John Wilmot, second Earl of Rochester (1647–1680), the notorious and brilliant libertine poet of King Charles II’s court, has long been considered an embodiment of the Restoration era. This interdisciplinary collection of essays by leading scholars focuses new attention on, and brings fresh perspectives to, the writings of Lord Rochester. Particular consideration is given to the political force and social identity of Rochester’s work, to the worlds – courtly and theatrical, urban and suburban – from which Rochester’s poetry emerged and which it discloses, and not least to the unsettling aesthetic power of Rochester’s writing. The singularity of Rochester’s voice – his ‘matchless wit’ – has been widely recognized; this book encourages the continued appreciation of all the ways in which Rochester reveals the layered and promiscuous character of literary projects throughout the whole of a brilliant, abrasive, and miscellaneous age.

Matthew C. Augustine is Lecturer in Late Seventeenth-Century English Literature at the University of St Andrews. Steven N. Zwicker is Stanley Elkin Professor in the Humanities and Professor of English at Washington University, St Louis.
LORD ROCHESTER

in the Restoration World

EDITED BY
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AND
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Cambridge University Press
Contents

List of contributors  page vii
Acknowledgements  ix
Note on texts and sources  x

1 Introduction  1
   Matthew C. Augustine and Steven N. Zwicker

2 John Wilmot and the writing of ‘Rochester’  17
   Jonathan Sawday

3 From script to print: marketing Rochester  40
   Paul Davis

4 Trading places: Lord Rochester, the laureate and the making of literary reputation  58
   Matthew C. Augustine

5 Lord Rochester: a life in gossip  79
   Steven N. Zwicker

6 Rochester and the satiric underground  99
   Nicholas von Maltzahn

7 Rochester, the theatre and Restoration theatricality  121
   David Francis Taylor

8 Rochester and the play of values  141
   Christopher Tilmouth

9 Sexual and religious libertinism in Restoration England  162
   Tim Harris

10 Sex and sovereignty in Rochester’s writing  184
   Melissa E. Sanchez
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vi</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Rochester, Behn and Enlightenment liberty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ros Ballaster</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Unfit to print: Rochester and the poetics of obscenity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Tom Jones</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The perspective of Rochester’s letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Nicholas Fisher</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Rochester and rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Tom Lockwood</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Index</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Acknowledgements

The editors would like to recognize the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Dean of the Faculty at Washington University, St Louis, for support that made possible the completion of this volume in Scotland. We are grateful as well for the interest of colleagues who have responded to our work on the page and in colloquy, especially Alex Davis, Lorna Hutson, Andy Murphy, Neil Rhodes and Louise Wilson in St Andrews and Derek Hirst and Vince Sherry in St Louis. We would like to thank Paul Davis, Tom Jones and Jonathan Sawday for their contributions to seminars on one or the other side of the Atlantic. And for his invaluable work on Rochester and on Restoration literature and divinity, both editors would like to thank David Schmitt. Thanks are due as well to Caitlin Flynn, who helped prepare the final text. Our editorial labours were made easier by the convivial company of Judy Zwicker, of Katie Muth and of Julian Augustine, whose enthusiasm was all the more meaningful for being expressed without words.

A number of essays in this volume pay tribute to the writerly collaboration that so marks Restoration poetry and society. We should like to record as well the origins of this volume in conversation with Kevin Sharpe in the late summer of 2011. Our work would have benefited immeasurably from Kevin’s planned participation, and indeed the ‘spirit of wit’ we associate with Rochester was surely embodied in Kevin – a historian without rival for energy or daring.
Note on texts and sources

Citations to Rochester’s works, unless otherwise noted, are to Harold Love’s *The Works of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester*, Oxford English Texts (Oxford University Press, 1999). Titles of poems, plays and fragments are given in the form Love provides in his Index of Titles. In text and notes, Love’s edition is abbreviated *Works*; the verse is cited parenthetically by line, prose by page number.

Citations to Rochester’s correspondence are to Jeremy Treglown’s *The Letters of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester* (Oxford: B. Blackwell, 1980). In text and notes, Treglown’s edition is abbreviated *Letters*; the correspondence is cited parenthetically by page number.

Citations to the works of John Dryden, unless otherwise noted, are to *The Works of John Dryden*, ed. E. N. Hooker, H. T. Swedenberg, et al., 20 vols. (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1956–2000). In text and notes, the California edition is abbreviated Dryden, *Works*. The drama is cited parenthetically by act, scene and line, the verse by line, the prose by page number.