

Puritan Writing: Style/Genres

Puritan Writing Styles

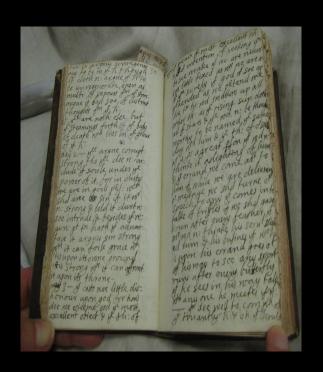
Plain Style – Puritans believed adorning writing with figurative language was "sinful" unless used for religious purposes. They believed figurative language could cause the mind to be imaginative, which might make the reader prey for the Devil.

Archaic Language – Puritans attempted to mimic language found in old translations of the Old Testament. Words like "whilst," "betook," and "betimes" were actually less modern than other writings of the time.

Allusive – Puritan writings were filled with allusions (or references) to the Bible



Puritan Writing Genres



Chronicles and histories – the Puritans kept detailed records of the daily happenings of their lives and communities – nonfiction writing was seen as recording the workings of God

Journals and diaries – Every good Puritan kept a journal in which (s)he recorded their spiritual reflections and contemplations of whether they were one of the Elect

Some poetry – Although Puritans did write poetry (secretly, for the most part) about personal life experiences, it was considered sinful to write poetry unless the theme was religious

Puritan Writing Genres

Sermons – Puritans loved going to sermons. They would, at times, listen to two 2-3 hour sermons a day on Sunday, and during the week would often travel to neighboring towns to hear additional sermons. Sermons were essentially their form of entertainment.

No Stories – as imagination was considered sinful, novels and short stories were not developed until the late 1700s.

