

Comedy of Manners

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Comedy of Manners is a form of drama which gained currency during the restoration period which falls between 1660 and 1700 following the restoration of Charles II to the throne of England. He was deeply influenced by French cultural and manners and carried out the ideals practised in French court on his way back home. He wanted to set England free from conventional ideology and provided an opportunity to the people to breathe fresh air which was blowing with great speed in France. With the restoration of Charles II to the throne of England major changes were noticed in the mood and temperament of English society. Theatres were reopened with more close during the previous puritan regime which feared the immoral ideas might be propagated through drama and a huge

number of people might be affected in case they continue to wash. drama.

The best practitioners of comedy of manners were chiefly confined to the activities happening in and around the English court which figure prominently in their dramas. The Court of England craved more for polish, refinement, precision and clarity which the restoration dramatists inherited. Besides this, there is a growing proximity with the urban culture in the comedy of manners because cities were the seat of culture where innovations were made at regular intervals which caught sight of the attention of the practitioners of the comedy of manners. They laid more emphasis on external external beautification in their dramas. They deliberated preferred those elements which enable English drama to acquire a distinct look. Prominent among the practitioners of ~~drama~~ ^{comedy of manners} were Eliza, Wycherley, Vanbrugh, Farquhar and Congreve.