

*The Cambridge Introduction to
the Eighteenth-Century Novel*

In the eighteenth century, the novel became established as a popular literary form all over Europe. Britain proved an especially fertile ground, with Defoe, Fielding, Richardson, and Burney as early exponents of the novel form. *The Cambridge Introduction to the Eighteenth-Century Novel* considers the development of the genre in its formative period in Britain. Rather than present its history as a linear progression, April London gives an original new structure to the field, organizing it through three broad thematic clusters – identity, community, and history. Within each of these themes, she explores the central tensions of eighteenth-century fiction: between secrecy and communicativeness, independence and compliance, solitude and family, cosmopolitanism and nation-building. The reader will gain a thorough understanding of both prominent and lesser-known novels and novelists, key social and literary contexts, the tremendous formal variety of the early novel, and its growth from a marginal to a culturally central genre.

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APRIL LONDON



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To Tony and Andrea

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