



Literary and Cultural Intersections during the Long Eighteenth Century

By Marianna DâEzio

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Culture and literature, indeed intellectual life as a whole, in eighteenth-century Britain were characterized by complex internal tensions as well as influenced by the unprecedented atmosphere of major political, cultural and social change which led to the revolutions at end of the century. Furthermore, the diffusion of periodicals and newspapers, which formed the basis of public conversation in urban coffee-houses, functioned as a vehicle for the dispersion of works which publicly mirrored a private society in the process of transformation. The focus on this change and the circulation of new ideas on taste and polite society as well as on culture and literature can be found in the continual intertwining between the public and the private spheres of society. The aim of the first part of this collection of original, unpublished essays by young international scholars is to investigate the dynamics of these overlapping spheres through new readings of eighteenth-century literary works which not only analysed the mechanisms of the private and public spheres, but also highlighted some remarkable cultural features, such as clothing and fashion, gossip and gender issues. As suggested by the title, the second part of the collection will expand on the principal idea of intersections in eighteenth-century English literature: from the intersections linking the private and public spheres of British society, to those between eighteenth-century works within the British literary canon, taking into account the influence of European thought. The purpose of the second group of essays is thus that of offering fresh perspectives and a re-evaluation of literary and cultural reciprocal exchanges, in order to better locate or re-locate canonical works and authors within the eighteenth-century literary tradition.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Marianna D'Ezio graduated (Laurea) in Foreign Languages and Literature, English and German, at the University of Viterbo, Italy, and completed a PhD in English Literature at the University of Rome La Sapienza with a dissertation on eighteenth-century writer Hester Lynch Piozzi. She lives and works in Italy, where she is Adjunct Assistant Professor of Italian at the University of California Rome Study Center and Adjunct Professor of English at the University for Foreigners of Perugia and at the University of Cassino. Her research interests focus on eighteenth-century literature and travel writing, with special attention to women writers. She has published articles on eighteenth-century women travelling to Italy (Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Mary Berry and Elizabeth Gaskell) for the University of Genova, as well as miscellaneous articles on various topics. She participated in many conferences worldwide (India, United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Spain). Her monograph on Piozzi is currently undertaking the appraisal process by the University of Toronto Press.

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