

One Flesh Paradisal Marriage And Sexual Relations In The Age Of Milton

Politics, Poetics, and Hermeneutics in Milton's Prose - Turner James Grantham 1990-04-26

This book explores the interconnections between Milton's politics, poetics and prose writings.

'Tis Nature's Fault - Robert P. Maccubbin 1987

This 1988 volume addresses sexual phenomena in eighteenth-century Europe that were outside the legal or sanctified systems of acceptability.

Milton and the Politics of Public Speech - Helen Lynch 2016-04-22

Using Hannah Arendt's account of the Greek polis to explain Milton's fascination with the idea of public speech, this study reveals what is distinctive about his conception of a godly, republican oratory and poetics. The book shows how Milton uses rhetorical theory - its ideas, techniques and image patterns - to dramatise the struggle between 'good' and 'bad' oratory, and to fashion his own model of divinely inspired public utterance. Connecting his polemical and imaginative writing in new ways, the book discusses the subliminal rhetoric at work in Milton's political prose and the systematic scrutiny of the power of oratory in his major poetry. By setting Milton in the context of other Civil War polemicists, of classical political theory and its early modern reinterpretations, and of Renaissance writing on rhetoric and poetic language, the book sheds new light on his work across several genres, culminating in an extended Arendtian reading of his 'Greek' drama Samson Agonistes.

Milton among the Puritans - Catherine Gimelli Martin 2016-04-22

Solidly grounded in Milton's prose works and the long history of Milton scholarship, *Milton among the Puritans: The Case for Historical Revisionism* challenges many received ideas about Milton's brand of Christianity, philosophy, and poetry. It does so chiefly by retracing his history as a great "Puritan poet" and reexamining the surprisingly tenuous Whig paradigm upon which this history has been built. Catherine Martin not only questions the current habit of "lumping" Milton with the religious Puritans but agrees with a long line of literary scholars who find his values and lifestyle markedly inconsistent with their beliefs and practices. Pursuing this argument, Martin carefully reexamines the whole spectrum of seventeenth-century English Puritanism from the standpoint of the most recent and respected scholarship on the subject. Martin also explores other, more secular sources of Milton's thought, including his Baconianism, his Christian Stoic ethics, and his classical republicanism; she establishes the importance of these influences through numerous direct references, silent but clear citations, and typical tropes. All in all, *Milton among the Puritans* presents a radical reassessment of Milton's religious identity; it shows that many received ideas about the "Puritan Milton" are neither as long-established as most scholars believe nor as historically defensible as most literary critics still assume, and resituates Milton's great poems in the period when they were written, the Restoration.

Milton's Peculiar Grace - Stephen M. Fallon 2018-09-05

Despite writing about himself extensively and repeatedly, John Milton, the archetypal Puritan author, resolutely avoids the obligatory Augustinian narrative of sinfulness, conviction of sin, reception of the Word, regeneration of the spirit, and sanctification. The doctrine of fall, grace, and regeneration, so well illustrated in *Paradise Lost*, has no discernible effect on Milton's overt self-representations. Exploring this anomaly in his new book, Stephen M. Fallon contends that Milton, despite his deep engagement with theology, is not a religious writer. Why, Fallon asks, does Milton write about himself so compulsively? Why does he substitute, for the otherwise universal theological script, a story of precocious and continued virtue, even, it seems, a narrative of sinlessness? What pressures does this decision to reject the standard narrative exert on his work? In *Milton's Peculiar Grace*, Fallon argues that Milton writes about himself to gain immortality, secure authority for his arguments, and exert control over his readers' interpretations. He traces the return of the repressed narrative of fallenness in the author's unacknowledged and displaced self-representations, which in turn account for much of the power of the late poems. Fallon's book, based

on close readings of Milton's "self-constructions" in prose and poetry throughout his career, provides a new view of Milton's life and his importance for contemporary literary theory-in particular for continued questions about authorial intention.

Arenas of Conflict - Kristin Pruitt McColgan 1997

The nineteen essays in this collection explore such varied fields of argument as John Milton's authorship of the Christian Doctrine, his adaptations of source material, his engagement in political controversies, his attitudes toward gender in *Paradise Lost* and *Samson Agonistes*, and his reflection of seventeenth-century obstetrics and anticipation of modern chaos theory in *Paradise Lost*. In their sometimes complementary, sometimes contradictory, and consistently interrogative views of Milton and his work, these essays offer an "arena of conflict" for future studies.

Educating the 'Unconstant Rabble' - Ann McGruer 2010-05-11

'The English Revolution was a revolution in reading.' For the first time more people had access to books and other printed media containing a far broader spectrum of information than had previously been the case. But an increase in access to material meant an increase in discussion and expression of opinions, some of which had the potential to be detrimental to the stability of the state. It was therefore in the interest of the state to restrict access to this material to those that possessed the requisite educational training with which to understand the ideas and opinions now in circulation. For Samuel Hartlib, John Dury, Johan Amos Comenius, John Hall, John Milton and Marchamont Nedham however, the answer lay not in restricting access to information and education, but rather in the extension of educational opportunity beyond the governing elite of the country in order to equip the emerging 'reading public' with the skills they needed to take an active part in the political life of the country. In the opinion of these writers it was only through effective educational reform that the political and religious growth of the country could continue. A strong theme emerging within the tracts discussed in this book is that an adequately reformed educational system will provide the state with an able and useful populace on which they can depend in times of crisis. Allied to this is the notion that the populace is entitled to receive a level of education appropriate to their abilities and talents and that the state bears a responsibility to play at least some part in providing that education, whether formally or through the dissemination of information through the printing press. As will be seen from the discussion of the literature produced at the time, the ideas and reforms suggested within these tracts were the continuation of an intellectual context in which the development of learning and the expansion of knowledge were seen as paramount. Drawing on the religious ideas of the millennium, as well as the philosophical ideas of Bacon especially, the writers to be considered here sought the reformation of the educational system, as well as a broader series of social reforms, in order to perfect the Reformation and make England ready for the new age.

Science, Literature and Rhetoric in Early Modern England - David Burchell 2017-03-02

These essays throw new light on the complex relations between science, literature and rhetoric as avenues to discovery in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Scholars from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds examine the agency of early modern poets, playwrights, essayists, philosophers, natural philosophers and artists in remaking their culture and reforming ideas about human understanding. Analyzing the ways in which the works of such diverse writers as Shakespeare, Bacon, Hobbes, Milton, Cavendish, Boyle, Pope and Behn related to contemporary epistemological debates, these essays move us toward a better understanding of interactions between the sciences and the humanities during a seminal phase in the emergence of modern Western thought.

Sexuality and Gender in Early Modern Europe - James Turner 1993-08-05

An exploration of sexuality and gender in Renaissance art, literature, and society.

Living Texts - Kristin A. Pruitt 2000

The essays in this collection are a testimony to Milton's claim that books do contain a potency of life in them to be as active as that soul was whose progeny they are. They are proof that Milton's progeny, whether poetry or prose, continue to inspire readers to investigate and interpret, and that even the poet himself is at times the subject of scrutiny. Although these essays examine issues as widely diverse as the reliability of Adam's narration to Raphael and the portrayal of chaos in *Paradise Lost* to the poet's role as an object of erotic attention in the nineteenth century, all suggest that Milton's are still living texts.

Dangerous Familiars - Frances E. Dolan 2017-04-15

Looking back at images of violence in the popular culture of early modern England, we find that the specter of the murderer loomed most vividly not in the stranger, but in the familiar; and not in the master, husband, or father, but in the servant, wife, or mother. A gripping exploration of seventeenth-century accounts of domestic murder in fact and fiction, this book is the first to ask why. Frances E. Dolan examines stories ranging from the profoundly disturbing to the comically macabre: of husband murder, wife murder, infanticide, and witchcraft. She surveys trial transcripts, confessions, and scaffold speeches, as well as pamphlets, ballads, popular plays based on notorious crimes, and such well-known works as *The Tempest*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, and *The Winter's Tale*. Citing contemporary analogies between the politics of household and commonwealth, she shows how both legal and literary narratives attempt to restore the order threatened by insubordinate dependents.

One Flesh - James Turner 1987

What understanding of sex could be gained, in the early modern period, from the Eden myth in Genesis? Reconstructing paradisal marriage raised many problems of interpretation. This study won the James Holly Hanford Award of the Milton Society of America.

One Flesh - James Turner 1987

Many of the perennial sources of contradiction in the Christian tradition came to a head in the turmoils of Milton's lifetime. Was sexuality the True Paradise or the destroying serpent? Was Paradise lost forever, or could men "force through the Fire-sword" and regain the Edenic state? These questions were particularly urgent for Milton himself, caught up in the problems of a failed marriage but unwilling to give up his vision of Paradisal sexuality. This study of Milton's confrontation with his precursors and contemporaries, noteworthy for its historical detail and intellectual incisiveness, establishes Milton as a monumental but divided figure—torn between radical and conservative mentalities, between eroticism and hatred of the flesh, and between patriarchal and egalitarian conceptions of Paradisal marriage.

Problems for Feminist Criticism - Sally Minogue 2012-10-11

Feminist criticism has come a long way in the last twenty years. Its development has been rapid, its snowball progress picking up elements of structuralism, deconstruction and psychoanalytic criticism; just as rapidly it has been shedding its own early theories and methodologies. Now it is a critical orthodoxy with its own established canonical texts. Now is the time, then, to begin to question that orthodoxy. In *Problems for Feminist Criticism* five women critics seek to do that, in a spirit of enquiry whose central point of focus is the literature for which feminist critics have offered a re-reading. By reference to a wide range of writers, from Milton to the contemporary poet, with a strong emphasis on the nineteenth-century novel, the contributors ask what we may be losing from literature by adopting the feminist orthodoxy. Each chapter provides a survey of feminist critical approaches to its subject and highlights the inherent problems. The book frees the way forward for critics who have found much that is stimulating and revealing in feminist approaches to literature, but who find its proscriptiveness potentially reductive. It shows how literature may have the flexibility to absorb and benefit from new critical approaches, whilst still retaining its own life, never quite to be contained in criticism's theories and methodologies.

Inside Paradise Lost - David Quint 2014-02-02

Inside "*Paradise Lost*" opens up new readings and ways of reading Milton's epic poem by mapping out the intricacies of its narrative and symbolic designs and by revealing and exploring the deeply allusive texture of its verse. David Quint's comprehensive study demonstrates how systematic patterns of allusion and keywords give structure and coherence both to individual books of *Paradise Lost* and to the overarching relationship among its books and episodes. Looking at poems within the poem, Quint provides new interpretations as he takes readers through the major subjects of *Paradise Lost*—its relationship to epic

tradition and the Bible, its cosmology and politics, and its dramas of human choice. Quint shows how Milton radically revises the epic tradition and the Genesis story itself by arguing that it is better to create than destroy, by telling the reader to make love, not war, and by appearing to ratify Adam's decision to fall and die with his wife. The Milton of this *Paradise Lost* is a Christian humanist who believes in the power and freedom of human moral agency. As this indispensable guide and reference takes us inside the poetry of Milton's masterpiece, *Paradise Lost* reveals itself in new formal configurations and unsuspected levels of meaning and design.

Carnal Rhetoric - Lana Cable 1995-02-28

In recent years, New Historicists have situated the iconoclasm of Milton's poetry and prose within the context of political, cultural, and philosophical discourses that foreshadow early modernism. In *Carnal Rhetoric*, Lana Cable carries these investigations further by exploring the iconoclastic impulse in Milton's works through detailed analyses of his use of metaphor. Building on a provocative iconoclastic theory of metaphor, she breaks new ground in the area of affective stylistics, not only as it pertains to the writings of Milton but also to all expressive language. Cable traces the development of Milton's iconoclastic poetics from its roots in the antiprelatical tracts, through the divorce tracts and *Areopagitica*, to its fullest dramatic representation in *Eikonoklastes* and *Samson Agonistes*. Arguing that, like every creative act, metaphor is by nature a radical and self-transgressing agent of change, she explores the site where metaphoric language and imaginative desire merge. Examining the demands Milton places on metaphor, particularly his emphasis on language as a vehicle for mortal redemption, Cable demonstrates the ways in which metaphor acts for him as that creative and radical agent of change. In the process, she reveals Milton's engagement, at the deepest levels of linguistic creativity, with the early modern commitment to an imaginative and historic remaking of the world. An insightful and synthetic book, *Carnal Rhetoric* will appeal to scholars of English literature, Milton, and the Renaissance, as well as to those with an interest in the theory of affective stylistics as it pertains to reader-response criticism, semantics, epistemology, and the philosophy and psychology of language.

Rogue Sexuality in Early Modern English Literature - Ari Friedlander 2023-01-17

The "rogue," a term that described criminals, prostitutes, vagrants, beggars, and the unemployed, dominated the pages of early modern popular crime literature. *Rogue Sexuality* resituates the rogue by focusing on how their menace—and their seductive appeal—emerged not only from their social marginality, but also from their supposedly excessive sexuality and prodigious sexual reproduction. Through discussions of both familiar and little-studied early modern works by William Shakespeare, John Milton, Ben Jonson, Thomas Middleton, Thomas Dekker, Robert Greene, Thomas Harman, and the inventor of modern demography John Graunt, this volume posits the sexualized rogue as the avatar of a new category of "socio-sexual identity" and traces a surprising social transposition, in which socio-political elites are portrayed as appropriating the rogue's sexual vitality and performative charisma to navigate moments of crisis. By tracking the movement of rogue sexuality from a criminal to a normative discursive register, this book challenges the distinctions that literary critics and historians tend to draw between orderly and disorderly sexuality. With its focus on reproduction, rogue sexuality also provides a new framework for what Michel Foucault called "biopolitics," the state's focus on exercising power over life. In legal, administrative, and scientific documents, this book shows that early modern writers grappled with popular pamphlets' rendering of the alleged threat of rogue reproduction. *Rogue Sexuality* thus offers a new approach to the political history of early modern England as a population—as a people whose aggregate sexual life and reproduction were a key part of its political imagination.

John Milton's Paradise Lost - Margaret Kean 2005

Designed for students new to Milton's work, this sourcebook outlines the seventeenth-century contexts, examines a range of responses to the poem, reprints frequently studied passages of the poem and suggests further reading.

Returning to John Donne - Achsah Guibbory 2016-03-23

Collected in this volume are Achsah Guibbory's most important and frequently cited essays on Donne, which, taken together, present her distinctive and evolving vision of the poet. The book includes an original, substantive introduction as well as new essays on the *Devotions upon Emergent Occasions*, the *Songs* and

Sonnets, and the subject of Donne and toleration. Over the course of her career, Guibbory has asked different questions about Donne but has always been concerned with recovering multiple historical and cultural contexts and locating Donne's writing in relation to them. In the essays here, she reads Donne within various contexts: the early modern thinking about time and history; religious attitudes towards sexuality; the politics of early modern England; religious conflicts within the church. While her approach has always been historicist, she has also foregrounded Donne's distinctiveness, showing how (and why) he

continues to speak powerfully to us now. Presented together here, with reflections on the trajectory of her engagement with Donne, Achsah Guibbory illuminates Donne's understanding that erotic, spiritual, and political issues are often intertwined, and reveals how this understanding resonates in our own times. *Libertines and Radicals in Early Modern London* - James Grantham Turner 2002
Analyses English sexual culture between the Civil Wars and the death of Charles II.

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