THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO



MILTON

弥尔顿

**DENNIS DANIELSON** 编



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#### 剑桥文学指南之八

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### 出版前言

《剑桥文学指南》是上海外语教育出版社从海外引进的一套研究、介绍外国文学的丛书,内容涉及作家、作品、文学流派、文学史等诸多方面。作者均为在该领域有着较深造诣的专家、学者。

#### 《弥尔顿》是该丛书中的一本。

弥尔顿在英国文学史上的重要地位是人们熟知的。作为17世纪英国资产阶级革命时期的诗人与政论家,他和他的作品至今仍是学术界的重要研究对象,对他的研究兴趣可谓是经久不衰,近30年来发表的具有学术价值的研究成果在西方就有6000种之多。其所以如此,除了因为弥尔顿作品的重大文学价值外,也因为他的各类创作充分反映了他所生活的那个宗教、政治和社会急剧变革、动荡不定的时代,以及他个人生活中的种种不幸,包括失明,而这一不幸在许多方面又是和那样一个时代密不可分的。

弥尔顿的写作可以分为三个阶段。大约在 1640年之前,其中包括他在剑桥大学求学时期, 他发表的主要是诗作(包括拉丁文和意大利语诗 作)和假面剧(一种诗、音乐、哑剧、表演,特殊服 装的结合)剧本。从1640年前后开始,随着英国国 内革命天翻地覆的变化,他的作品主要是政论性的 文章,表达他对宗教变革及革命的支持。1660年王 政复辟后,他遭到逮捕,释放后至死前,弥尔顿发 表了他的三篇不朽之作,即《失乐园》和《复乐 园》两部史诗般的诗作,以及多少有些他个人影子的悲剧《力士参孙》,这些作品不仅奠定了他在英国文学史上的地位,也对后来的文学有巨大的影响。

对弥尔顿的研究著作可谓是卷帙浩繁,而本书 则是集其大成者。编者约请了18位国际知名的弥 尔顿研究者,其中包括他本人,从各个方面介绍了 西方弥尔顿研究的最新成果,特别是反映了最近 10年来这方面的进展。18篇文章的编排在某种程 度上反映了弥尔顿作品问世的时间顺序,从第一篇 关于弥尔顿所处时代、生平及作品和三者关系的概 述开始,逐步进入对具体作品、创作体裁和作者在 政治、宗教、女性问题等方面态度的讨论。18位 作者在许多有关弥尔顿的问题上看法可能不同,以 至相左,但共同反映了对他的政治观、他创作的社 会历史条件、他作品问世时的世态人情等更多的注 意,反映了近年来西方对弥尔顿早期诗作和《力士 参孙》的特别兴趣,也反映了过去10年批评界由 于女性问题研究的深入而带来的观点变化。18位 作者还有一个共同特点,就是能作到深入浅出,将 一般人认为是十分艰深的弥尔顿研究写得极具可 读性与启发性,促进读者思考与讨论。18 篇中的 最后一篇是研究弥尔顿的一个简要而又全面的文 献目录,是研究者不可或缺的工具。

本书的读者对象为大学外语教师,外国文学研究人员,外国文学专业的研究生、博士生,以及具备了较高英语阅读能力的外国文学爱好者。

上海外语教育出版社 2000年12月



frontispiece William Faithorne's engraved portrait of Milton for the frontispiece of The History of Britain (1670)

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#### **ILLUSTRATIONS**

Wı	lliam Faithorne's engraved portrait of Milton for the frontispiece frontispiece
of '	The History of Britain (1670) phibas Hospital wwo sa a trees
I.	Engraved portrait of Milton, from Poems 1645 page 58
2.	Medici Tapestries (c. 1550), Adam Names the Animals
	(Accademia, Florence) ha ghersynd yound to stal , язичотсяяно можоло
3.	Albrecht Durer (1471-1528), Adam and Eve (Gallerie degli Uffizi, 145
	DENNIE DANIEL SOM, University of British Columbia MADIARES (sonor)
4.	Gerard de Jode, Thesaurus Sacrorum historiarum veteris testamenti, 176
	Antwerp, 1585. An engraving of the Creation of Eve with Admonition,
	by Jan Sadeler after Crispijn van den Broeck. Reproduced by permission
	of the Huntington Library, San Marino, California
5.	Title page from Paradise Regained (courtesy University of Delaware 220
	Library) emandament to your violet, was mana managed
6.	Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640), The Fall of the Damned into Hell 254
	(Alte Pinakothek, Munich)

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This book, as its title suggests, is intended to provide friendly and helpful company for any student of Milton; and this second edition aims to build on the apparent success of the first in performing that mission. In the late 1980s Cambridge University Press began by asking me to plan a book—and a team of contributors—which would introduce readers of Milton to both the scope of his work and the range of current approaches to it. In response I put forward a list of chapters that I hoped might most nearly accomplish this task, and then recruited a range of outstanding academics whose contributions made the Cambridge Companion to Milton a reality. At that time, ours was only the third volume—preceded by Chaucer and Shakespeare—in what has since become a prominent series of (at this writing) thirty-odd Cambridge Companions to literature. Then in the late 1990s, after roughly a decade in print, with continued lively interest in the book from students and other academics, this Companion seemed ripe for revision; and the present volume is the fruit of our collective response.

Seven of the eighteen essays that follow – those by Dobranski, Brown, Burrow, Dzelzainis, Hall, von Maltzahn, and Siemens – I had the pleasure of commissioning for this second edition, and five more have been revised in varying degrees from what they were. All eighteen chapters embody critical thought, serious study, and a process of understanding, and all encourage more of the same in both our and Milton's readers. Moreover, I have invited each author to speak in his or her own voice, and without condescension. The resulting eighteen original essays are thus by eighteen conspicuously different human beings, who would (and do) disagree with each other about innumerable issues, but who are here united by their desire to say in an informative, responsible, sometimes argumentative way something important about a subject they love.

Although readers may consult the contents list and pick chapters to read according to their specific needs or interests, I have tried to arrange the book so that it has some rough logical or chronological continuity. Stephen

Dobranski's fresh chapter on Milton's 'social life' is followed by Cedric Brown's historically (and likewise socially) informative chapter on Milton's Ludlow Masque, sometimes known as 'Comus'. Martin Evans's stimulating essay on Lycidas is similarly of biographical as well as literary interest. The theme of historically embedded biography is pursued further in Colin Burrow's perceptive chapter on the 1645 Poems of Mr John Milton. The focus of the two following pieces is Milton's prose: Martin Dzelzainis providing a lively primer on Milton's politics, and Thomas Corns tracing the development of Milton's prose style. After these introductions to Milton's prose and early poetic career comes Ron Hall's chapter examining Milton's sonnets as history and as poetry; followed by three further essays, by Barbara Lewalski, John Leonard, and myself, on the forms and purposes of Milton's great heroic poem: the genres, language, and theodicy of Paradise Lost. Two of the most perennially controversial topics related to Paradise Lost - Milton's Satan and Milton's treatment of the sexes - are introduced in lively essays by John Carey and Diane McColley respectively. The chapter by the late Georgia Christopher provides valuable insight into the relationship between Milton's work and the spirit and hermeneutics of the Reformation. Mary Ann Radzinowicz and Joan Bennett lead us next into readings of the other two 'great poems', Paradise Regained and Samson Agonistes, exploring Milton's rich, complex relationship (respectively) to the Bible and to the timeless issue of human freedom. Our historical perspectives on Milton are then lengthened and deepened by Nicholas von Maltzahn's discussion of the reception and subsequent 'institution' of Milton, and by William Kerrigan's essay on the place of Milton in intellectual history. Each of these seventeen chapters is accompanied by a reading list. Finally comes Ray Siemens's veritable tool kit of helps - including Internet resources - for all who wish to pursue their Miltonic studies beyond Milton and this Companion. The same bibliography's availability on the Internet, we hope, will doubly enhance its utility.

Assembling this book has taught me afresh both to recognize and to enjoy the social, economic, historical, and spiritual complexity of an artifact that appears, deceptively, as a single material object between two covers. Its eighteen contributors do not constitute the full Companion team, although my gratitude to and respect for each of them is immense. In addition I would like to thank those valued colleagues either whose essays were not carried over into this second edition or who agreed to contribute to it and then, through a combination of circumstances, were not included. I am also grateful for the enormous amount of advice (written and oral) I received from many scholars from around the world during this edition's gestation. They are too many to name, but I do want to offer special thanks

to John Leonard, who is himself a true Milton companion. Finally, I am deeply thankful to Josie Dixon, senior editor at Cambridge University Press, who with great humanity and professionalism has shepherded me and this edition from its inception.

If I were the sole author of this book I could here conclude, as authors often inaccurately do, by claiming responsibility for all its errors and shortcomings. But I am only its editor; and however much blame I do genuinely and undoubtedly deserve, responsibility for this *Companion*'s failures as well as successes – like the pleasure of reading Milton – is happily something I may share with others.

DENNIS DANIELSON

A Masque Presented at Ludlow-Casals published-woll yould

## JOHN MILTON: SIGNIFICANT DATES

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1608	Milton born in Cheapside, London (9 December)
1620	
1625	
	King Charles I crowned
1628	
1629	Takes BA degree (January)
1632	
	'An Epitaph on the admirable Dramaticke Poet W. Shakespeare' published in Shakespeare's Second Folio
	Takes up residence with family in Hammersmith
1634	A Masque Presented at Ludlow Castle performed (29 September)
1635	Takes up residence with family at Horton
1637	His mother dies (April)
	A Masque Presented at Ludlow Castle published
1638	Lycidas published in Justa Edouardo King
	Travels to France and Italy
	Charles Diodati dies
1639	Returns to England (July)
1640	Epitaphium Damonis published
	Moves to his own house in Aldersgate and begins teaching two students, John and Edward Phillips
1641	Of Reformation Touching Church-Discipline in England (May) published
	Of Prelatical Episcopacy (June or July) published
	Animadversions upon the Remonstrants Defence (July) published
1642	The Reason of Church-Government Urg'd against Prelaty (Januar or February) published

(April) published

An Apology Against a Pamphlet Called A Modest Confutation

#### JOHN MILTON: SIGNIFICANT DATES

	Marries Mary Powell, who returns home to her family abou	t one
	(October) written (first published in 1698)	
	The Civil War begins	
1643	The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce (August) published	
1644		ivorce
	(February) published the revised seed bedsilder (vasandell)	
	Of Education (June) published	
	The Judgement of Martin Bucer (August) published	
	Areopagitica (November) published	
1645	Tetrachordon and Colasterion (March) published	
	Poems of Mr. John Milton, both English and Latin, Compos	'd at
	Several Times registered (published January 1646)	
	Marry Powell Milton returns to her husband	
1646	Daughter Anne born (July)	
1647	His father dies (March)	
1648	Daughter Mary born (October)	
1649	King Charles I executed (January) borlaildurg soigod am A	
	The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates (February) published	
	Appointed Secretary for Foreign Languages (March)	
	Articles of Peace (May) published	
	Eikonoklastes (October) published	
1651	Pro Populo Anglicano Defensio (February) published	
	Son John born (March)	
1652	Becomes completely blind of the state of the	
	Daughter Deborah born (May) and selid is ni redmeyoM	
	Mary Powell Milton dies (May)	
	Son John dies (June) day manufact and I add to respond	
1653	Oliver Cromwell established as Lord Protector (December)	
1654	Pro Populo Anglicano Defensio Secunda (May) published	
1655	Pro Se Defensio (August) published Mayanor O of apparato	
1656	Marries second wife, Katherine Woodcock (November)	
1657	Daughter Katherine born (October)	1874
1658	Katherine Woodcock Milton dies (February)	
	Daughter Katherine dies (March)	
	Oliver Cromwell dies; his son Richard installed as successor	
	(September)	
	Revised second edition of Pro Populo Anglicano Defensio	
	(October) published	
1659	A Treatise of Civil Power (February) published	
	Considerations Touching the Likeliest Means to Remove Hir	elinas

(August) published

#### JOHN MILTON: SIGNIFICANT DATES

Letter to a Friend Concerning the Ruptures of the Commonwealth
(October) written (first published in 1698)
Proposalls of Certaine Expedients (November) written (first
published in 1938)

- The Readie and Easie Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth
  (February) published (the revised second edition appeared in April)
  The Present Means... of a Free Commonwealth (March) written
  (first published 1698)
  Brief Notes upon a Late Sermon (April) published
  Charles II returns and monarchy restored in England (May)
  Milton briefly imprisoned and fined
- 1663 Marries third wife, Elizabeth Minshull (February)
- 1667 Paradise Lost. A Poem in Ten Books (October) published
- 1669 Accedence Commenc't Grammar (June) published
- 1670 The History of Britain (November) published
- 1671 Paradise Regain'd . . . Samson Agonistes published
- 1672 Artis Logicæ published
- 1673 Of True Religion, Hæresie, Schism, and Toleration published Poems, &c. upon Several Occasions with Of Education published
- Paradise Lost. A Poem in Twelve Books (second edition) published
  Milton's translation of A Declaration or Letters Patent (July)
  published
  Epistolarum Familiarium published
  Milton dies at age 65 (8 or 9 November); and is buried on 12
  November in St Giles Church in Cripplegate
- 1676 Literae Pseudo-Senatus Anglicani (Letters of State) published
- 1681 Character of the Long Parliament published
- 1682 A Brief History of Moscovia published
- 1694 Letters of State (English translation) published, including Milton's sonnets to Cromwell, Fairfax, Vane, and Cyriack Skinner
- 1823 Manuscript of De doctrina Christiana discovered (published 1825)
- 1874 Milton's Commonplace Book discovered (published 1876)

#### NOTE ON THE TEXT AND LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

References to works quoted or mentioned are given in the text, usually in an abbreviated form that cites the author's name, the date (where necessary), and the page. Fuller details of works thus cited may be found in the reading list that follows each chapter but the last. All biblical quotations, except as otherwise indicated, are from the Authorized (King James) Version.

- Poems The Poems of John Milton, ed. John Carey and Alastair Fowler (London, 1968). All quotations of Milton's poetry are from this edition.
- YP Complete Prose Works of John Milton, 8 vols., ed. Don M. Wolfe et al. (New Haven, 1953-82)
- CM The Works of John Milton, 18 vols., ed. Frank Allen Patterson et al. (New York, 1931-8)
- CD Christian Doctrine (original Latin title: De doctrina christiana)
- PL Paradise Lost
- PR Paradise Regained
- SA Samson Agonistes