

Elizabethan Poetry, Prose and **D**r**a**ma

From *An Outline of English Literature*

Presented by

Assist Prof. Dr. Korde R.C.

Kalikadevi Arts, Commerce and
Science College Shirur(kasar) Tq.
Shirur (ka) Dist. Beed

Sonnet

- The Great Elizabethan literary age is not considered as beginning until 1579. (p.23)
- Queen Elizabeth ruled from 1558 to 1603.
- Before 1579, Sir Thomas Wyatt and the Earl of Surrey who wrote sonnets, which they learned to do from the Italians
- Surrey's work is important because he wrote the first blank verse in English
- Wyatt mainly followed the Italian poet Petrarch
 - The 14 lines rhyme abbaabba+2 or 3 rhymes in the last six lines (Shakespeare sonnets rhyme ababcdcdefefgg).

Sonnets of Shakespeare

- Written between 1593-1600, printed in 1609
- For whom or to whom did he write them?
 - Addressed to William Herbert (the Earl of Pembroke), the Earl of Southampton
 - A girl, a rival poet, a dark-eyes beauty (p.24)
 - Example on p.25 “Who will believe my verse in time to come”



Edmund Spenser



- *The Shepherd's Calendar* (1579) – p.25
- A poem in 12 books, one for each month of the year
- Spenser experiments in meter and form
- The best pastorals written in English
- Pastoral: concerning the life of shepherds (usually shepherds in an imaginary Golden Age living a simple and contented life in the open air)
- Other subjects: praise of Queen Elizabeth, discussion about religion, the sad death of a girl

The Shepherd's Calendar (1579)

October.



Ægloga decima.

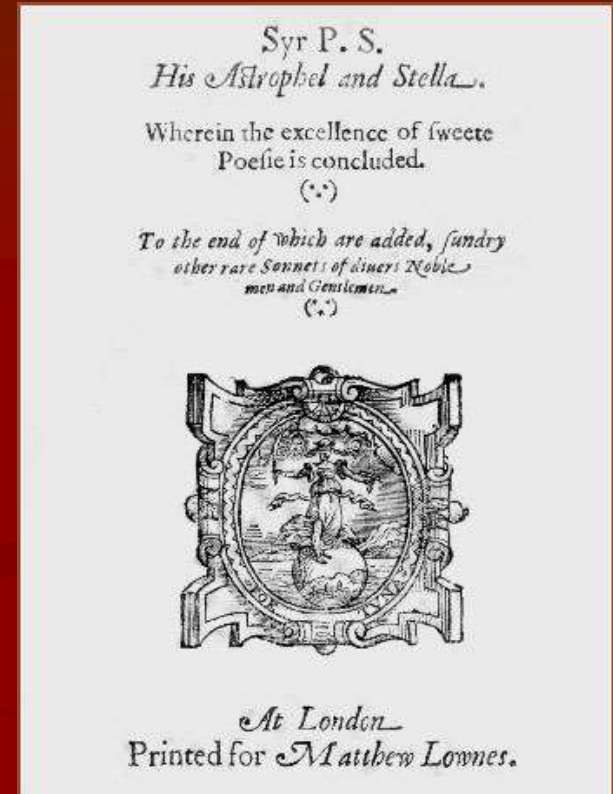
Edmund Spenser

- *The Faerie Queene* (1589-96)
- “Queene” is either Queen Elizabeth or Glory as a person; 12 knights represent different virtues
- “Epithalamion” (1595) – a marriage song



Sir Philip Sidney

- *Astrophel and Stella* (1591)
- A true Elizabethan gentleman of many activities— courtier, statesman, poet, soldier (p.27)



John Donne

- Metaphysical Poets (p.28)
- Wrote verse less beautiful and less musical
- Contained tricks of style and unusual images
- Mixed strong feeling with reason



Francis Bacon

- First appeared in 1597, then with additions in 1612 and 1625 (p.31)
- Earlier essays are short, sharp, effective
- Some of the best known saying in English come from his book *Essays*



Elizabethan Drama

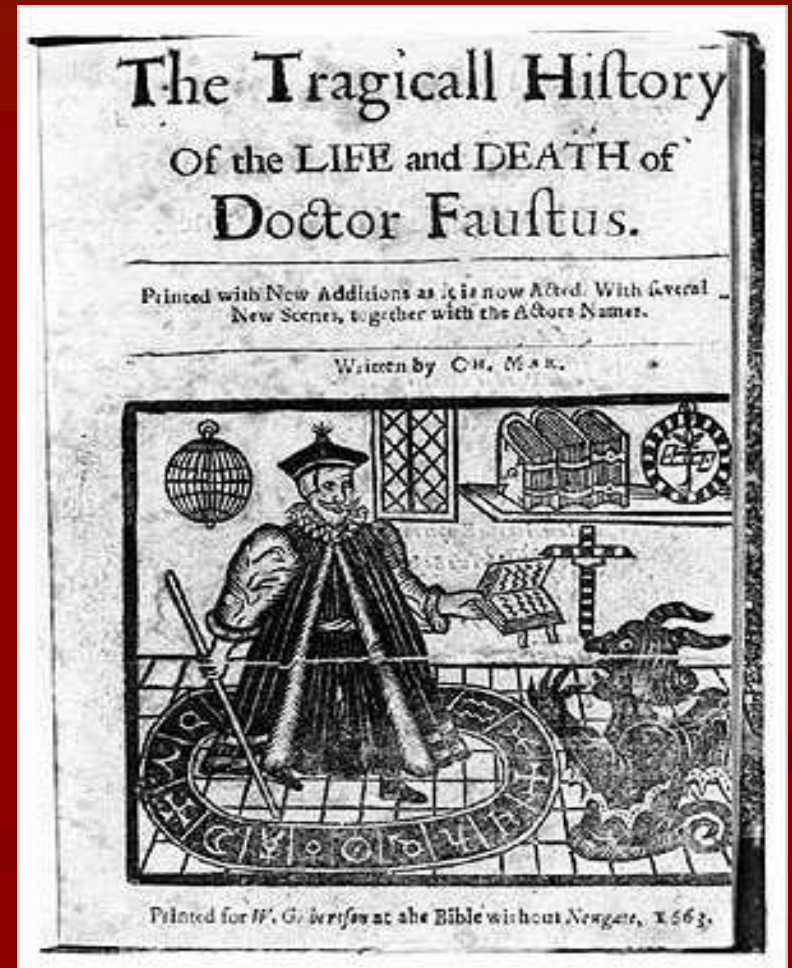
- Comedies are better than tragedies (p.35)
- First English comedy: *Ralph Roister Doister* (1553) by Nicholas Udall
 - Rough verse
 - Humor that can be found among country people
- First English tragedy: *Gorboduc*, in blank verse, performed in 1564 (p.36)
- *The Spanish Tragedy* by Thomas Kyd, an example of the tragedy of blood and death

Christopher Marlowe

- The first great dramatist
- *Dr. Faustus* (p.39)
 1. Acted in 1588
 2. A man named Faustus who sold his soul to the devil so as to have power and riches in this life



1620 edition of
Marlowe's *The
Tragical History of
Dr Faustus*



- Dr. Faustus in his study room. Sketching by Rembrandt



1974 Sketched at Edinburgh Festival. Ian McKellen (Dr. Faustus with Bad and Good Angels



William Shakespeare

- Born and educated at Stratford-on-Avon (p.40-49)
- Worked in a theatre in London
- An actor and dramatist by 1592
- Early works: historical plays
- *Romeo and Juliet* (1594-5) – the Shakespeare's first great tragedy

Shakespeare's Comedies

- A Comedy of Errors (1592-3?)
- The Taming of the Shrew
- The Two Gentlemen of Verona
- Love's Labour's Lost
- A Midsummer Night's Dream (1595-6) – shows Shakespeare's growing power in comedy
- The Merchant of Venice (1596-7) – Shylock
- As you Like It (1599?)
- Much Ado About Nothing (1598-9)
- Twelfth Nights (1600?) – the perfection of English comedy

Shakespeare's Tragedies

- Hamlet (1600-1)
- King Lear (1606)
- Macbeth (1605-6)
- Othello (1604-5)
- The Tempest (1611-12) – last complete play

Ben Johnson

- *Every Man in His Humor* (1598) – his best known play, “humor” means a quality made into a person, a special foolishness or a strong feeling in a man (p.49)
- His characters are walking humors and not really human
- *Sejanus* – a tragedy, played at the Globe Theatre in 1603 by Shakespeare’s company
- *Volpone the Fox* – a comedy, also played at the Globe (p.50)

Ben Johnson

- Believed in the unities of place, time and action (p.50)
- The scenes of a play need to be in one place
- The events of a play shouldn't spread over more than 24 hours
- Nothing outside the main story should be allowed into the play

- His other plays:
 1. Everyman Out of His Humor (1599)
 2. Epicoene, The Silent Woman (1609)
 3. The Alchemist (1610)
 4. Bartholomew Fair (1614)

THANK YOU