The study of Jonathan Swift’s works has most often focused on print publication, with less scholarly attention devoted to manuscript circulation. Based on extensive research into the manuscript versions of Swift’s poetry, Stephen Karian’s analysis breaks new ground in suggesting new ways of interpreting the different choices Swift made to circulate his texts in either print or manuscript form. He explains Swift’s relationships with his publishers in England and Ireland; the ways in which his writings circulated in hand-written form; and the effect that political censorship had on the manner in which his most outspoken political poems were published. Working at the intersection of book history, bibliography, and textual and literary criticism, this book will open up new areas of study for Swift scholars, as well as developing an important methodology for the study of the distribution and reception of literary texts in the eighteenth century.

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Abbreviations of frequently cited sources

Corr.  The Correspondence of Jonathan Swift, D.D., ed. David Woolley, 4 vols. to date (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 1999–)


