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Stephen B. Dobranski
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MILTON, AUTHORSHIP, AND THE BOOK TRADE

This study offers an original exploration of Milton's relationship to the seventeenth-century book trade. Critics have often assumed that Milton presided over all stages of his texts' creation, and little has been said about his dependence on other people for producing his works. Examining Milton's changing historical circumstances with special attention to his texts' material production, Stephen B. Dobranski shows in a series of provocative and original case studies that Milton benefited from a collaborative process of writing and publishing. He worked with amanuenses, acquaintances, printers, and publishers, often in dramatic and surprising ways; paradoxically, Milton's implied persona of the independent, even isolated, poet required the cooperation of these various individuals. Applying textual scholarship and book-trade history to the material forms of publication, Dobranski offers fresh insight into the practice of authorship and the meaning of Milton's works.

STEPHEN B. DOBRANSKI is co-editor with John Rumrich of *Milton and Heresy* (Cambridge University Press, 1998) and a contributing editor to the *Variorum Commentary on the Poems of John Milton*. He has published articles on Milton and Renaissance literature in *English Literary Renaissance*, *Milton Studies*, *The Seventeenth Century*, *Studies in English Literature*, and the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Milton*, 2nd edition.

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*For my Mom and Dad
and Shannon*

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Frequently cited works

CP	<i>The Complete Prose and Major Prose</i> , gen. ed. Don M. Wolfe, 8 vols. (New Haven, 1953–82).
Darbshire	Helen Darbshire, ed., <i>The Early Lives of Milton</i> (London, 1932).
French	J. Milton French, ed., <i>The Life Records of John Milton</i> , 5 vols. (New Brunswick, NJ, 1956).
Masson	David Masson, <i>The Life of John Milton</i> , 7 vols. (1877–96; New York, 1946).
Parker	William Riley Parker, <i>Milton: A Biography</i> , 2nd edn., ed. Gordon Campbell, 2 vols. (1968; Oxford, 1996).

Citations and line numbers for Milton's poetry, unless otherwise noted, are taken from Merritt Y. Hughes, ed., *John Milton: Complete Poems and Major Prose* (New York, 1957). The translations from Milton's Latin are my own, unless otherwise indicated.

When quoting from seventeenth-century texts, I have tried to preserve the spelling, pointing, capitalization, elision, and use of roman and italic case. However, ſ has been silently modernized; most small capitals have been treated as upper case letters; and ligatures and swash letters have been ignored.