



English Poetry of the Eighteenth Century, 1700-1789

By David Fairer

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In recent years the canon of eighteenth-century poetry has greatly expanded to include women poets, labouring-class and provincial poets, and many previously unheard voices. Fairer's book takes up the challenge this ought to pose to our traditional understanding of the subject.

This book seeks to question some of the structures, categories, and labels that have given the age its reassuring shape in literary history. In doing so Fairer offers a fresh and detailed look at a wide range of material.

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English Poetry of the Eighteenth Century, 1700-1789 By David Fairer Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1648964 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Routledge
- Published on: 2002-12-12
- Released on: 2002-12-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.20" h x .70" w x 6.10" l, 1.06 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 316 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"enormously valuable introduction....the standard text for students of that period." "Romanticism, 10.1, 2004"

'...an accessible style of criticism that seems both natural and suggestive'

"The Coleridge Bulletin"

From the Back Cover

In recent years the scope of eighteenth-century poetry has greatly expanded beyond the established canon of Pope, Swift, Gray, Johnson, Goldsmith, Smart and Cowper, to include women poets, labouring-class and provincial poets, and many previously unheard voices.

Fairer's book takes up the challenge this poses to our traditional understanding of the subject. He seeks to question some of the structures, categories, and labels that have given the age its reassuring shape in literary history. In doing so he offers a fresh and detailed look at a wide range of material. This book sets out to integrate the works of lesser known (even unknown) poets into the bigger picture by engaging them with the established writers. It tests general assumptions by emphasising variety and the individual voice, and by placing poems in their immediate contexts. The result is an eighteenth-century poetic scene that is dynamic, full of human energies, and responsive to all the significant developments of the age.

David Fairer is Professor of Eighteenth-Century English Literature at the University of Leeds. He is the author of *The Poetry of Alexander Pope* (1989) and *Pope's Imagination* (1984), and co-editor of *'Eighteenth-Century Poetry: An Annotated Anthology'* (Blackwell, 1999).

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