant's *Kritik der reinen Vernunft*.
- 1781-88 Jean Jacques Rousseau's *Confessions*.
- 1782 Jean de Crevecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer*.
Henri Fuseli exhibits *The Nightmare* at the Royal Academy.
- 1783 Treaty of Versailles ends the colonial war: independence granted to the United States of America.
William Blake publishes *Poetical Sketches*.
- 1783-4 * Henry Cort invents an improved method for refining iron.
- 1784 * Edmund Cartwright invents the power loom.
- 1785 Founding of *The Times*.
William Cowper publishes *The Task*.
- 1786 Robert Burns publishes *Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*.
+ William Beckford publishes *Vathek*.
- 1789 French Revolution starts: fall of the Bastille.
William Blake publishes *Songs of Innocence*.
- 1789 *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African* is published in London (repr. in New York 1791).
- 1791 The first part of Franklin's *Autobiography* is published (in French).
- 1792 First Republic begins in France.
Mary Wolstonecraft publishes *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.
- 1793 * Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin.
Louis XVI of France is executed.
War between France and Britain.
- 1794 + William Godwin publishes *Caleb Williams*.
William Blake publishes *Songs of Experience*.
+ Ann Radcliffe publishes *The Mysteries of Udolpho*.
- 1795 + M. G. Lewis publishes *The Monk*.
- 1797 + Ann Radcliffe publishes *The Italian*.
- 1798 First edition of Wordsworth and Coleridge's *Lyrical Ballads*.

7. The Age of Romanticism

The success of Gothic paves the way for the rise of Romanticism. The Napoleonic Wars transform Europe, ushering in the decline of the Gothic-Romantic spirit and the coming of Victorian culture.

- 1799 Francisco Goya paints *Los Caprichos*.
- 1801 Political union of Ireland with England.
- 1804 Napoleon crowns himself emperor.
- 1805 Battle of Trafalgar.
- 1807 The slave trade is abolished in Britain.
- 1813 Jane Austen publishes *Pride and Prejudice*.
- 1814 * Stephenson patents his first locomotive.
- 1815 Battle of Waterloo.

- 1818 + Mary Shelley publishes *Frankenstein*.
1820 George III dies, his son becomes **George IV**.
+ Charles Maturin's *Melmoth the Wanderer*.
1824 + James Hogg's *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*.
1830 George IV dies, his brother becomes **William IV**.
1821 Death of John Keats.
1822 Death of Percy B. Shelley.
1824 Death of Lord Byron.
1832 Death of Walter Scott.
End of Romanticism in England often located around 1830.
1837 William IV dies childless. His niece becomes **Queen Victoria**.

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