



JOHN MILTON

COMPLETE SHORTER POEMS

WITH ORIGINAL SPELLING AND PUNCTUATION

Edited by Stella P. Revard



WILEY-BLACKWELL

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EDITED BY

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LATIN POEMS



TRANSLATED BY

LAWRENCE REVARD

 **WILEY-BLACKWELL**

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Figure 1 Engraved portrait of Milton by William Marshall¹
 (from the frontispiece of *Poems, English and Latin*, 1645)

¹ William Marshall was one of the most famous and prolific of book illustrators, his work including the portrait of Donne for the second edition of Donne's *Poems* and the frontispiece of Charles I praying for *Eikon Basilike*. While the portrait in Milton's *Poems* is said to portray Milton at age 21, it actually makes him look much older. The royalist Marshall may have intentionally distorted Milton's features, as Richard Johnson argues, in order to present him as a crabbed controversialist rather than as a young pastoral poet. For translation of the epigram see *Poems added to Sylvarum Liber* in 1673, pp. 342–4.

Note on This Edition

This is one of three volumes presenting the complete poetry and major prose of John Milton in original language and in readily accessible paperbacks. *Paradise Lost* is edited by Barbara K. Lewalski; the major prose by David Loewenstein.

Acknowledgments

The staffs of the British Library in London, the Bodleian Library in Oxford, and the University Library of Cambridge have made available to me copies of the editions of Milton's *Poems, English and Latin*, printed in 1645 and 1673, of *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes*, as well as *Justa Edovardo King Naufrago*, Henry Lawes' 1637 printing of *A Mask*, and the 1640 printing of *Epitaphium Damonis*. I am grateful for the opportunity to consult the Trinity Manuscript of Milton's poems at the Wren Library of Trinity College in Cambridge. I am grateful to the Bodleian Library for permission to reproduce the title pages of the 1645 and 1673 editions of *Milton's Poems, English and Latin* as well as the title page of the 1671 edition of *Samson Agonistes*. I am grateful to the British Library for permission to reproduce the frontispiece of the 1645 edition of *Poems, English and Latin*, the title page of the 1671 edition of *Paradise Regained*, and Henry Lawes' manuscript of the songs from *A Mask*. I am grateful to the library of Trinity College, Cambridge for permission to reproduce a page of Milton's autograph copy of *A Mask* from the Trinity Manuscript of Milton's poems. The copy text for 1645 is BL Ashley 1179, for 1673 BL 684 d. 34, and for *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes* BL 684 d. 33. Our thanks to Dr. John Was for reviewing the translations of the Latin poems, to Professor George Pepe of Washington University, St. Louis for advice on Latin translation, and to Professor Franco Fido and Dr. Annelise Brody for reviewing the Italian translations. Emma Bennett, the literature editor at Wiley-Blackwell, Louise Butler, Tom Bates and Hannah Morrell have been very helpful in overseeing the progress of this edition. We also appreciate the care of the copy-editor, Juanita Bullough. I am immensely grateful to Barbara Lewalski, the editor of the companion volume of *Paradise Lost* and the general editor of the series, who has provided invaluable assistance and counsel. She reviewed the entire edition and has offered meticulous comments and suggestions. David Loewenstein, the editor of the companion volume on Milton's prose, has offered advice on bibliography.

Chronology

Milton's Life

Historical and Literary Events

Dec. 9, born in Bread Street, Cheapside
London, to John and Sarah Milton.

1608

Educated by private tutors, including
the Presbyterian cleric, Thomas Young.
Brother Christopher born.

1611

King James ("Authorized") Bible.

1614–20

1615

1616

Death of Shakespeare.
Ben Jonson's *Works* published.

Portrait at age 10 painted by Cornelius
Janssen.

1618

Beginning of the Thirty Years War.

Begins to attend St. Paul's School;
friendship with Charles Diodati
begins. (?)

1620

1621

Donne appointed Dean of St. Paul's.

1623

Shakespeare's First Folio published.

First known poems, paraphrases of
Psalms 114 and 136.

1623–4

Admitted to Christ's College,
Cambridge (Feb. 12).

1625

Death of James I; accession of
Charles I.
Outbreak of plague.

Writes funeral elegies, "In quantum
Novembris," verse epistles, and
Prolusions in Latin; "On the Death of
a Fair Infant," "At a Vacation Exercise"
in English.

1626–8

William Laud made Bishop
of London.

Milton's Life

Historical and Literary Events

Sends <i>Elegia Quarta</i> to Thomas Young in Hamburg.	1627	
Takes BA degree (March). Writes <i>Elegia Quinta</i> (spring). Writes "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity" (Dec.).	1629	Charles I dissolves Parliament.
Writes <i>Elegia Sexta</i> to Diodati.	1630	Birth of Prince Charles, the future Charles II.
Writes "L'Allegro" and "Il Penseroso"(?).	1631	
"On Shakespeare" published in the Second Folio of Shakespeare's plays. Admitted to MA degree (July 3). Writes <i>Arcades</i> , entertainment for the Countess of Derby(?). Writes sonnet "How soon hath Time" (Dec.). Starts to live with his family at Hammersmith.	1632	Galileo's <i>Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems</i> published in Italian.
Writes "On Time," "At a Solemn Music"(?).	1633	Donne's <i>Poems</i> and Herbert's <i>The Temple</i> published. Laud made Archbishop of Canterbury.
<i>A Maske (Comus)</i> performed at Ludlow with music by Henry Lawes (Sept. 29).	1634	Carew's masque, <i>Coelum Britannicum</i> .
Moves with his family to Horton, Buckinghamshire. Begins notes on his reading in <i>Commonplace Book</i> .	1635	
Publication of <i>A Maske</i> . Mother dies (April 3). Writes "Lycidas."	1637	Trial and punishment of Puritans William Prynne, John Bastwick, and Henry Burton. Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i> . Corneille, <i>Le Cid</i> .
"Lycidas" published in collection of elegies for Edward King.	1638	
Begins Continental tour (May 1638); meets Grotius, Gallileo, Cardinal Barberini, Manso; visits Academies in Florence and Rome; visits Vatican Library; visits Naples, Venice, and Geneva. Writes "Mansus," "Ad Salsillum," epigrams to Leonora Baroni.	1638-9	

Milton's Life

Historical and Literary Events

Learns of Charles Diodati's death. Returns to England (July). Takes lodgings in Fleet Street. Begins teaching nephews Edward and John Phillips and a few others.	1639	First Bishops' War with Scotland.
Writes <i>Epitaphium Dæmonis</i> (epitaph for Charles Diodati). Begins work on <i>Accidence Commenc't Grammar</i> , <i>Art of Logic</i> , <i>Christian Doctrine</i> (?).	1640	Long Parliament convened (Nov. 3); impeachment of Laud. George Thomason, London bookseller, begins his collection of tracts and books. Ben Jonson's <i>Works</i> (second folio).
Publishes anti-episcopal tracts: <i>Of Reformation; Of Prelatical Episcopacy; Animadversions upon the Remonstrants Defense</i> .	1641	Impeachment and execution of Strafford (May) Root and Branch Bill abolishing bishops. Irish rebellion breaks out (Oct.).
Publishes <i>The Reason of Church-government</i> and <i>An Apology</i> [for] . . . <i>Smectymnuus</i> Marries Mary Powell (May?), who returns (Aug.?) to her royalist family near Oxford. Writes sonnet, "Captain or Colonel" when royalist attack on London expected.	1642	Civil War begins (Aug. 22). Royalists win Battle of Edgehill. Closing of theaters.
Publishes <i>Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce</i> (Aug.).	1643	Westminster Assembly of Divines to reform Church. Solemn League and Covenant subscribed. Louis XIV becomes king of France. Thomas Browne, <i>Religio Medici</i> .
Publishes second edition of <i>Doctrine and Discipline; Of Education</i> (June); <i>The Judgement of Martin Bucer concerning Divorce</i> (Aug.); <i>Areopagitica</i> (Nov.).	1644	Royalists defeated at Battle of Marston Moor (July 2).
Publishes <i>Tetrachordon</i> and <i>Colasterion</i> on the divorce question. Mary Powell returns. Moves to a large house in the Barbican.	1645	Execution of Laud. New Model Army wins decisive victory at Naseby (June). Edmund Waller, <i>Poems</i> .

Milton's Life

Historical and Literary Events

<p><i>Poems of Mr. John Milton</i> published (Jan., dated 1645). Writes sonnet to Lawes. Writes sonnet on the death of Catherine Thomason, wife of George Thomason, bookseller and collector of contemporary pamphlets to whose collection Milton contributed. Daughter Anne born (July 29).</p>	1646	<p>First Civil War ends. Crashaw, <i>Steps to the Temple</i>.</p>
<p>Father dies; moves to High Holborn. Begins writing <i>History of Britain</i>(?). Composes "Ad Joannem Rousium" (Jan.) and sends it to Rouse with a replacement copy of the 1645 <i>Poems</i>.</p>	1647	
<p>Daughter Mary born (Oct. 26). Writes sonnet to Lord General Fairfax. Translates Psalms 80–88.</p>	1648	<p>Second Civil War. Pride's Purge (Dec.) expels many Presbyterians from Parliament, leaving c.150 members of the House of Commons (the Rump). Peace of Westphalia, ending Thirty Years War. Robert Herrick, <i>Hesperides</i>.</p>
<p>Publishes <i>Tenure of Kings and Magistrates</i> (Feb.). Appointed Secretary for Foreign Tongues to the Council of State (March 15). Publishes <i>Observations</i> on Irish documents; <i>Eikonoklastes</i> ("The Idol Smasher") (Oct.). Given lodgings in Scotland Yard</p>	1649	<p>Trial of Charles I, executed Jan. 30. <i>Eikon Basilike</i> ("The Royal Image") published in many editions. A republic without King or House of Lords proclaimed (Feb.). Salmasius, <i>Defensio Regia</i>. Richard Lovelace, <i>Lucasta</i>.</p>
	1650	<p>Marvell, <i>Horatian Ode upon Cromwell's Return from Ireland</i>. Vaughan, <i>Silex Scintillans</i> (Part 1).</p>
<p>Publishes <i>Defensio pro populo Anglicano</i> in reply to Salmasius (Feb. 24). Birth of son, John (March 16). Moves to Petty France, near St. James Park.</p>	1651	<p>Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>.</p>

Milton's Life

Historical and Literary Events

Milton totally blind.
Writes sonnet, "When I consider
how my light is spent" (?) and
sonnets to Cromwell and Sir Henry
Vane.

Daughter Deborah born (May 2).
Mary Powell Milton dies (May 5).
Son John dies (June).

Translates Psalms 1–8.

Publishes *Defensio Secunda* ("A
Second Defense of the English
People"), answer to *Regii Sanguinis*
(May 30).

Writes sonnet, "Avenge O Lord
thy Slaughter'd Saints."
Publishes *Pro Se Defensio*
("Defense of Himself") (Aug.).
Works on *Christian Doctrine* (?).

Marries Katherine Woodcock
(Nov. 12).

Daughter Katherine born (Oct. 10).
Marvell appointed his assistant in
Secretariat for Foreign Languages.

Katherine Woodcock Milton dies
(Feb. 3).
Daughter Katherine dies (March 17).
New edition of Milton's *Defensio*.

Publishes *A Treatise of Civil Power in
Ecclesiastical Causes* (Feb.); *The Likeliest
Means to Remove Hirelings out of the
Church* (Aug.).

1652

Regii Sanguinis Clamor ("Cry of
the Royal Blood"), answer to
Milton's *Defensio*, published.
First Dutch War (to 1654).

1653

Cromwell dissolves Rump
Parliament (April 20).
"Barebones" Parliament.
Cromwell made Lord Protector
(Dec.), under Constitution,
"Instrument of Government."

1654

1655

Massacre of the Protestant Vaudois
on order of the Prince of Savoy
(April).
Andrew Marvell, *The First
Anniversary of the Government under
O. C.*

1656

James Harrington, *Oceana*,
published.
Abraham Cowley, *Poems* including
Pindarique Odes.

1657

"Humble Petition and Advice,"
constitution establishing more
conservative government.

1658

Death of Oliver Cromwell (Sept. 3).
Richard Cromwell becomes
Protector.

1659

Richard Cromwell deposed by
army; Rump Parliament recalled;
Rump deposed and again restored.

Milton's Life

Historical and Literary Events

Publishes <i>The Readie and Easie Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth</i> (Feb.); 2nd edition (April); <i>Brief Notes upon a Late Sermon</i> (April). In hiding (May); his books burned (Aug.); imprisoned (Oct.?); released (Dec.).	1660	Long Parliament restored; New Parliament called (April). Charles II restored, enters London (May). Dryden, <i>Astraea Redux</i> . Bunyan imprisoned (until 1671).
At work on <i>Paradise Lost</i> , <i>Christian Doctrine</i> (?).	1661	Regicides imprisoned, ten executed. Repression of dissenters. Louis XIV assumes control of kingship after death of Mazarin.
Marries Elizabeth Minshull (Feb.). Moves to Bunhill Fields.	1663	Butler, <i>Hudibras</i> , Part I.
	1664	Butler, <i>Hudibras</i> , Part II; Molière, <i>Tartuffe</i> .
Quaker Thomas Ellwood finds house for Milton at Chalfont St. Giles to escape plague.	1665	Bubonic plague kills 70,000 in London. Second Dutch War.
	1666	Great Fire of London (Sept. 2–6). Bunyan, <i>Grace Abounding</i> .
<i>Paradise Lost</i> published.	1667	Dryden, <i>Annus Mirabilis; Of Dramatick Poesie</i> . Katherine Philips, <i>Poems</i> .
	1668	Dryden made Poet Laureate. <i>The Works of Abraham Cowley</i> . Racine, <i>Andromaque</i> .
Publishes <i>Accidence Commenc't Grammar</i> .	1669	
Publishes <i>History of Britain</i> , with William Faithorne's engraved portrait.	1670	
Publishes <i>Paradise Regained</i> and <i>Samson Agonistes</i> .	1671	
Publishes <i>Art of Logic</i> .	1672	Charles II Declaration of Indulgence. Marvell, <i>Rehearsal Transposed</i> . Third Dutch War.
Publishes <i>Of True Religion, Heresy, Schism and Toleration</i> ; publishes new edition of <i>Poems</i> (1645).	1673	Test Act passed.

Milton's Life

Historical and Literary Events

Publishes <i>Familiar Letters</i> and <i>Prolusions</i> . Publishes 2nd. edition of <i>Paradise Lost</i> . Death (Nov. 8–10?); burial at St. Giles, Cripplegate (Nov. 12).	1674	Dryden's rhymed drama <i>The State of Innocence</i> , registered (published 1677).
	1678	Bunyan, <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> .
	1681	<i>Miscellaneous Poems</i> of Andrew Marvell. Dryden, <i>Absalom and Achitophel</i> .
	1684	Death of Charles II; accession of James II.
4th (Folio) edition of <i>Paradise Lost</i> : illustrations chiefly by Juan Baptista de Medina, engraved chiefly by Michael Burghers.	1688	Deposition of James II (Glorious Revolution).
	1689	Accession of William III and Mary II. Act of Toleration. Bill of Rights.
Milton's <i>Letters of State</i> published, with Edward Phillips' <i>Life</i> of Milton and four sonnets – to Fairfax, Cromwell, Vane, and Cyriack Skinner (#2) – omitted from 1673 <i>Poems</i> .	1694	

Textual Introduction

The text of *Poems of Mr. John Milton, Both English and Latin*, is based on the 1645 edition printed by Humphrey Moseley (copy text, BL Ashley 1179). I have used the 1645 edition both for the language and for the accidentals (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, italics). On a few occasions, where warranted by obvious mistakes or probable printers' oversights, I have supplied superior readings from the other sources that have textual authority: the 1673 version of *Poems &c. upon Several Occasions* and the Trinity Manuscript, or in the case of *Lycidas*, *A Mask*, and *Epitaphium Damonis*, earlier printings.

The text for poems added after 1645 is based on the 1673 version of *Poems &c. upon Several Occasions. By Mr. John Milton: Both English and Latin* (copy text, BL 684 d. 34). For the sonnets to Fairfax, Cromwell, Vane, and Skinner, first printed in *Letters of State* (1694), I have supplied both the versions in *Letters of State* (copy text, BL 599 b. 15) as well as the versions in the Trinity Manuscript.

The 1645 edition of *Poems* is an attractive octavo, with ornamental borders at the tops of pages and elsewhere as well as decorated capitals at the beginning of the preface and testimonia. Humphrey Moseley contributed a short preface: *The Stationer to the Reader*. There is a separate title page for *A Mask of the same Author Presented at Ludlow-Castle, 1634*, followed by a letter by Henry Lawes to John Lord Viscount Brackley and one by Henry Wotton to Milton, thanking Milton for a copy of *A Mask* and advising him on his forthcoming journey to Italy. The second volume of the 1645 *Poems*, the *Poemata*, has its own title page, followed by a brief prefatory note in Latin by Milton and a group of testimonia in verse and prose addressed to Milton by Italian friends and acquaintances. Page numbers appear in parenthesis at the top of pages.

The 1673 octavo of *Poems, &c. Upon Several Occasions* is an attractive though more modest volume than 1645; it also has ornamental borders and a few decorated capitals. Page numbers appear as in 1645 (in parenthesis) at the top of the page. There is an errata page after the tables of contents. Both Moseley's preface and the

prefatory material to *A Mask*, including a list of its *dramatis personae*, are dropped from the 1673 edition of *Poems*. The *Poemata* retains its separate title page and both Milton's Latin note and the *testimonia*. Added to the 1673 volume is a *small Tractate of Education to Mr. Hartlib*. Two title pages exist of the 1673 edition that list the different locations at which the book was available. The book was printed by Thomas Dring either at the White Lion next Chancery Lane or alternately at the Blew Anchor next Mitre Court over against Fetter Lane in Fleetstreet.

The texts of *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes* are based on the 1671 version of *Paradise Regain'd. A Poem. In IV Books. To which is added Samson Agonistes* (copy text. BL 684. d. 33). The book is a simple octavo with large capitals beginning each book of *Paradise Regained* and the beginning of *Samson Agonistes* and ornamental borders at the top of the page beginning *Samson Agonistes*. Both poems have page and line numbers. The line numbers are sometimes incorrect. The title page reads *Paradise Regain'd. A Poem. In IV Books. To which is added Samson Agonistes*. Milton is identified as author and John Starkey at the Mitre in Fleetstreet as publisher. *Paradise Regained* appears without introductory material. *Samson Agonistes* has its own title page, also listing author and publisher, an extended preface by Milton ("Of that sort of Dramatic Poem which is call'd Tragedy"), together with The Argument and The Persons (a list of *dramatis personae*). An errata page is supplied for both poems. A page of *Omissa* is added at the end of the text of *Samson Agonistes*.

I have examined copies of the 1645 and 1673 *Poems* and copies of the 1671 *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes* at the British Library, the Bodleian Library, and the Newberry Library, Chicago.

Punctuation and orthography in the copy texts have been followed in most cases. When a reading is used from other sources, such as the Trinity Manuscript or the 1673 edition of *Poems*, for example, or when I have supplied an emendation, these are noted in the textual apparatus. The textual notes record these differences in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization that seem significant, but not all variants are noted. Printing irregularities and obvious typesetting errors are silently corrected; for notation of these, readers should consult Fletcher's edition of *Poems* (1645 and 1673) and *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes*. Line numbers have been added.

Our goal in these editions is to provide useful marginal glosses and footnotes without overwhelming the poetic text with a burdensome apparatus and without dictating interpretation of particular passages. Unfamiliar words are glossed in the margins; biblical citations are supplied. Biblical and classical echoes are identified as well as unfamiliar names and places, but necessarily not every possible allusion has been noted. Paraphrases are provided for passages with syntactical complexities.

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