

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO



MILTON

弥尔顿

DENNIS DANIELSON 编

(北京)

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~~剑桥文学指南~~

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*second edition*

EDITED BY

DENNIS DANIELSON



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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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## PREFACE

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

## PREFACE

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

## JOHN MILTON: SIGNIFICANT DATES

- 1608 Milton born in Cheapside, London (9 December)
- 1620 Enters St Paul's School, London
- 1625 Admitted to Christ's College, Cambridge  
King Charles I crowned
- 1628 First poem printed (probably *De Idea Platonica*)
- 1629 Takes BA degree (January)
- 1632 Takes MA degree, *cum laude* (July)  
'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* (January  
or February) published  
*An Apology Against a Pamphlet Called A Modest Confutation*  
(April) published

JOHN MILTON: SIGNIFICANT DATES

- Marries Mary Powell, who returns home to her family about one month later  
 The Civil War begins
- 1643 *The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce* (August) published
- 1644 Revised second edition of *The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce* (February) published  
*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)  
*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  
 Daughter Deborah born (May)  
 Mary Powell Milton dies (May)  
 Son John dies (June)
- 1653 Oliver Cromwell established as Lord Protector (December)
- 1654 *Pro Populo Anglicano Defensio Secunda* (May) published
- 1655 *Pro Se Defensio* (August) published
- 1656 Marries second wife, Katherine Woodcock (November)
- 1657 Daughter Katherine born (October)
- 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 Hirelings* (August) published



- Letter to a Friend Concerning the Ruptures of the Commonwealth* (October) written (first published in 1698)  
*Proposals of Certain Expedients* (November) written (first published in 1938)
- 1660 *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
- 1674 *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)