

John Milton 1608-1674

- 1608 John Milton was born on Bread Street, London, on 9 December 1608, as the son of the scrivener [John Milton](#) and his wife Sarah Jeffrey.
- 1621 St Paul's School, founder John Colet(studied in Medicean Florence)
Classical studies, Greek, Latin, New Test, OT,
- 1625 Christ College, Cambridge ("Our Lady of Christ")
handsome "erect with beautifully proportioned body"
- 1632 graduates with MA, comes home to country house Buckinghamshire
where father indulges more study,
Milton write **Comus** (play)
works as tutor.
- 1638-39 travels on the Continent, more learning. Paris, Florence, Rome
In Florence visits Gallileo in his Arcetri villa (house arrest)
Milton impressed by dangers to free thought in Galileo case.
- 1639 news of worsening situation at home, should come home.
returns to London.
writes **On Education**.
- 1640 April-May, Short Parliament.
- 1641 Long Parliament. Civil War sides forming up.
- 1641 Milton writes his **On Prelacy**, attacking Arch William Laud and bishops.
- 1642 Milton marries Mary Powell from Royalist family. They hate him.
Mary goes home to see her family and gets trapped on the other side of the war lines for several years.
- 1643 Milton writes his radical pamphlet recommending **On Divorce**.
Mary finally came home and satyed with him and died as his wife.
- 1643 Parliament legislates in favor of requiring license for printing.
Milton explodes.
- 1644 **Areopagitica** attacking his allies in Parliament
attacks restraints on printing, advocates a totally free press. (invigorates thought)
(his book one of 3 or 4 greatest defense of free press ever).
- 1649 Jan: Execution of King Charles I.
Feb: Milton pub **The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates** defending the execution.
This put his name at the top of the list of the hated pro-parliament people when Charles II returns in 1660.
His mother the ever-forgiving Henrietta wants them all executed.
- 1652 Milton goes completely blind. From now on all writing has to be dictated.
Wife Mary Powell dies. and daughter dies.
- 1656 Milton remarried to Katherine Woodcock. she died in 1658 and her child.
- 1663 remarried again to Elizabeth Minshual. Happy marriage. Helps with writing.
- 1660 Restoration. Milton has to run into hiding.
Milton arrested, imprisoned. friends save. (Andrew Marvell MP)
- 1666 Great fire of London.
- 1667 Paradise Lost. First printing (2000) sells out. He makes small profit.
- 1674 Nov 8, age 65, Milton died, buried next to father in church Cheapside, London.