Useful Background for Virginia Woolf, *Orlando*, ch. 1-2

*Orlando* is full of humor that depends on a knowledge of English history and literature. The following web sites offer a glimpse of some of the allusions Woolf playfully tosses off as her “biographer” narrates Orlando’s life.

pp. 20-22  
**Queen Elizabeth I: reign 1558-1603** (National Portrait Gallery)  
**The Elizabethan Progress** (elizabethi.org):

p. 21, 90, 94  
**Poetry and patronage** (Cambridge University)

pp. 31-32  
**Examples of Elizabethan love sonnets**  
- *Delia VI by Samuel Daniel* (University of Toronto)  
- *Sonnet 15 from Amoretti by Edmund Spenser, (1552-1599)* (Folger Shakespeare Library)

pp. 33-36  
**The Great Frost Fair of 1608** (Museum of London)

pp. 70-73  
**Memento Mori** (Wikipedia)

*Hamlet in a graveyard meditates on death: Hamlet Act 5, scene 1, lines 62-202* (shakespeare-online.com)

*Sir Thomas Browne, Urn Burial (the discovery of Anglo-Saxon pots in Norwich prompts a meditation on funerary customs and death, 1658)* (Goodreads)

pp. 74-75  
**Robert Burton, The Anatomy of Melancholy (1621-38)**, “Love of Learning, or overmuch Study. With a Digression of the Misery of Scholars, and why the Muses are Melancholy”: “... hard students are commonly troubled with gouts, catarrhs, rheums, cachexia, bradypepsia, bad eyes, stone, and colic, crudities, oppilations, vertigo, winds, consumptions, and all such diseases as come by overmuch sitting; they are most part lean, dry, ill-coloured, spend their fortunes, lose their wits, and many times their lives, and all through immoderate pains and extraordinary studies.”

p. 97
Miniature of Sir Herbert of Cherbury as a “fashionable, romantic, melancholic young lover” (National Heritage Memorial Fund)

p. 105

Knole, ancestral home of Vita Sackville-West, who inspired Orlando (National Trust)

p. 107

Ben Jonson’s poem “To Penshurst,” in praise of the English country house (Poetry Foundation)

p. 118

Nell Gwyn, mistress of King Charles II (reign 1660-85) (historic-uk.com)