John Dryden

- Born in 1631
- Famous Neoclassical critic
- First person to use the word criticism in print.
- Called the father of English criticism
- "Essay of Dramatic Poesy"- 'modern English prose begins here' by Samuel Johnson
- Demised in 1700
- Dryden has added a new dimension to criticism by his method of comparative analysis.
- Subject taken from Sidney's Defense of poesy.

ESSAY OF DRAMATIC POESY

- Published in 1668
- In the form of dialogue
- The Essay was probably written during the plague year of 1666, and first published in 1668.
- Four characters Crites, Lisideus, Eugenius and Neander.
- These four friends take a barge on the Thames and engage in conversation. [Form in Republic by Plato]
- They start with a light-hearted discussion of poems by Cleveland and Wither.
- Crites- Sir Robert Howard
- Lisideius Sir Charles Sedley
- Eugenius -Lord Buckhurst
- Neander Dryden himself.
- It was that memorable day, in the first Summer of the late War, when our Navy engaged the Dutch: a day wherein the two most mighty and best appointed Fleets which any age had ever seen, disputed the command of the greater half of the Globe, the commerce of Nations,
- Having been compelled to leave London on account of plague .theatres had been closed.

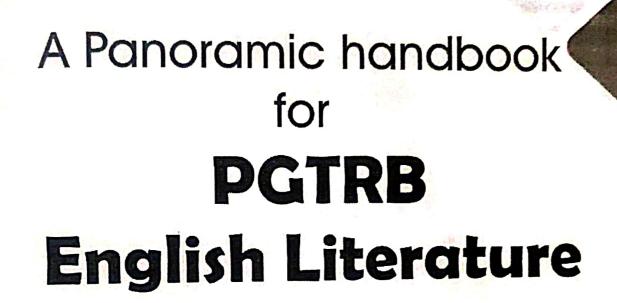
- Dedicated to Charles lord Bucharest
- Purpose He write this for vindicating the honor of our English writers blamed that French writers are best.
- 3rd june 1665 English fleet defeated powerful Dutch.
- The four topics are:
- (1) Are the modern poets as good as the ancients?
- (2) Are the contemporaries as good as the Elizabethans?
- (3) Are the English as good as the French?
- (4) Is rhyme better than blank verse for drama?
- Crites stands for ancient model(Greek and Roman)
- Euginius stands for modern drama
- Lisideius stands for French drama
- Neander stands for English drama

ANCIENTS VS MODERNS

- Definition of Drama Lisideius suggests that it is "a just and lively Image of Humane Nature."
- Crites:
- 1. Ancients laid principles and rules. Modern simply imitates ancients. Ancients are acknowledged models for moderns.
- 2. Unity of Time, place and action followed strictly by Ancients.
- Eugenius
- 1.moderns excelled them. Not blindly followed them.
- 2. Ancient critics Horace and Aristotle didn't follow unity of place.
- 3. No poetic Justice in Greek drama
- 4. Many varieties in Modern Drama

FRENCH VS ENGLISH

- Lisidius
- 1. English drama is worst. Not followed three unities properly
- 2.criticise Ben Jonson as he didn't follow three unities in Sejanus.
- 3. prefer RHYME in Drama.
- 4. French Dramatist Corneille is best . English dramatists no one is



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