

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-85451-1 - The Cambridge Companion to Henry Fielding

Edited by Claude Rawson

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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
HENRY FIELDING

Now best known for three great novels – *Tom Jones*, *Joseph Andrews* and *Amelia* – Henry Fielding (1707–1754) was one of the most controversial figures of his time. Prominent first as a playwright, then as a novelist and political journalist, and finally as a justice of the peace, Fielding made a substantial contribution to eighteenth-century culture, and was hugely influential in the development of the novel as a form, both in Britain and more widely in Europe. This collection of specially commissioned essays by leading scholars describes and analyses the many facets of Fielding's work in theatre, fiction, journalism and politics. In addition it assesses his unique contribution to the rise of the novel as the dominant literary form, the development of the law, and the political and literary culture of eighteenth-century Britain. Including a Chronology and Guide to Further Reading, this volume offers a comprehensive account of Fielding's life and work.

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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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CLAUDE RAWSON is Maynard Mack Professor of English at Yale University. His publications on Fielding include *Henry Fielding* (1968); *Henry Fielding and the Augustan Ideal under Stress* (1972); *Henry Fielding: A Critical Anthology* (1973); *Order from Confusion Sprung* (1985); and *Satire and Sentiment 1660–1830* (1994). He contributed the chapter on Fielding in the *Cambridge Companion to the Eighteenth-Century Novel* (1996). His most recent book is *God, Gulliver, and Genocide: Barbarism and the European Imagination 1492–1945* (2001).

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JANE SPENCER is Professor of English at the University of Exeter. She has published widely on the eighteenth-century novel and women's literary history from the Restoration to the nineteenth century. Her latest book is *Literary Relations: Kinship and the Canon, 1660–1830* (2005). She is currently working on animals in eighteenth-century writing.

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NOTE ON EDITIONS USED

Unless otherwise noted, all quotations from Fielding will be from the Wesleyan Edition of the Works of Henry Fielding, Executive Editor W. B. Coley (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1967–), and page references will be to the relevant volumes of that edition. Sectional references to book, chapter, act, or scene will be provided for readers using other editions. Parenthetical references in the text will therefore give page numbers in the Wesleyan Edition, followed by book and chapter (or act and scene) numbers, e.g. 96; II. iv. The Wesleyan Edition to date includes (for full publication details, see Guide to Further Reading):

- The Adventures of Joseph Andrews*, ed. Martin C. Battestin
- Amelia*, ed. Martin C. Battestin
- Contributions to the Champion*, ed. W. B. Coley
- Covent-Garden Journal*, ed. Bertrand A. Goldgar
- 'An Enquiry into the Causes of the Late Increase of Robbers' and Related Writings*, ed. Malvin R. Zirker
- The History of Tom Jones*, ed. Martin C. Battestin
- The Jacobite's Journal*, ed. W. B. Coley
- Miscellanies*, vol. I, ed. Henry Knight Miller
- Miscellanies*, vol. II, ed. Bertrand A. Goldgar and Hugh Amory
- Miscellanies*, vol. III, ed. Bertrand A. Goldgar and Hugh Amory (includes *Jonathan Wild*)
- Plays*, vol. I, 1728–31, ed. Thomas Lockwood
- The True Patriot and Related Writings*, ed. W. B. Coley

For the *Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon*, not yet included in the Wesleyan Edition, the edition used is that of Thomas Keymer (London: Penguin, 1996). For Fielding's letters, the edition used is *The Correspondence of Henry and Sarah Fielding*, ed. Martin C. Battestin and Clive T. Probyn (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993).

CHRONOLOGY

- 1707 22 April, HF born at his maternal grandfather's house, Sharpham Park, near Glastonbury, Somerset
- 1710 November, Sarah, the third of HF's four sisters, born at the family estate at East Stour, Dorset
- 1714 Death of Queen Anne, accession of George I. Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*, published
- 1715–20 Pope, *The Iliad of Homer* (translation), published
- 1718 April, death of HF's mother, Sarah Gould Fielding. Within a year HF's father Edmund Fielding remarries and an acrimonious battle with Lady Gould, the children's maternal grandmother, for the custody of the children begins
- 1719 Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*, and Eliza Haywood, *Love in Excess*, published
- 1719–24 Education at Eton. Among his fellow students is George Lyttelton, a friend and patron in HF's later life
- 1721 September, birth of HF's half-brother John, who later worked with HF and succeeded him as magistrate at Bow Street
- 1722 Lady Gould wins the court case for custody of the Fielding children. Robert Walpole (1676–1745), having already held various offices of state, comes to power as head of government. Defoe, *Colonel Jack*, *Journal of the Plague Year*, *Moll Flanders* published
- 1724 Defoe, *Roxana*, published
- 1724–6 Defoe, *Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain*, published

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- 1725 May, Jonathan Wild hanged at Tyburn
- 1725–6 Pope, *The Odyssey of Homer* (translation), published
- 1726 Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, published
- 1727 Death of George I, accession of George II
- 1728 January, *The Masquerade* (HF's first published poem) published. John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera* performed, breaking all box-office records in London. February, *Love in Several Masques* (first play) performed. March, HF registers as a student of humane letters at the University of Leiden. May, first version of Pope, *The Dunciad*, published
- 1729 Return to London from Leiden. April, Pope, *Dunciad, Variorum*, published
- 1730 *The Temple Beau* (January), *The Author's Farce* (March), *Tom Thumb* (April), *Rape upon Rape* (later known as *The Coffee-House Politician*) (June) performed
- 1731 *The Tragedy of Tragedies: Or, the Life and Death of Tom Thumb the Great* (March), *The Letter-Writers* (March), *The Welsh Opera* (April) performed; *The Grub-Street Opera* rehearsed but not performed
- 1732 *The Lottery* (January), *The Modern Husband* (February), *The Covent-Garden Tragedy* (June), *The Old Debauchees* (June), *The Mock-Doctor* (from Molière, June) performed
- 1733 February, *The Miser* (from Molière) performed
- 1734 *The Intriguing Chambermaid* (January), *Don Quixote in England* (April) performed. November, marriage to Charlotte Cradock at Charlcombe, just outside Bath
- 1735 *An Old Man Taught Wisdom* (January), *The Universal Gallant* (February) performed
- 1736 *Pasquin* (March), *Tumble-down Dick* (April) performed. Eliza Haywood, *Adventures of Eovaii* (satirical novel about Walpole), published
- 1737 *Eurydice* (February), *The Historical Register for the Year 1736* (March), *Eurydice Hiss'd* (April) performed. Passing of Licensing Act, effectively ending HF's career as a playwright. HF becomes a law student in the Middle Temple

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- 1739–41 Edits the *Champion*, a paper politically opposed to Walpole
- 1740 June, called to the Bar. *The Military History of Charles XII, King of Sweden*, by M. Gustavus Adlerfeld (HF translation) published. Colley Cibber, *An Apology for the Life of Mr. Colley Cibber, Comedian*, and Samuel Richardson's novel *Pamela* published. December, beginning of the War of Austrian Succession, which continues until 1748
- 1741 April, *An Apology for the Life of Mrs. Shamela Andrews*, HF's parody of Cibber's *Apology* and especially Richardson's *Pamela*, published anonymously. December, sequel to *Pamela* (vols. III and IV), published. HF seems to break with Opposition and to side with Walpole's government
- 1742 Walpole forced out of office, retires from politics and is created Earl of Orford. February, *The History of the Adventures of Joseph Andrews, and of his Friend Mr Abraham Adams; Written in Imitation of the Manner of Cervantes* published. March, Pope, *The New Dunciad* (i.e. Book IV), published. May, *Miss Lucy in Town* performed. Death of HF's daughter Charlotte and severe illness of HF's wife
- 1743 February, *The Wedding-Day* performed. April, *Miscellanies* published in three volumes, including poems, plays, essays, the otherworldly fiction *A Journey from this World to the Next*, and, occupying the whole of the third volume, *The History of the Life of the Late Mr. Jonathan Wild the Great*. October, Pope, *The Dunciad, in Four Books* (final version), published
- 1744 May, Sarah Fielding's *The Adventures of David Simple* published. Second edition published in July, including HF's Preface and revisions. November, death of HF's wife Charlotte. December, several of his patrons including Lyttelton receive appointments in the new government
- 1745 The 'Forty Five', the invasion by the 'Young Pretender' Prince Charles Edward Stuart attempting to restore the long-exiled Stuart monarchy with the aid of Jacobite supporters in Britain. November 1745 to June 1746, HF edits *The True Patriot*, a pro-Hanoverian paper opposing the rebellion
- 1746 April, final defeat of the Jacobites at Culloden

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- 1747 April, Sarah Fielding's *Familiar Letters between the Principal Characters in 'David Simple' and Some Others* published, with a Preface and some other contributions from HF. November, marries Mary Daniel, formerly his first wife's maid, now pregnant with his child. December 1747–November 1748, HF edits *The Jacobite's Journal*. December 1747, the first part of Richardson's novel *Clarissa* published
- 1748 January, HF reviews *Clarissa* favourably in *The Jacobite's Journal*. January, Tobias Smollett's *The Adventures of Roderick Random* published. April and December, the remaining part of *Clarissa* published. Autumn, HF privately circulates copies of Books I–V of *The History of Tom Jones: A Foundling*. October, becomes Justice of the Peace for Westminster (jurisdiction later extended to cover Middlesex), appointment owing largely to Lyttelton and also to John Russell, Duke of Bedford. November, John Cleland, *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*, published (second volume in February 1749)
- 1749 February, *The History of Tom Jones: A Foundling* published. A second edition published before the end of February, a third in April and a fourth revised edition in December
- 1750 February, the opening of the Universal Register Office, a clearing house for employment, sales, exchange and property transactions, managed by HF and his half-brother John. July 1750–January 1751, three of HF's four sisters die in London. 1750–2, Samuel Johnson's *The Rambler* published
- 1751 January, *An Enquiry into the Causes of the Late Increase of Robbers*, an important legal-sociological work reflecting HF's views on crime and the ways in which it could be controlled, published. February, Tobias Smollett's *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle* published. Eliza Haywood, *The History of Miss Betsy Thoughtless*, published. December, *Amelia* published (dated 1752)
- 1752 January–November, edits *Covent-Garden Journal*
- 1753 January, *A Proposal for Making an Effectual Provision for the Poor, for Amending their Morals, and for Rendering them Useful Members of the Society* published; February, Sarah Fielding, *David Simple: Volume the Last*, published

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- 1754 March, revised edition of *Jonathan Wild* published. HF's health, poor for several years, deteriorates to the extent that he has to resign his office as magistrate. June–August, HF travels to Lisbon in hopes the Portuguese air would improve his health. 8 October, dies at Junqueira near Lisbon
- 1755 February, the *Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon* published