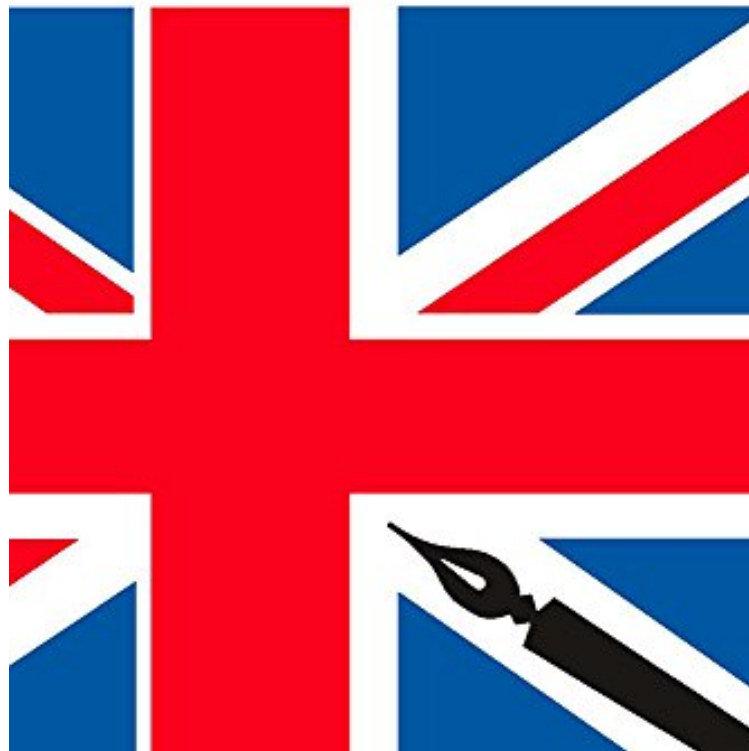


## British Dramatists from Dryden to Sheridan

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### British Dramatists from Dryden to Sheridan

*Edited by George H. Nettleton and Arthur E. Case  
Revised by George Winchester Stone, Jr.*



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**From Brand: Southern Illinois University Press : British Dramatists from Dryden to Sheridan** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised British Dramatists from Dryden to Sheridan:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Get it for your library! By Bruce Looking for British drama from Restoration through the Sentimentalism of the 18th century? This is an excellent book to have in your library, or even your course if you can find enough of them. It has in one book more plays than any other book for the periods it covers. Whereas it doesn't have Behn, it has plenty of other long winded plays of the periods. One book verses half a

dozen others to get the same collection. Plus, the brief introductions are excellent. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Past its prime By C. Loar Instructors considering this text for adoption should be aware that, despite the virtues Professor Kendall notes, it is quite long in the tooth. The most significant problem is with text selection; this volume does not contain a single syllable written by major playwrights like Aphra Behn or Susanna Centlivre. The text also looks dated; this is essentially a facsimile reproduction of a text from the early twentieth century, and while the typeface is readable, it is rather ugly. There are a few short essays providing backgrounds from theater history, but these are brief and, unfortunately, are not illustrated. Anthology options for this period are limited, but Broadview provides a more up-to-date selection of plays, and Norton's collection of Restoration comedies has more useful contextual material. 9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Nettleton rules! By Gillian M.

Kendall Desperation can be the source of wisdom. I've known for a year that this fall I'll be teaching restoration and 18th century drama. Worse, I volunteered to do so. Worse yet, as of yesterday I had only 7 weeks left in which to pick a text of plays. And absolutely worst of all, while trying to look up restoration and 18th century texts on the Web, I found my own course staring me in the face: "English 232, Smith College, Gillian Kendall". Yikes! It was definitely time to find a text. Nettleton saved me. I had been about to order a completely new edition of the plays (sample copy graciously sent to me by the publisher), albeit the edition was in many ways, well, let's say "not quite right for the course". Then I went to the library. Despite the recommendation of a friend -- a renowned 18th century expert -- I had been suspicious of Nettleton. The copyright on the edition I looked at was 17 years before I was born (sorry about the ageism, Mr. Nettleton). But the volume has everything. Lovely grandiose heroic drama (but not too much of it); Dryden's adaptation of Shakespeare's \*Antony and Cleopatra\*; five classic comedies of manners (the backbone of restoration drama), and a pleasant smorgasbord of the best of the 18th century. I have a text. My students have a text. Life is good.

Representative selections from Restoration and eighteenth-century drama, comedy, satire, tragedy, and farce are prefaced by descriptions of the theaters, acting styles, methods of play production, and audiences.

British Dramatists from Dryden to Sheridan first appeared in 1939 as the culminating work of two well-known scholars of an earlier generation, George H. Nettleton of Yale and Arthur E. Case of Northwestern. The twenty-four plays that it contained made it more inclusive than any rival anthology, just as the painstaking care with which these texts were presented made it more reliable. . . . The reader now has before him Nettleton, Case, and Stone, with the familiar twenty-four plays, but with a new preliminary essay describing the theatres, methods of play production, acting styles, and audiences of the Restoration and eighteenth century; rewritten introductions and headnotes taking full notice of recent scholarship and criticism; and a classified and annotated bibliography. From Gordon Rays Preface to the Second Edition.