

# 1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era

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Volume 1

Article 16

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1994

## Book Review Corner

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### Recommended Citation

Jacobs, Deborah A. (1994) "Book Review Corner," *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era*: Vol. 1, Article 16.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/sixteenfifty/vol1/iss1/16>

## BOOK REVIEW CORNER

Deborah Ann Jacobs  
*Book Review Editor*

**GREETINGS**, readers, and welcome to *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era*. Many of the scholars associated with *1650-1850* are excited by the prospects held forth by this new journalistic enterprise, and I am especially excited by the service which the book review corner will offer to eighteenth- and nineteenth-century scholars. At the same time, I recognize the awesome responsibilities I have assumed as book review editor, for the scope of this journal's inquiries are nothing short of grandiose. First, in assuming the mantle of the "extended" eighteenth century (1650-1850), we have significantly broadened the time span that we will try to carry on our sub-Atlantean shoulders. As both a multicultural and a multidisciplinary journal, we expect, hope, and maybe even fear that little being published on the extended eighteenth century will escape the probing of our reviewers.

Although the scope of *1650-1850's* inquiries will be wide, it will not be limitless. Works suitable for review in this journal will meet the multiple criteria found in the journal's title: that is, the works will not only cover the time period specified (1650-1850), but they will also deal with "ideas," or "aesthetics," or "inquiries" into phenomena which have come to be defined as "modern." Works which meet these multiple criteria, regardless of the culture or the discipline with which they deal, will be considered for review in this journal.

Scholars interested in reviewing a specific text for *1650-1850* are welcome to write to me (at the address shown at the end of this editorial statement), requesting assignment of the review.

Scholars desiring to become regular reviewers for 1650-1850 are urged to include either a *vita* or to describe research interests and expertise in their letter to the book review editor. Unsolicited reviews, however, cannot be accepted.

The format for book reviews will follow the format used by the journal. The standard program will be *WordPerfect* 5.0, but any version of *WordPerfect* will suffice. Reviewers who have no access to *WordPerfect* are asked either to make a standard ASCII file using their word-processor's conversion program, or to query the book review editor as to whether she can convert the output of their programs into *WordPerfect*. Please do not add formatting codes (margins, spacing, etc.) to the diskette transcript of the review. These must be edited out of the paper; it is easier for the editor if reviewers keep the electronic versions as clean and simple as possible. Manuscripts should be submitted on paper, "hard" copy as well as on diskette.

While timeliness may be a virtue worthy of praise, the "timeliness" of reviews in an annual journal must be understood as a relative term. Since reviews will lag behind the release of a text by nine-to-eighteen months, I envision the reviews in 1650-1850 making up in thoroughness of coverage and in the excellence of the review for what will, of necessity, be lost in timeliness of the review's release. The book review section of 1650-1850 will be a resource for eighteenth and early nineteenth century scholars to consult as they determine which of the many texts being published in their fields they must add to their reading lists and which texts they may relegate to other scholars in other fields. Because I envision a large number of books being reviewed for each issue of the journal, reviews should be limited to 500-1,000 words, with 500 words being the average length for the vast majority of reviews, and 1,000 words being reserved for texts which, because of their format (a collection of essays, for instance) or because of their native excellence, invite a more involved retrospective.

Although no reviews are available for the initial issue of our journal, the next issue of 1650-1850 will include reviews, among others, on the following books: Timothy Bahti's *Allegories of History: Literary Historiography After Hegel* (Johns Hopkins University Press); Annette Baier's *A Progress of Sentiments: Reflections on Hume's "Treatise"* (Harvard University Press); G. J. Barker-Benfield's *The Culture of Sensibility: Sex and Society in Eighteenth-Century Britain* (University of Chicago Press); Catherine Beaudry's *The Role of the Reader in*

*Rousseau's Confessions* (Peter Lang); Michael Boardman's *Narrative Innovation and Incoherence: Ideology in Defoe, Goldsmith, Austen, Eliot, and Hemingway* (Duke University Press); Patrick Brady's *Rococo Poetry in English, French, German, Italian* (New Paradigm Press); Elizabeth Brophy's *Women's Lives and the Eighteenth-Century English Novel* (University Press of Florida); Greg Clingham's *James Boswell: The Life of Johnson* (Cambridge University Press); Daniel Cohen's *Pillars of Salt, Monuments of Grace* (Oxford University Press); Kenneth Craven's *Jonathan Swift and the Millennium of Madness* (E. J. Brill); Joanne Cutting-Gray's *Woman as "Nobody" and the Novels of Fanny Burney* (University Press of Florida); Eugenio Donato's *The Script of Decadence: Essays of the Fictions of Flaubert and the Poetics of Romanticism* (Oxford University Press); Malcolm Kelsall's *The Great, Good Place* (Columbia University Press); Ignacy Krasicki's *The Adventures of Mr. Nicholas Wisdom*, translated by Thomas H. Hoisington (Northwestern University Press); Jacqueline Lichtenstein's *The Eloquence of Color: Rhetoric and Painting in the French Classical Age*, translated by Emily McVarish (University of California Press); William Park's *The Idea of Rococo* (University of Delaware Press); Mona Scheuermann's *Her Bread to Earn: Women, Money, and Society from Defoe to Austen* (University of Kentucky Press); Leona Toker's *Eloquent Reticence: Withholding Information in Fictional Narrative* (University of Kentucky Press); Mindele Anne Treip's *Allegorical Poetics and the Epic: The Renaissance Tradition to Paradise Lost* (University of Kentucky Press); Liana Vardi's *The Land and the Loom: Peasants and Profit in Northern France, 1680-1800* (Duke University Press); Joel Weinsheimer's *Philosophical Hermeneutics and Literary Theory* (Yale University Press); Calhoun Winton's *John Gay and the London Theatre* (University of Kentucky Press); Servanne Woodward's *Diderot and Rousseau's Contributions to Aesthetics* (Peter Lang); and Zaixin Zhang's *Voices of the Self in Daniel Defoe's Fiction* (Peter Lang). While most of the reviewers for these texts have already been arranged, several are still available for review, so if a particular volume captures your imagination, you may request assignment of the review by writing to: Dr. Deborah A. Jacobs, Pike County Offices, Prestonsburg Community College, 405 Main St., Pikeville, KY 41501.

Before concluding my remarks, I would be remiss if I were to omit thanking certain people whose insight, generosity of

spirit, and wholehearted support have made it possible for me to assume the duties of book review editor of *1650-1850*. Although it would be impossible to list and thank all those who have so generously devoted themselves to the cause of *1650-1850*, the following administrators of Prestonsburg Community College deserve special mention for the support they have provided: Dr. Deborah L. Floyd, President; Dean Robert Allen, Academic Dean; Ken Slone, Chair of the Humanities Division, and Dr. Dorothy Carlson, Acting Coordinator of the Pike County Office.