The Cambridge Companion to Jonathan Swift

*The Cambridge Companion to Jonathan Swift* is a specially commissioned collection of essays. Arranged thematically across a range of topics, this volume will deepen and extend the enjoyment and understanding of Jonathan Swift for students and scholars. The thirteen essays explore crucial dimensions of Swift’s life and works. As well as ensuring a broad coverage of Swift’s writing – including early and later works as well as the better known and the lesser known – the *Companion* also offers a way into current critical and theoretical issues surrounding the author. Special emphasis is placed on Swift’s vexed relationship with the land of his birth, Ireland, and on his place as a political writer in a highly politicized age. The *Companion* offers a lucid introduction to these and other issues, and raises new questions about Swift and his world. The volume features a detailed chronology and a guide to further reading.
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
JONATHAN SWIFT

EDITED BY
CHRISTOPHER FOX
University of Notre Dame, Indiana
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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

SEAMUS DEANE is Professor of English and the Donald and Marilyn Keough Professor of Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy, a founding director of the Field Day Theatre, the general editor of the Penguin Joyce, and the author of several books, including *A Short History of Irish Literature*, *Celtic Revivals: Essays in Modern Irish Literature*, *The French Revolution and Enlightenment in England*, and *Strange Country: Modernity and the Nationhood In Irish Writing Since 1790*. Deane has edited the *Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing*, has written four books of poetry and a novel, *Reading in the Dark*. He is completing a new novel and a book on Edmund Burke to be published in the Field Day Critical Conditions series.

MARGARET ANNE DOODY is Professor of English and the John and Barbara Glynn Family Professor of Literature at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. Her books include *The True History of the Novel*, *Frances Burney: The Life in the Works*, *The Daring Muse: Augustan Poetry Reconsidered*, and *A Natural Passion: A Study of the Novels of Samuel Richardson*. She has edited Frances Burney’s *Evelina*, Jane Austen’s *Catharine and Other Early Writings*, and L. M. Montgomery’s *Anne of Green Gables* (*The Annotated Anne*). Her mystery novel, *Aristotle Detective*, has just been re-published and has also been translated into Italian. She is currently working on two books, one on Apuleius and one on Venice.

CAROLE FABRICANT is Professor of English at the University of California, Riverside. She is the author of *Swift’s Landscape* (2nd edn., 1995) and has published widely in the fields of Eighteenth-Century Studies, Postcolonial and Gender Studies. She is currently completing an edition of *Swift’s Miscellaneous Prose* for Penguin Classics and collaborating on an edition of Swift’s *Irish Writings* for St. Martin’s Press. She received a Guggenheim Fellowship for her new critical project, “Speaking for the Irish Nation: Problems of Colonial Representation in Eighteenth-Century Ireland.”
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

CHRISTOPHER FOX is Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. He is the author of Locke and the Scriblerians: Identity and Consciousness in Early Eighteenth-Century Britain and editor of several books, including Psychology and Literature in the Eighteenth Century, Gulliver’s Travels: Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism, Teaching Eighteenth-Century Poetry, and co-editor, with Robert Wokler and the late Roy Porter, of Inventing Human Science: Eighteenth Century Domains, and with Brenda Tooley, of Walking Naboth’s Vineyard: New Studies of Swift. He is currently working on a study of Swift and Defoe.

BREAN HAMMOND is Professor of English at the University of Nottingham. He is the author of numerous articles and several books on the eighteenth century, most recently Professional Imaginative Writing in England, 1670–1740: “Hackney for Bread,” published by Clarendon Press. His current project is an edition of Vanbrugh for Oxford University Press World’s Classics.

IAN HIGGINS is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at The Australian National University in Canberra, Australia. He is the author of Swift’s Politics: A Study in Disaffection, published by Cambridge University Press, and of several articles on Swift. He has also written on Swift’s contemporaries in the Jacobite Diaspora and on radical Whig authors.

J. PAUL HUNTER is Professor of English at the University of Virginia. He has published numerous essays on the eighteenth century and is the author of several books, including Before Novels: The Cultural Contexts of Eighteenth-century English Fiction, Occasional Form: Henry Fielding and the Chains of Circumstance, and The Reluctant Pilgrim: Defoe’s Emblematic Method and Quest for Form in Robinson Crusoe.

PATRICK KELLY is Fellow and Senior Lecturer in Modern History at Trinity College, Dublin. He is the editor of Locke on Money for The Clarendon Edition of the Works of John Locke and the author of numerous articles. With Aileen Douglas and Ian Campbell Ross, Kelly has co-edited Locating Swift: Essays from Dublin on the 250th Anniversary of the Death of Jonathan Swift. He is currently completing a critical edition of William Molyneux’s The Case of Ireland Stated.

JOSEPH MCMINN is Professor of Anglo-Irish Studies at the University of Ulster, at Jordanstown, Northern Ireland. He is the author of several books on Swift, including Jonathan Swift: A Literary Life and Jonathan’s Travels: Swift and Ireland. He is currently working on a longer study of Swift’s interest in the “sister arts.”
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Judith C. Mueller is Associate Professor of English at Franklin and Marshall College, Pennsylvania. She has published articles on Swift and on masculinity in Restoration and eighteenth-century literature and culture in such journals as *English Literary History*.

David Oakleaf is Associate Professor of English at the University of Calgary, Canada. He has edited Eliza Haywood’s *Love in Excess* and published essays on eighteenth-century writers in *SEL: Studies in English Literature, Studies in the Novel, Eighteenth-Century Fiction, Eighteenth-Century Life*, and the *University of Toronto Quarterly*. With Noel Chevalier and Joyce Rappaport, Oakleaf’s most recent project is *The Broadview Anthology of Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature in English*.

Michael F. Suarez, S.J. is Associate Professor of English at Fordham University, New York. His scholarly interests include bibliography and publishing history, the so-called “sister arts” and literature and the history of ideas. Along with a study of Robert Dodsley’s *Collection of Poems*, he has co-edited, with Peter D. McDonald, *Making Meaning: Selected Essays of D. F. McKenzie*, and with Michael Turner, *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain, Volume V, 1695–1830* (forthcoming). His current project is a study of mock-biblical satire from 1660 to 1832.

Pat Rogers is Professor of English and the DeBartolo Professor of Liberal Arts at the University of South Florida. He is the editor of *Jonathan Swift: The Complete Poems* and the author of numerous books, including *Grub Street: Studies in a Subculture, Literature and Popular Culture in Eighteenth Century England*, *The Text of Great Britain: Theme and Design in Defoe’s Tour*, and *Eighteenth Century Encounters: Studies in Literature and Society in the Age of Walpole*.

Marcus Walsh is Professor of English Literature at the University of Birmingham. He has co-edited, with Karina Williamson, *The Poetical Works of Christopher Smart*, published by Oxford University Press, and has written extensively on Smart, Swift, Johnson, and Sterne, on the history and theory of editing, and on biblical interpretation and scholarship in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. His study of *Shakespeare, Milton, and Eighteenth-Century Literary Editing* was published by Cambridge University Press.
CHRONOLOGY OF SWIFT’S LIFE

1667    Jonathan Swift born 30 November in Hoey’s Court, a fashionable area of Dublin.
1673    Enters school at Kilkenny, seventy miles south of Dublin.
1682    Enrolls in Trinity College Dublin and receives a B.A. by “special dispensation” or speciali gratia in 1686.
1688    The so-called Glorious Revolution and the War of the Two Kings (the Catholic James II versus the Protestant William of Orange) erupts and Swift leaves Ireland soon afterwards.
1689    Receives employment in Sir William Temple’s household at Moor Park near Farnham, Surrey and meets eight-year-old Esther (or Hester) Johnson, later known as Stella.
1690    Visits Ireland in the year William III defeats James II at the Battle of the Boyne.
1691    Returns to Sir William Temple and Moor Park.
1692    Obtains M.A. from Oxford.
1695    Ordained as a priest in Dublin and takes the prebendary of Kilroot, near Belfast.
1696    Returns to Moor Park.
1699    In Ireland after Temple’s death, where Swift becomes chaplain to the Earl of Berkeley and edits Temple’s works.
1700    Becomes vicar of Laracor, County Meath and prebendary of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin.
1701    In England with Lord Berkeley where Swift publishes his edition of the third volume of Temple’s Miscellanea and his own Discourse of the Contests and Dissentions Between the Nobles and the Commons in Athens and Rome. Esther Johnson (Stella) and Rebecca Dingley move to Dublin to be near Swift.
1702    Receives a D.D. at Trinity College, Dublin and becomes The Reverend Dr. Swift.
CHRONOLOGY OF SWIFT’S LIFE

1704  Publishes *A Tale of a Tub, The Battle of the Books*, and *A Discourse Concerning the Mechanical Operation of the Spirit.*

1707  Around the time of the 1707 Union with Scotland, Swift writes *The Story of the Injured Lady* and, in London, meets Esther (or Hester) Vanhomrigh (later known as Vanessa) and the Whig writers, Joseph Addison and Richard Steele.

1708  While in England on Church of Ireland business, writes political and religious tracts, including *A Letter from a Member of the House of Commons in Ireland to a Member of the House of Commons in England concerning the Sacramental Test*, and begins *The Bickerstaff Papers.*

1709  Publishes *A Project for the Advancement of Religion* and, in Steele’s *Tatler*, “The Description of the Morning.”

1710  Back in England, meets Robert Harley, the new Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer and later Lord Treasurer, secures the so-called First Fruits for the Church of Ireland, and starts writing for the pro-government paper, *The Examiner*. Begins a private correspondence with Esther Johnson and Rebecca Dingley, now called *The Journal to Stella.*

1711  Publishes *Miscellanies in Prose and Verse* which includes *Contests and Dissentions, The Sentiments of a Church of England Man, An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity, A Project for the Advancement of Religion, Meditation Upon a Broomstick, A Letter from a Member of the House of Commons in Ireland, and Various Thoughts.* Also publishes *The Conduct of the Allies* as part of the Tory campaign against the Duke of Marlborough.

1712  Publishes *A Proposal for Correcting the English Tongue.*


1714  Publishes *The Publick Spirit of the Whigs*, which brings a fierce condemnation by the Scottish Lords, and returns to Ireland after the fall of Oxford’s government and the death of Queen Anne.

1715  Swift falls under suspicion during the First Jacobite Rebellion, after one of his former associates, Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, is impeached and imprisoned, and another, Bolingbroke, flees to France.

1720  Publishes *A Proposal for the Universal Use of Irish Manufacture* which lands his printer, Edward Waters, in jail.
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<td>1721</td>
<td>Publishes <em>A Letter to a Young Gentleman, Lately Enter’d into Holy Orders.</em></td>
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<td>1723</td>
<td>After death of Vanessa, travels extensively through Ireland.</td>
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<td>1724</td>
<td>Publishes <em>The Drapier’s Letters</em> and the government at Dublin Castle offers a reward to anyone who can identify “the Drapier.”</td>
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<td>1726</td>
<td>Visits England, stays with Pope, and publishes <em>Gulliver’s Travels.</em> Swift’s longest poem, <em>Cadenus and Vanessa,</em> published in Dublin and later in London.</td>
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<td>1727</td>
<td>Visits England for the last time and stays with Alexander Pope.</td>
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<td>1728</td>
<td>Stella dies; Swift publishes <em>A Short View of the State of Ireland</em> and begins his collaborative series of papers with Thomas Sheridan in <em>The Intelligencer.</em></td>
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<td>1729</td>
<td>Publishes <em>A Modest Proposal.</em></td>
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<td>1731</td>
<td>Publishes <em>The Memoirs of Captain Creichton.</em></td>
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<td>1733</td>
<td>Publishes <em>On Poetry: A Rhapsody</em> and <em>To a Lady.</em></td>
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<td>1735</td>
<td>Dublin publisher George Faulkner prints the first four volumes of Swift’s <em>Works.</em></td>
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<td>1736</td>
<td>Swift writes <em>The Legion Club.</em></td>
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<td>1738</td>
<td>Publishes <em>A Complete Collection of Genteel and Ingenious Conversation.</em></td>
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<td>1739</td>
<td>Swift’s <em>Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift</em> is published.</td>
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<td>1742</td>
<td>Swift declared <em>non compos mentis</em> (of unsound mind and memory).</td>
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<tr>
<td>1745</td>
<td>Swift dies 19 October and is buried next to Stella in St. Patrick’s Cathedral.</td>
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ABBREVIATIONS


CW  Correspondence. Ed. David Woolley. Frankfurt-am-Main: Peter Lang, 1999–. In progress, with four volumes projected, two published at this time.


