

## **Romantic Age: A Revolt against the Classical Revival**

Songs of revolt became visible as early as 1726, when James Thomson published the first part of “The Seasons”

“The Castle of Indolence”, which followed later, he revived the Spenserian stanza after an interval of nearly two centuries

Collins and Thomas Gray continued the movement by reviving of ode and elegy. “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” by Thomas Gray

Goldsmith and Burns contributed greatly to the movement by treating the scenes from humble rustic life.

Within Cowper, Crabbe and Blake who were the “transition poets” contributed towards the birth of new movement.

In 1798 the publication of the “Lyrical Ballads” of Wordsworth and Coleridge marks the real beginning of the movement and it was remarkable work in Eng lit.

Romanticism was a revolt against the authority, tradition and convention of classical age. Classism kept too close to the beaten track but romanticism struck out a in a bewildering number of directions.

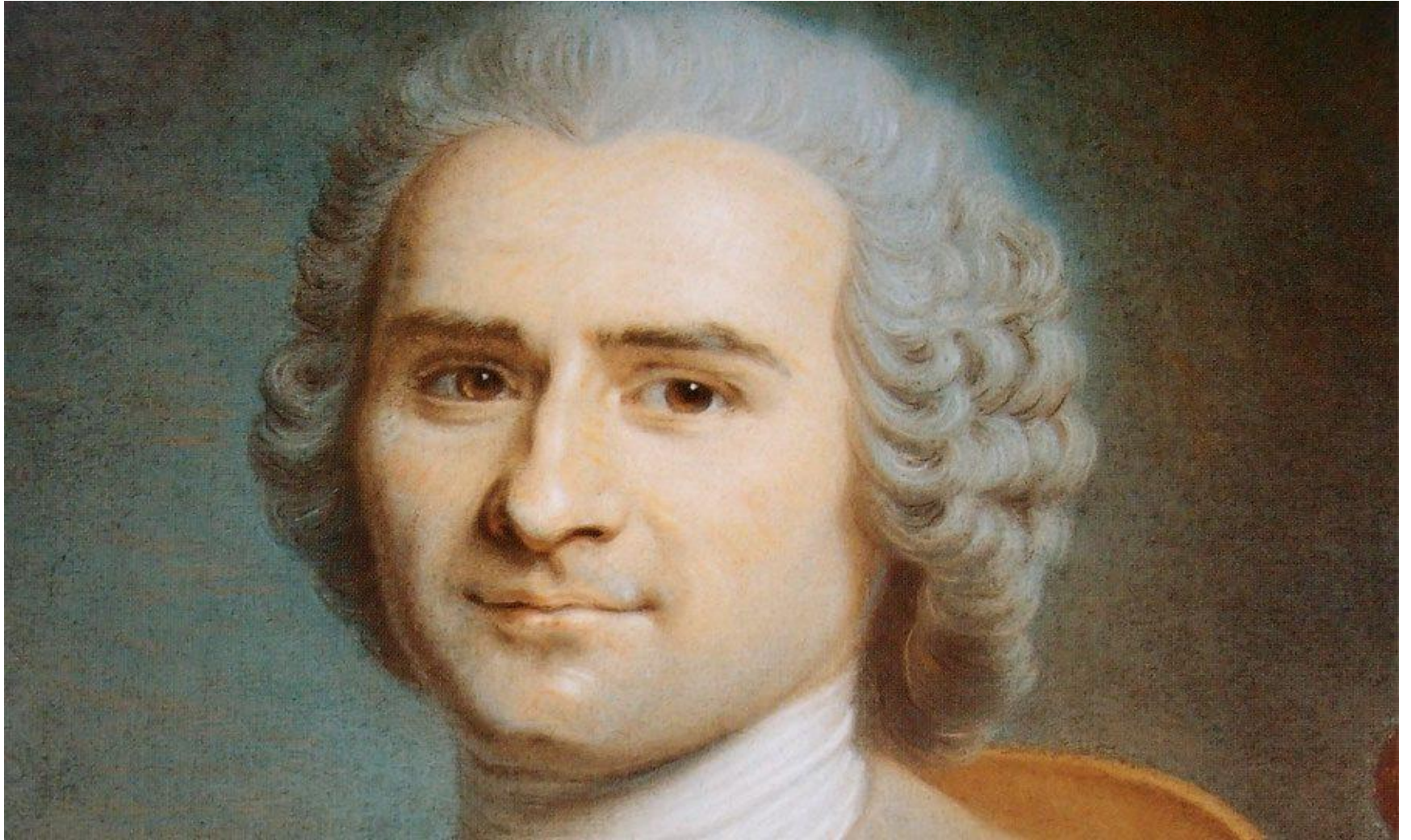
Romanticism by Walter Pater, “the addition of curiosity to the desire of beauty.” Eagerness to find new impressions and new pleasures to be sought....

A movement of liberation and is almost like escaping from the tranquil study into the open country air.

### **Continental Influence:**

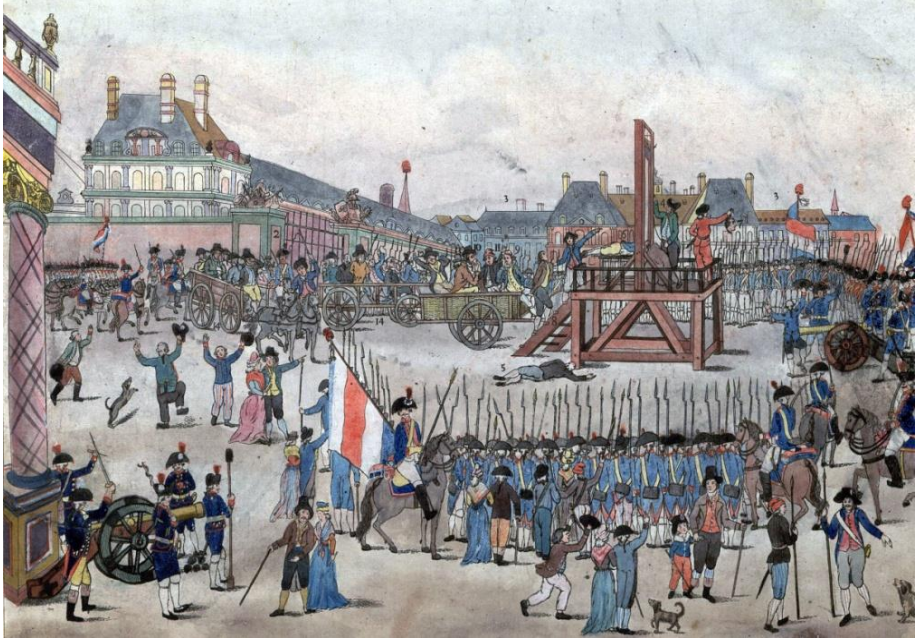
The teaching of Rousseau: A Genevan Philosopher preached the return to Nature, the superiority of feelings to ideas, and the need for a great change in the established order of things to secure the rights of the individual, however lowly is might be.

# Jean-Jacques Rousseau



**French Revolution(1789- 1799):** Rousseau's political views influenced the French revolution the three fold ideal of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity; young Wordsworth and many of them found a new hope for the human race.

Nepolean Bonapart(1804-1814) was a military and political leader during the latter stages of French Revolution and sought to spread the ideals of



# **Characteristics of the new school:**

1. A reaction against Rules and Custom
2. Return to nature and the simple life
3. Variety and individuality
4. The return of the Lyric
5. Interest in the Middle ages

## **1. A Reaction against Rules and Customs:**

Victor Hugo, Romanticism is “Liberalism in Literature”

Insists on Spontaneity, every individual has right to utter his thoughts in his own way

In classical poetry there is sameness but romantic poetry has endless variety

Individualism was a key note of the new movement

## **2. Return to Nature and the simple life:**

Like Rousseau commended the simple, natural, country life

They were alive to the beauty of nature, had true intimacy with rural life, depicted nymphs, shepherds of the idylls and pastorals, used ordinary speech, the real life and people of the country side, characters were plain people of the farm and the village, their poems depicted the facts of their lives and labours.

Lake poets, so called after the district in which they lived, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Southey and their followers achieved the moving effects by the use of simplest language.

**Variety and Individuality:** Shelley, Keats and Byron were some great romantic poets. Their poetry favoured subjectivity and emotionalism, impulse and colour and rather than line and free play of the imagination

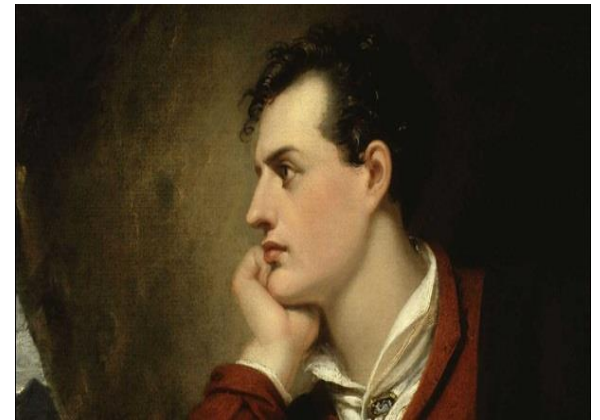
Subject matter might be same but every individual poet's approach, treatment, technique would be wholly different in each case.



Shelley



Keats



Byron

Wordsworth



Coleridge





## **The return to the Lyric:**

The free expression feeling demanded a lyrical mode of expression

Poetry once more became musical, non-intellectual, sensual, and impassioned.

Shelley, in particular, lyrical verse attained a new scope, richness and fervour

## **Interest in the middle ages(800 to 1100):**

Fascinated by medieval life and legend, art and culture of Middle ages ,picturesque, Supernatural etc.