

RENAISSANCE WRITERS

- Literature flourished during the Renaissance
- greatly attributed to Johannes Gutenberg
 - In 1455, Gutenberg printed the first book produced by using moveable type
 - *"Gutenberg Bible"*



Magnum Opus

DANTE (1265)

- **“The Divine Comedy”**
- **Soul’s progression to salvation**

PETRARCH (1304)

- **1st humanist**
- **Vernacular**
- **Laura = Muse**

CHAUCER (1343)

- **“The Canterbury Tales”**
- **Collection of tales about English society**

Erasmus



“Christian Humanist”

1466-1536

Vernacular form of the Bible

“I disagree very much with those who are unwilling that Holy Scripture, translated into the vernacular, be read by the uneducated . . . As if the strength of the Christian religion consisted in the ignorance of it”

“In Praise of Folly”

Used humor to show the immoral and ignorant behavior of people, including the clergy. He felt people would be open minded and be kind to others.

Niccolò Machiavelli

1469-1527



"The Prince"

Machiavelli believed:

"One can make this generalization about men: they are ungrateful, fickle, liars, and deceivers, they shun danger and are greedy for profit"

Machiavelli observed city-state rulers of his day and produced guidelines for the acquisition and maintenance of power by absolute rule.

He felt that a ruler should be willing to do anything to maintain control without worrying about conscience.

Machiavelli: The Prince

- Ruler keeps power by any means necessary
- Must master the "art of war"
- Better for a ruler to be feared than to be loved
- Be good when possible, and evil when necessary
- Ruler should be quick and decisive in decision making
- "THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS"

CASTIGLIONE



1478-1529

“The Book of the Courtier”

describes manners, skills, learning, and virtues a member of the court should have

“Ideal Man” – athletic, good at games ,but not a gambler, plays musical instruments, reads literature and history, and is not arrogant

“Ideal Woman” – graceful, kind, active but reserved, beautiful - “for outer beauty is the true sign of inner goodness.”

Sir Thomas More



English Humanist

1478-1535

"Utopia"

A book about a perfect society

Believed men and women live in harmony. No private property, no one is lazy, all people are educated and the justice system is used to end crime instead of executing criminals.

-New Harmony, IN (George Rapp)

SHAKESPEARE

1564-1616

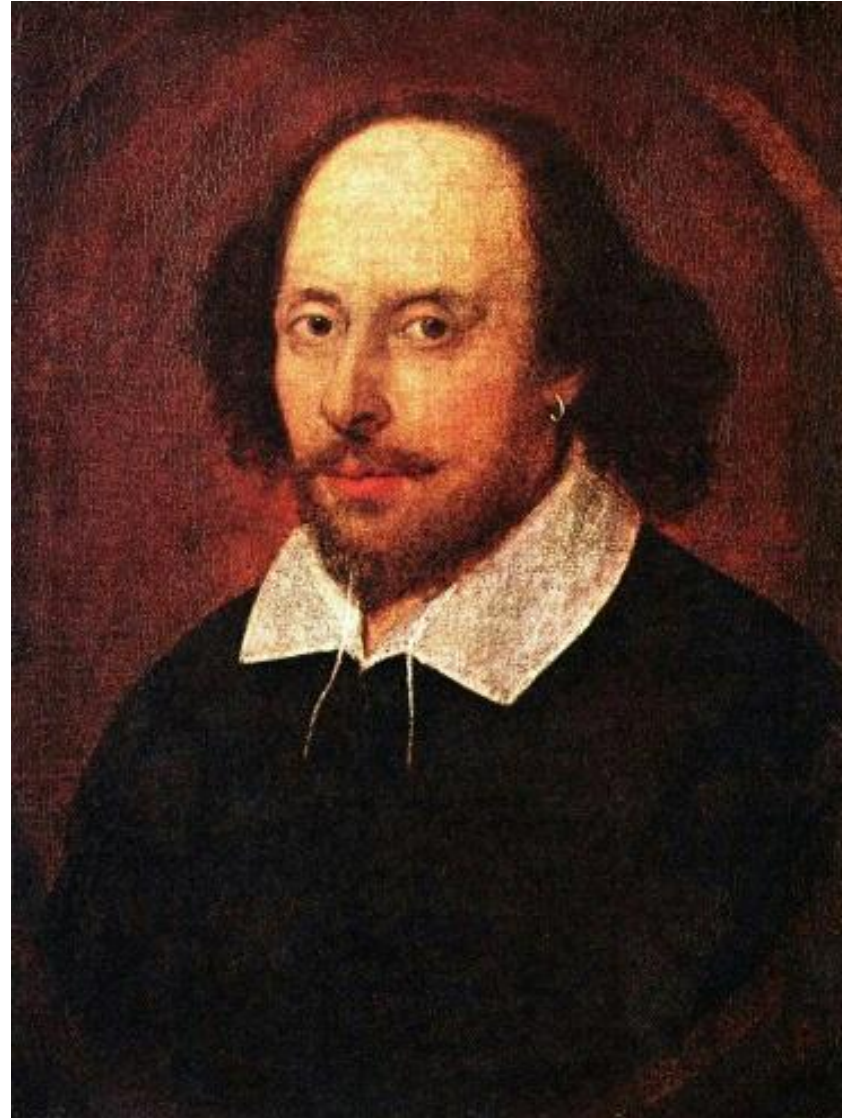
Greatest writer of Renaissance

37 plays

Globe Theater

Ben Jonson (fellow playwright)

"...Shakespeare was not of an age, but for all time."



JOHN MILTON

1608-1674

Christian Humanist

“Paradise Lost”

