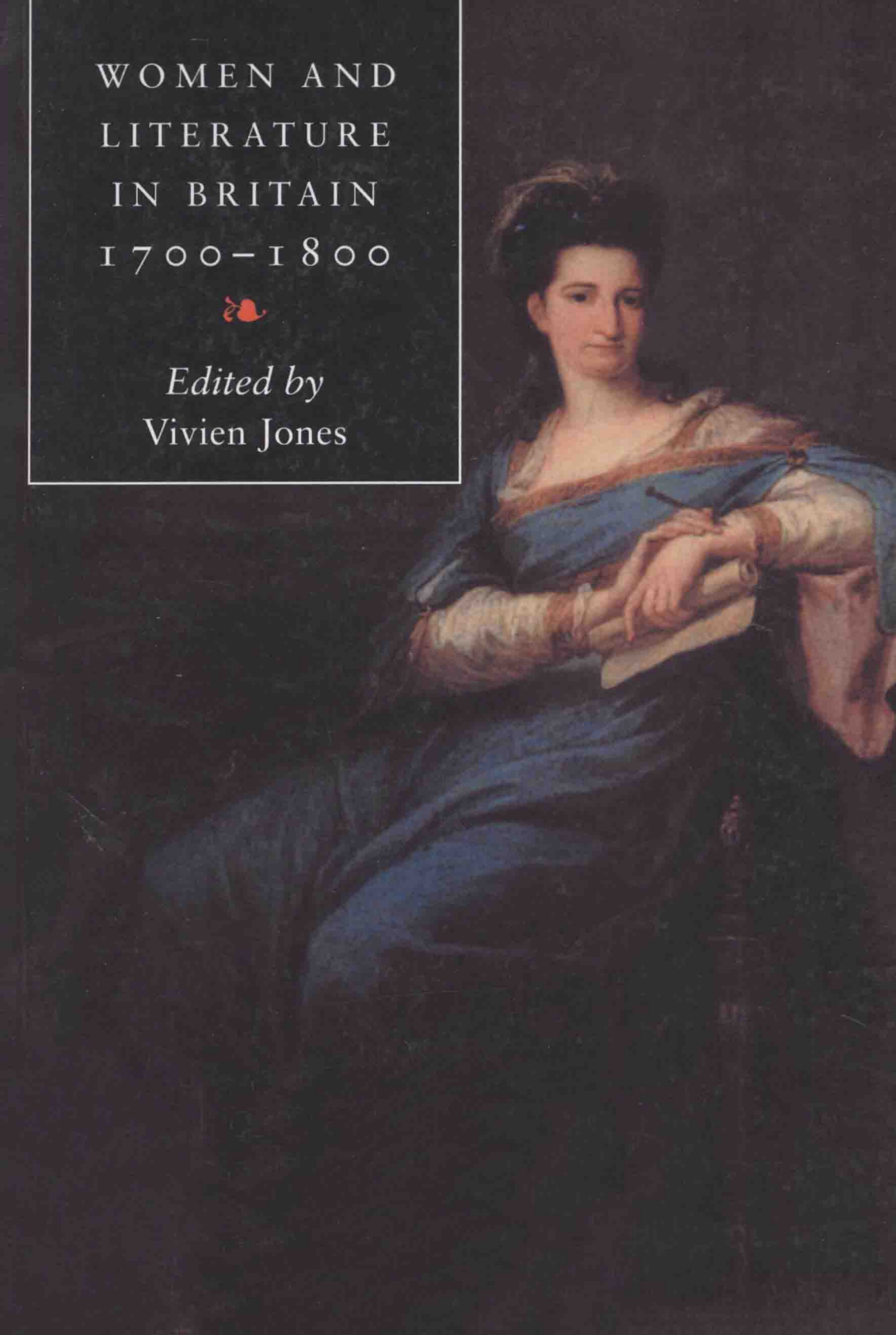


WOMEN AND
LITERATURE
IN BRITAIN
1700-1800



Edited by
Vivien Jones



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the accuracy of such information thereafter.

This collection of new essays brings together feminist critics, cultural historians, and historians of publishing to provide a unique and up-to-date introduction to eighteenth-century women's writing and its contexts. It was during this period that women began to contribute in significantly large numbers to a rapidly expanding print culture. Fourteen contributors here document the range and diversity of that contribution. They analyse the social, legal, and ideological constructions of women which women writers had to negotiate, and explore women's writing across a wide spectrum of genres – from fiction to broadside ballads, meditative poetry to confessional memoirs – as well as women's involvement as printers, sellers, and purchasers of printed texts. A chronology of women and literature in the period and guide to further reading are also included.

An invaluable overview of women and literary culture in the period, *Women and Literature in Britain, 1700–1800* is also an important contribution to our understanding of women's roles in the emergent public sphere of print.

Contributors

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CLARE BRANT is a Lecturer at King's College London. She is the author of a forthcoming book, *Eighteenth-Century Letters and British Culture*, which argues for the variety and significance of epistolary writing, and of numerous articles on eighteenth-century literature and gender. She is the co-editor, with Diane Purkiss, of *Women, Texts and Histories 1575-1760* (1992), and the co-editor, with Yun Lee Too, of *Rethinking Sexual Harassment* (1994).

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JAN FERGUS is a professor of English at Lehigh University. She is finishing a book on the eighteenth-century reading public entitled *Readers and Fictions*, and has published articles on that topic as well as essays and two books on Jane Austen.

ISOBEL GRUNDY taught for many years at Queen Mary College, London University. Since 1990 she has been Henry Marshall Tory Professor at the University of Alberta, Canada. She has published on women writers of the long eighteenth century, on Samuel Johnson, and on Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (most recently a new biography, 1999). She is Director of the Chawton House Library in Hampshire, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and a Co-investigator on the Orlando Project, which is writing in both printed and electronic form the first history of women's writing in the British Isles.

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VIVIEN JONES is a senior lecturer in the School of English, University of Leeds. She has published widely on gender and writing in the eighteenth century and is the editor of *Women in the Eighteenth Century: Constructions of Femininity* (1990), *The Young Lady's Pocket Library, or Parental Monitor* (1995), and of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* for Penguin Classics (1996). She is currently writing a book on the cultural significance of the seduction narrative from 1740 to 1800.

PAULA MCDOWELL is associate professor of English at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her book, *The Women of Grub Street: Press, Politics, and Gender in the London Literary Marketplace 1678-1730* (1998) was published in the Oxford Paperback Series by Clarendon Press. She is currently at work on a book entitled 'The Tongue Can No Man Tame': *Popular Oral Culture in Working London 1670-1730*, as well as on a facsimile edition of the nearly eighty works of London printer-author Elinor James.

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RUTH PERRY is Professor of Literature at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is the author of *Women, Letters, and the Novel* (1980) and *The Celebrated Mary Astell: an Early English Feminist* (1986), the editor of George Ballard's 1752 *Memoirs of Several Ladies of Great Britain* (1985), and co-editor of a volume of essays on nurturing creativity, *Mothering the Mind* (1984), as well as numerous articles on eighteenth-century literature and the influence of gender on the production of art. She is currently completing a history of kinship and the family in relation to the novel in England 1750–1810. She is the daughter of an anthropologist.

GILLIAN SKINNER is the author of *Sensibility and Economics in the Novel: the Price of a Tear* (1999) and of articles on eighteenth-century fiction, and has taught widely in higher education. In 1994 she was a Visiting Associate Professor at California State University, Hayward, and she is currently a Tutor and Scholar-in-Residence at St Chad's College, University of Durham.

ANGELA J. SMALLWOOD lectures in eighteenth-century English literature at the University of Nottingham and held a British Academy Research Readership 1991–93 in order to work on women playwrights. As well as contributing to the ongoing CD-ROM publication, *Annotated Bibliography for English Studies*, on Fielding, Smollett, and eighteenth-century drama and theatre, she has published *Fielding and the Woman Question: the Novels of Henry Fielding and Feminist Debate 1700–1750* (1989) and is currently working on a book-length study of women writers and the eighteenth-century theatre.

KATHRYN SUTHERLAND is Reader in Bibliography and Textual Criticism and Professorial Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford. She has published widely on fictional and non-fictional writings of the Scottish Enlightenment and Romantic periods, particularly the works of Adam Smith, Hannah More, Jane Austen, and Walter Scott.

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Above all, I want to thank the contributors to this volume for their enthusiasm, co-operation, and scholarship. I want, too, to thank Josie Dixon of Cambridge University Press for her attentive and helpful reading at various stages, as well as for her patience. I am grateful to Helen Berry, Michael Brennan, David Fairer, and Jan Thaddeus for help with references, and, as always, to Anna, Luke, and Rick Jones, to Angela Keane, and to John Whale for their support.

VIVIEN JONES

Chronology

The Chronology begins in 1688, the date of the ‘Glorious Revolution’, often taken as the symbolic beginning of the eighteenth century. Individual writers’ dates are not included here, but the dates of women writers, where available, can be found in the Index.

Contexts

1688 ‘Glorious Revolution’: Dutch Protestant William of Orange invited to England; Catholic James II escapes to France

1689 Accession of William III, and Mary II (daughter of Charles II); Revolution Settlement; war with France (ends 1697)

1690 Battle of the Boyne

1691 Society for Reformation of Manners founded

1692 Bank of England established; death of Mary II

1693 Lapse of Licensing Act ends pre-publication censorship, and limitation of printing

1696

Writers and texts

Jane Barker, *Poetical Recreations*; Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*; Elinor James, *Mrs James’s Advice to the Citizens of London* (and many other political pamphlets before her death 1715); George Savile, Marquis of Halifax, *Lady’s New Years Gift: or, Advice to a Daughter*

John Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding and Two Treatises of Government*

John Dunton, *Athenian Mercury*

John Dunton, *Ladies’ Mercury*

Mary Astell, *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies*

Truth Vindicated by the Faithful Testimony and Writings Of

... *Elizabeth Bathurst* (published by Quaker printer Tace

Sowle); Catharine Trotter, *Agnes de Castro*

[Judith Drake], *Essay in Defence of the Female Sex*; Elizabeth

Singer Rowe, *Poems on Several Occasions*

- 1697 Mary Astell, *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies*, part II
 1698 Catharine Trotter, *Fatal Friendship*; John Vanbrugh, *Provok'd Wife*
- 1699 Mary Astell, *Reflections upon Marriage*; William Congreve, *Way of the World*; John Dryden, *Fables*
 1700 Mary, Lady Chudleigh, *Ladies Defence*; Catharine Trotter, *Unhappy Penitent*
 1701 Susannah Centlivre, *Stolen Heiress*
- 1702 Sarah Fyge Egerton, *Poems on Several Occasions*
 Isaac Newton, *Optics*
 Mary Astell, *The Christian Religion . . . by a Daughter of the Church of England*; Delarivier Manley, *Secret History of Queen Zarah*
 George Farquhar, *Recruiting Officer*
 George Farquhar, *Beaux' Stratagem*; Fénelon, *Treatise on Education of Daughters* (trans.)
- 1703 Joseph Addison and Richard Steele, *The Tatler* (runs until 1711); Susannah Centlivre, *Busy Body*; Elizabeth Elstob (trans.), *English-Saxon Homily*; Delarivier Manley, *New Atalantis* and (probably) *The Female Tatler* (runs until 1710)
- 1704 Act of Settlement ensures Protestant succession;
 Jethro Tull's seed drill
 Death of William III; accession of Queen Anne (daughter of Charles II); war (of Spanish Succession) declared with France and Spain
 Newton elected President of Royal Society
 Battle of Blenheim
- 1705 Act of Union unites Scotland and England
- 1706 United East India Company created out of merger of 'Old' and 'New' East India Companies
 1707 First Copyright Act; Abraham Darby founds ironworks at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire

Contexts	1710	Queen Anne dismisses Whig government; Tories under Harley take power	Writers and texts
	1711		Mary, Lady Chudleigh, <i>Essays upon Several Subjects</i> ; Delarivier Manley collaborates with Swift on Tory <i>Examiner</i> (runs until 1711)
	1712	Last conviction for witchcraft in England; Handel settles in England	Joseph Addison and Richard Steele, <i>The Spectator</i> (runs until 1712; briefly revived 1714); Earl of Shaftesbury, <i>Characteristics</i>
	1713	War of Spanish Succession ended by Treaty of Utrecht	Jane Barker, <i>Love Intrigues</i> ; Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea, <i>Miscellany Poems</i>
	1714	Death of Queen Anne; accession of Hanoverian George I; Tory government dismissed	Bernard Mandeville, <i>Fable of the Bees</i> ; Delarivier Manley, <i>History of Rivella</i> ; Alexander Pope, <i>Rape of the Lock</i> (5 canto version)
	1715	First Jacobite Rebellion; death of Louis XIV	Jane Barker, <i>Exilius</i> ; Daniel Defoe, <i>Family Instructor</i> ; Elizabeth Elstob, <i>Rudiments of Grammar</i>
	1716	Lady Mary Wortley Montagu travels to Turkey; St Paul's Cathedral completed	Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, three pirated 'Town Eclogues' published in <i>Court Poems</i>
	1717		
	1718		Susannah Centlivre, <i>A Bold Stroke for a Wife</i>
	1719		Daniel Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> ; Eliza Haywood, <i>Love in Excess</i>
	1720	South Sea Company crashes in 'South Sea Bubble'	
	1721	Start of Walpole's ministry; first smallpox inoculations introduced from Turkey by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu	Penelope Aubin, <i>Strange Adventures of the Count de Vinetil</i> (and 6 further novels before death 1728)
	1722	Guy's Hospital founded	Eliza Haywood, <i>British Recluse</i> (and c. 40 further prose fictions in 1720s); Daniel Defoe, <i>Moll Flanders</i> ; Richard Steele, <i>Conscious Lovers</i>

1723	Statute passed permitting parishes to open workhouses independently	Jane Barker, <i>Patchwork Screen for the Ladies</i>
1724		Mary Davys, <i>Reform'd Coquet</i> ; Daniel Defoe, <i>Roxana</i> ; Eliza Haywood, <i>Poems on Several Occasions</i> ; [Bernard Mandeville], <i>Modest Defence of Public Stews</i>
1725		Jane Barker, <i>Lining of the Patch-Work Screen</i> ; Daniel Defoe, <i>Considerations upon Streetwalkers</i> ; Jonathan Swift, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
1726	Voltaire in England	Mary Davys, <i>Accomplish'd Rake</i>
1727	Death of George I; accession of son, George II	Ephraim Chambers, <i>Cyclopaedia</i> ; John Gay, <i>Beggar's Opera</i> ;
1728		Elizabeth Singer Rowe, <i>Friendship in Death and Letters Moral and Entertaining</i> (completed 1732)
1729	'Yorke and Talbot' judgement supports slave owners' claims	Stephen Duck, <i>Thresher's Labour</i> ; Henry Fielding, <i>Tom Thumb</i> ; James Thomson, <i>Seasons</i>
1730	Methodist Society founded; Francis Charteris receives royal pardon having been convicted for rape of a serving-maid	<i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> begins publication
1731	Vauxhall Gardens opens; Covent Garden Opera House founded	Elizabeth Boyd, <i>Happy Unfortunate</i> ; William Hogarth, <i>A Harlot's Progress</i>
1732		William Hogarth, <i>A Rake's Progress</i> ; Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, <i>Verses Address'd to the Imitator of Horace</i>
1733	John Kay invents fly-shuttle	
1734	(Approx. date) technique of delivering live babies by means of forceps becomes public knowledge, contributing to rise of man-midwife	[Sarah Chapone], <i>Hardships of the English Ladies in Relation to Wives</i> ; Alexander Pope, 'Epistle to a Lady. Of the Characters of Women'
1735	Abraham Darby perfects use of coke to smelt iron	

Contexts

1736 Repeal of English laws against witchcraft; gin riots
1737 Theatre Licensing Act regulates plays; death of Queen Caroline

1738
1739 Foundling Hospital established

1740 War of Austrian Succession begins (ends 1748)

1741 First performance of Handel's *Messiah*

1742 Prime Minister Walpole resigns

1743

1744

1745 Second Jacobite Rebellion
1746 Battle of Culloden
1747

1748 Discovery of ruins of Pompeii

1749 British Lying-in Hospital founded

Writers and texts

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Nonsense of Common-Sense*

Mary Collier, *Woman's Labour*; David Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*; 'Sophia', *Woman Not Inferior to Man*
Eliza Haywood, *Female Spectator*; Samuel Richardson, *Pamela*; Wetenhall Wilkes, *Letter of Gentel and Moral Advice to a Young Lady*

Henry Fielding, *Shamela*; David Hume, *Essays, Moral and Philosophical*; Samuel Richardson, *Pamela* (part ii); Wetenhall Wilkes, *Essay on the Pleasures and Advantages of Female Literature*

Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews*

Alexander Pope, *Dunciad* (four books)

Edward Moore, *Fables for the Female Sex*

William Hogarth, *Marriage à la Mode*

Eliza Haywood, *The Parrot*

David Garrick, *Miss in her Teens*; Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Six Town Eclogues*; Samuel Richardson, *Clarissa* (completed 1748)

Mary Leapor, *Poems upon Several Occasions* (post. published; vol. ii 1751); Teresia Constantia Phillips, *Apology for the Conduct of Mrs T. C. Phillips*; Laetitia Pilkington, *Memoirs* (completed 1754)

Monthly Review begins publication; Henry Fielding, *Tom Jones*; Sarah Fielding, *The Governess*

- 1750 Samuel Johnson, *The Rambler* (runs until 1752); Mary Jones, *Miscellanies in Prose and Verse*; Charlotte Lennox, *Life of Harriot Stuart*; first version of *Female Soldier* (life of Hannah Snell)
- 1751 Law passed forbidding sale of spirits by small shopkeepers
- 1752 Gregorian calendar adopted
- 1753 'Hardwicke's' Marriage Act regularises conditions for legal marriage; British Museum founded
- 1754 Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce
- 1755 Lisbon earthquake
- 1756 Seven Years War begins
- 1757
- 1758 Magdalen House for Penitent Prostitutes founded in London
- Samuel Johnson, *The Rambler* (runs until 1752); Mary Jones, *Miscellanies in Prose and Verse*; Charlotte Lennox, *Life of Harriot Stuart*; first version of *Female Soldier* (life of Hannah Snell)
- Henry Fielding, *Amelia*; Thomas Gray, *Elegy in a Country Churchyard*; Eliza Haywood, *History of Miss Betsy Thoughtless*; Frances Anne, Lady Vane, 'Memoirs of a Lady of Quality' included in Smollett's *Peregrine Pickle*
- Charlotte Lennox, *Female Quixote*; William Smellie, *Treatise on Midwifery*
- Jane Collier, *Essay on the Art of Ingeniously Tormenting*; Sarah Fielding, *David Simple*; Eliza Haywood, *History of Jenny and Jenny Jessamy*; William Hogarth, *Analysis of Beauty*; Samuel Richardson, *Sir Charles Grandison* (completed 1754)
- John Duncombe, *Feminiad*
- Frances Brooke, *Old Maid*; Charlotte Charke, *Narrative of the Life of Mrs Charlotte Charke*; [George Colman and Bonnell Thornton, eds.], *Poems by Eminent Ladies*; Samuel Johnson, *Dictionary*; Mary Masters, *Familiar Letters and Poems*
- Critical Review* begins publication
- John Brown, *Estimate of the Manners and Principles of the Times*; Edmund Burke, *Philosophical Enquiry into . . . the Sublime and the Beautiful*; Thomas Gray, *Odes*
- Elizabeth Carter, *All the Works of Epictetus*; Charlotte Lennox, *Henrietta*

Contexts

1759 British Museum opened

1760 Death of George II; accession of grandson, George III

1761 Resignation of Pitt (the Elder); Bridgewater Canal

1762 Bute's ministry

1763 Treaty of Paris ends Seven Years War

1764

1765

1766

Writers and texts

Sarah Fielding, *Countess of Dellwyn*; Oliver Goldsmith, *Enquiry into the Present State of Polite Learning*; Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*; Laurence Sterne, *Tristram Shandy* (completed 1767); Voltaire, *Candide*

Sarah Fielding, *Ophelia*; James Macpherson, *Fragments of Ancient Poetry* (first of *Poems of Ossian*);

Elizabeth Montagu, *Dialogues of the Dead*; Elizabeth Nihell, *Art of Midwifery*

Sarah Pennington, *An Unfortunate Mother's Advice to her Absent Daughters*; J.-J. Rousseau, *La Nouvelle Héloïse*

Elizabeth Carter, *Poems on Several Occasions*; Catherine

Jemmat, *Memoirs*; J.-J. Rousseau, *Emile and Contrat Social*;

Sarah Scott, *Millenium Hall*; Frances Sheridan, *Memoirs of*

Miss Sidney Bidulph

Frances Brooke, *Julia Mandeville*; Catharine Macaulay,

History of England (completed 1783); Lady Mary Wortley

Montagu, *Embassy Letters* (written 1716); Frances Sheridan,

The Discovery

Phebe Gibbes, *Life and Adventures of Mr Francis Clive*;

Horace Walpole, *Castle of Otranto*

William Blackstone, *Commentaries on the Laws of England*

(completed 1769); Alison Cockburn, 'Flowers of the

Forest'

James Fordyce, *Sermons to Young Women*; Oliver Goldsmith,

Vicar of Wakefield; Catherine Jemmat, *Miscellanies in Prose*

and Verse; Sarah Scott, *History of Sir George Ellison*

- 1767 Royal Crescent, Bath; Rousseau in England
- 1768 Cook's first voyage
- 1769 Royal Academy founded; Watt patents steam engine; Wilkes expelled from Commons, re-elected three times; Cook in 'Tahiti
- 1770 Cook arrives in 'Botany Bay'
- 1771 Richard Arkwright opens first spinning mill; first edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*
- 1772 Lord Mansfield's judgement in James Somerset case extends right of habeas corpus to slaves; Cook's second voyage; Pantheon (pleasure-dome) opened in Oxford Street, London
- 1773 Boston Tea Party
- 1774 House of Lords settles copyright law, eliminating perpetual copyright; Humane Society formed; Omai (brought by Cook from Raiatea) in London; Joseph Priestley discovers oxygen
- 1775 American War of Independence begins
- 1776 American Declaration of Independence; Cook's third voyage
- 1777 British defeated at Saratoga
- 1778
- Adam Ferguson, *Essay on Civil Society*
- Laurence Sterne, *Sentimental Journey*
- Elizabeth Montagu, *Essay on the Writings and Genius of Shakespeare*
- Lady's Magazine* begins publication; Oliver Goldsmith, *Deserted Village*
- Elizabeth Griffith, *History of Lady Barton*; Henry Mackenzie, *Man of Feeling*; Ann Skinn, *Old Maid*
- Anna Laetitia Barbauld, *Poems*; Hester Chapone, *Letters on the Improvement of the Mind*; Oliver Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*; William Russell (trans.), *Essay on the Character, Manners, and Genius of Women in Different Ages*; Phillis Wheatley, *Poems on Various Subjects*
- Earl of Chesterfield, *Letters to his Son*; Goethe, *Sorrows of Young Werther*; John Gregory, *Father's Legacy to his Daughters*; Sarah Scott, *Female Advocate*
- Hester Chapone, *Miscellanies in Prose and Verse*; R. B. Sheridan, *The Rivals*
- Mary Deverell, *Sermons on Various Subjects*; Edward Gibbon, *Decline and Fall* (completed 1788); Elizabeth Griffith, *Juliana Harley*; Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*
- R. B. Sheridan, *School for Scandal*
- Frances Burney, *Evelina*; Phebe Gibbes, *Friendship in a Nunnery*; Mary Hamilton, *Monster Village*; Hannah More, *Percy*; Clara Reeve, *Old English Baron*

Contexts

- 1779 Samuel Crompton's spinning mule; machine riots; first iron bridge built at Coalbrookdale
- 1780 Gordon Riots (anti-Catholic); Yorkshire petition for parliamentary reform
- 1781
- 1782
- 1783 American independence conceded; Pitt becomes Prime Minister
- 1784 Partial control of East India Company by parliament established; first hydrogen balloon ascent in England by Lunardi

1785

1786

1787 American constitution signed

1788 Botany Bay prison colony founded

Writers and texts

- William Alexander, *History of Women*; Hannah Cowley, *Who's the Dupe?*; Phebe Gibbes, *Harly House, Calcutta*; Samuel Johnson, *Lives of the Poets* (completed 1781); Hannah More, *Fatal Falsehood*
- Hannah Cowley, *Belle's Stratagem*; Sophia Lee, *Chapter of Accidents*; Anna Seward, *Elegy on Captain Cook*
- J.-J. Rousseau, *Confessions*
- Frances Burney, *Cecilia*
- Jane Cave, *Poems on Various Subjects*
- Anna Seward, *Louisa, A Poetical Novel*; Charlotte Smith, *Elegiac Sonnets*
- Agnes Maria Bennett, *Anna; or, Memoirs of a Welch Haïress*; Clara Reeve, *Progress of Romance*; Ann Yearsley, *Poems on Several Occasions*
- Robert Burns, *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*; Hannah Cowley, *School for Greybeards*; Hester Thrale Piozzi, *Anecdotes of the Late Samuel Johnson*; Sarah Trimmer, *Fabulous Histories: Designed for the Instruction of Children*; Helen Maria Williams, *Poems, in Two Volumes*
- Elizabeth Steele, *Memoirs of Miss Sophia Baddeley*; Sarah Trimmer, *The Oeconomy of Charity*; Mary Wollstonecraft, *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters*; Ann Yearsley, *Poems on Various Subjects*
- Analytical Review* and *The Times* begin publication;
- Elizabeth Gooch, *Appeal to the Public*; Charlotte Smith, *Emmeline*; Mary Wollstonecraft, *Mary*