

## Why is London frequently visited and mentioned?

### London in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century:

“Kleine Geschichte Englands” by Michael Maurer

- Increase of wealth in London due to coal production
- Increase of ship transport
- London was the biggest metropolis in Europe (p.163)
- In the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, London quickly developed and the population doubled.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_London#Stuart\\_London\\_.281603.E2.80.931714.29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_London#Stuart_London_.281603.E2.80.931714.29)

[http://www.ferdinando.org.uk/17th\\_century\\_london.htm](http://www.ferdinando.org.uk/17th_century_london.htm)

<http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/oldbailey/history/london-life/london-life17th.html>

<http://www.localhistories.org/stuart.html>

London was the biggest city in all of Europe so it is obvious why this city was chosen as a setting for acts of roguery. Begging and thieving were convenient due to the population and due to the increase of tourism. One could not be found so quickly.

### Possible Topics of Discussion

- Societies (companionship with other rogues, brothers helping him with thieving and with breaking out of prison...)
- Corruption of law / lack of justice (meat incident, stabbing his wife for committing adultery, wife being punished for selling hemp...)
- Opportunities/Luck (merchant who hired him...)
- ER using women for money (maid, mistress, landlady...)
- ER power over women (pregnancies, love...)
- Hiding in London (population)
- Whorehouse observations (whorehouse incident, “The Character of a Hector or Trapan”...)
- Gambling
- Drinking
- Disguises (woman, beard and wig, skeleton...)
- Observations and encounters with merchants, women, and friends (using them for money...)
- Role as an observer (London is the perfect place of observation due to the heterogeneous population and due to the significance of the city during this time period)

### Could these events happen in any other city?

**Why London? London was a huge point of interest. So was this city used as a setting in order to get more readers? (Did the author use this city as a marketing strategy?)**

### What else could be said about this novel?

Calhoun Winston (1994). ["Richard Head and Origins of the Picaresque in England"](#).

What does Picaresque mean?

Pertaining to, characteristic of, or characterized by a form of prose fiction originally developed in Spain, in which the adventures of an engagingly roguish hero are described in a series of usually humorous or satiric episodes that often depict in realistic detail, the everyday life of the common people. (see <http://dictionary.com>)

- Role as observer?

Motif of a Picaresque Novel —the rogue making his way in a hostile world (79)

→ Hostile World = London?

Latroon moves easily through all societies and women are universally susceptible to his charms (83)

→ Is this only possible in London? There were a great amount of rich people and a great amount of poor people all living together in one city.