

Congreve as the Restoration Dramatist

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Dr. Vishwadevi Bhatnagar
Asso. Professor
Dept. of Engl., RMC, Gwalior

Congreve is the representative Restoration dramatist. The features of restoration comedy get reflected in his drama *The Way of the World*. He appeared on the stage when restoration drama was on the wane. It clearly indicates the although restoration drama died out but the aftershocks of which were still alive in the mindset of people, forcing Congreve to practice this art form with full vigour and grandeur.

The restoration dramatists inherited the features of French drama which saw its hey day in the dramas of Moliere who crave more for polish, refinement, system harmony and severity within the framework of drama which helped it acquire a distinct look.

Following the restoration of Charles II to the throne of England French drama was introduced to England. The

full flowering of which is noticed in the drama of Congreve *The Way of the World*. The message conveyed through the drama is itself evident from its title *The Characters*. Characters are waiting for the changes in the social structure with created wealth which is reflected in their activities. 2. This drama plot has been forced to the background and characters and their mannerisms acquire a centre-stage. Congreve has created immortal characters like Mirabell and Millamant who use polished language and beautifully carved out expressions which give an added charm and grandeur to this drama.