

## The Age of Queen Anne: Coffee Houses in England: Periodical Essays (1702 – 1714)

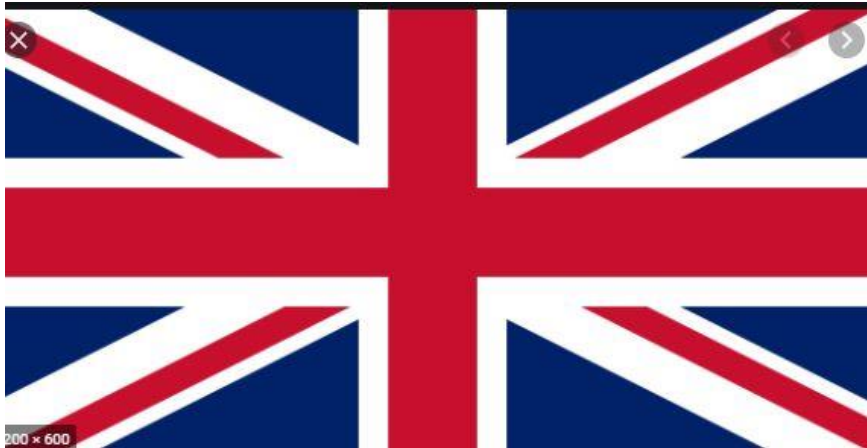
### Introduction:

Queen Anne was the second daughter of James II. She became the queen of England, after the death of her brother-in-law William of Orange.

### Anne as a ruler:

Queen Anne's greatest achievement was the Union of England and Scotland. The Act of Union (1707) passed by the English Parliament was accepted by the Scottish parliament. England and Scotland were united because of this Act and was called Great Britain.

A national Flag called the **Union Jack** was introduced.



Queen Anne's age was quite peaceful for the people. In the reign of Queen Anne, hundreds of Charity schools were founded.

### Coffee Houses in England



### Coffee Houses:

There were more than 500 coffee-houses in London in the time of Queen Anne. These coffee houses were an essential part of the social life of the people of London like today's tea

shops in villages. The coffee houses were the centres of fashionable and intellectual life. Many people visited these coffee houses not only to have a drink, but also to discuss political and literary issues. Even great writers like Dr. Johnson and Dryden used to visit these coffee houses. There were different coffee houses based on the group of people who visited there.

**1. Will's Coffee Houses:** This coffee house was the favourite one of John Dryden. He used to sit near the fireside and discuss matters related to literature including Milton's paradise Lost.

**2. The Button's Coffee house:** This coffee house was a rival to Will's Coffee house. This was visited by literary people like Addison. Steele and Pope etc.

**3. Politician's Coffee Houses:** People of different political parties visited different coffee houses. **Tories** went to **Cowa Tree Chocolate House** and **Whigs** went to **St. James' Coffee** house. Political issues were discussed much vehemently in these coffee houses.

**4. Doctor's and Clergy's Coffee houses:** Different Professionals visited different coffee houses with their group. Doctors – Garraway's Coffee House. Dr. John Radcliffe, the most famous doctor of the time used to visit this coffee house. Many of his patients also followed him to this coffee house to get his advice. Clergy men (religious people related to church) had their coffee houses. Merchants (Jews) had their own coffee houses. Catholics too had a coffee house to conduct a meeting among them.

**Conclusion:** Thus, Coffee houses served different people in different ways during the time of Queen Anne. The coffee houses remained closed for two times. First time it was closed, when Thomas Babington, Lord Macaulay (the secretary of England), popularly known as Danby, considered that these coffee houses spread rumours. After a short period, the coffee houses started functioning. But, the second time it was closed, when there was French Revolution. It was feared that if the people gathered in lot numbers in Coffee houses, they would also follow doing the same as **French Revolution**. So, the coffee houses were closed during the Revolution.

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