

John Arbuthnot Encyclopedia Article

John Arbuthnot

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John Arbuthnot

1667-1735

Scottish mathematician best remembered for his witty and satirical writings which were aimed at poor quality literature. He earned a medical degree at the University of St. Andrews and was one of Queen Anne's personal physicians. Along with Jonathan Swift, Alexander Pope, and John Gay, he founded the famous (or infamous) Scriblerus Club, which ridiculed contemporary writers in the form of *The History of John Bull*, which eventually became a cartoon and literary symbol of England.