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978-0-521-80247-5 - The Cambridge Companion to Jonathan Swift

Edited by Christopher Fox

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## The Cambridge Companion to Jonathan Swift

*The Cambridge Companion to Jonathan Swift* is a specially commissioned collection of essays. Arranged thematically across a range of topics, this volume will deepen and extend the enjoyment and understanding of Jonathan Swift for students and scholars. The thirteen essays explore crucial dimensions of Swift's life and works. As well as ensuring a broad coverage of Swift's writing – including early and later works as well as the better known and the lesser known – the *Companion* also offers a way into current critical and theoretical issues surrounding the author. Special emphasis is placed on Swift's vexed relationship with the land of his birth, Ireland, and on his place as a political writer in a highly politicized age. The *Companion* offers a lucid introduction to these and other issues, and raises new questions about Swift and his world. The volume features a detailed chronology and a guide to further reading.

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THE CAMBRIDGE  
COMPANION TO  
JONATHAN SWIFT

EDITED BY

CHRISTOPHER FOX

*University of Notre Dame, Indiana*



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MICHAEL F. SUAREZ, S.J. is Associate Professor of English at Fordham University, New York. His scholarly interests include bibliography and publishing history, the so-called "sister arts" and literature and the history of ideas. Along with a study of Robert Dodsley's *Collection of Poems*, he has co-edited, with Peter D. McDonald, *Making Meaning: Selected Essays of D. F. McKenzie*, and with Michael Turner, *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain, Volume V, 1695–1830* (forthcoming). His current project is a study of mock-biblical satire from 1660 to 1832.

PAT ROGERS is Professor of English and the DeBartolo Professor of Liberal Arts at the University of South Florida. He is the editor of *Jonathan Swift: The Complete Poems* and the author of numerous books, including *Grub Street: Studies in a Subculture, Literature and Popular Culture in Eighteenth Century England*, *The Text of Great Britain: Theme and Design in Defoe's Tour*, and *Eighteenth Century Encounters: Studies in Literature and Society in the Age of Walpole*.

MARCUS WALSH is Professor of English Literature at the University of Birmingham. He has co-edited, with Karina Williamson, *The Poetical Works of Christopher Smart*, published by Oxford University Press, and has written extensively on Smart, Swift, Johnson, and Sterne, on the history and theory of editing, and on biblical interpretation and scholarship in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. His study of *Shakespeare, Milton, and Eighteenth-Century Literary Editing* was published by Cambridge University Press.

## CHRONOLOGY OF SWIFT'S LIFE

- 1667 Jonathan Swift born 30 November in Hoey's Court, a fashionable area of Dublin.
- 1673 Enters school at Kilkenny, seventy miles south of Dublin.
- 1682 Enrolls in Trinity College Dublin and receives a B.A. by "special dispensation" or *speciali gratia* in 1686.
- 1688 The so-called Glorious Revolution and the War of the Two Kings (the Catholic James II versus the Protestant William of Orange) erupts and Swift leaves Ireland soon afterwards.
- 1689 Receives employment in Sir William Temple's household at Moor Park near Farnham, Surrey and meets eight-year-old Esther (or Hester) Johnson, later known as Stella.
- 1690 Visits Ireland in the year William III defeats James II at the Battle of the Boyne.
- 1691 Returns to Sir William Temple and Moor Park.
- 1692 Obtains M.A. from Oxford.
- 1695 Ordained as a priest in Dublin and takes the prebendary of Kilroot, near Belfast.
- 1696 Returns to Moor Park.
- 1699 In Ireland after Temple's death, where Swift becomes chaplain to the Earl of Berkeley and edits Temple's works.
- 1700 Becomes vicar of Laracor, County Meath and prebendary of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.
- 1701 In England with Lord Berkeley where Swift publishes his edition of the third volume of Temple's *Miscellanea* and his own *Discourse of the Contests and Dissentions Between the Nobles and the Commons in Athens and Rome*. Esther Johnson (Stella) and Rebecca Dingley move to Dublin to be near Swift.
- 1702 Receives a D.D. at Trinity College, Dublin and becomes The Reverend Dr. Swift.

CHRONOLOGY OF SWIFT'S LIFE

- 1704 Publishes *A Tale of a Tub*, *The Battle of the Books*, and *A Discourse Concerning the Mechanical Operation of the Spirit*.
- 1707 Around the time of the 1707 Union with Scotland, Swift writes *The Story of the Injured Lady* and, in London, meets Esther (or Hester) Vanhomrigh (later known as Vanessa) and the Whig writers, Joseph Addison and Richard Steele.
- 1708 While in England on Church of Ireland business, writes political and religious tracts, including *A Letter from a Member of the House of Commons in Ireland to a Member of the House of Commons in England concerning the Sacramental Test*, and begins *The Bickerstaff Papers*.
- 1709 Publishes *A Project for the Advancement of Religion* and, in Steele's *Tatler*, "The Description of the Morning."
- 1710 Back in England, meets Robert Harley, the new Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer and later Lord Treasurer, secures the so-called First Fruits for the Church of Ireland, and starts writing for the pro-government paper, *The Examiner*. Begins a private correspondence with Esther Johnson and Rebecca Dingley, now called *The Journal to Stella*.
- 1711 Publishes *Miscellanies in Prose and Verse* which includes *Contests and Dissentions*, *The Sentiments of a Church of England Man*, *An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity*, *A Project for the Advancement of Religion*, *Meditation Upon a Broomstick*, *A Letter from a Member of the House of Commons in Ireland*, and *Various Thoughts*. Also publishes *The Conduct of the Allies* as part of the Tory campaign against the Duke of Marlborough.
- 1712 Publishes *A Proposal for Correcting the English Tongue*.
- 1713 Becomes Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin and returns to London, where he joins Alexander Pope, John Gay, Thomas Parnell, John Arbuthnot, and Robert Harley (now Earl of Oxford) in meetings of the Scriblerus Club.
- 1714 Publishes *The Publick Spirit of the Whigs*, which brings a fierce condemnation by the Scottish Lords, and returns to Ireland after the fall of Oxford's government and the death of Queen Anne.
- 1715 Swift falls under suspicion during the First Jacobite Rebellion, after one of his former associates, Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, is impeached and imprisoned, and another, Bolingbroke, flees to France.
- 1720 Publishes *A Proposal for the Universal Use of Irish Manufacture* which lands his printer, Edward Waters, in jail.

CHRONOLOGY OF SWIFT'S LIFE

- 1721 Publishes *A Letter to a Young Gentleman, Lately Enter'd into Holy Orders*.
- 1723 After death of Vanessa, travels extensively through Ireland.
- 1724 Publishes *The Drapier's Letters* and the government at Dublin Castle offers a reward to anyone who can identify "the Drapier."
- 1726 Visits England, stays with Pope, and publishes *Gulliver's Travels*. Swift's longest poem, *Cadenus and Vanessa*, published in Dublin and later in London.
- 1727 Visits England for the last time and stays with Alexander Pope.
- 1728 Stella dies; Swift publishes *A Short View of the State of Ireland* and begins his collaborative series of papers with Thomas Sheridan in *The Intelligencer*.
- 1729 Publishes *A Modest Proposal*.
- 1731 Publishes *The Memoirs of Captain Creighton*.
- 1733 Publishes *On Poetry: A Rhapsody* and *To a Lady*.
- 1735 Dublin publisher George Faulkner prints the first four volumes of Swift's *Works*.
- 1736 Swift writes *The Legion Club*.
- 1738 Publishes a *A Complete Collection of Genteel and Ingenious Conversation*.
- 1739 Swift's *Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift* is published.
- 1742 Swift declared *non compos mentis* (of unsound mind and memory).
- 1745 Swift dies 19 October and is buried next to Stella in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

## ABBREVIATIONS

- C *Correspondence*. Ed. Harold Williams. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1963–65, 5 vols.
- CW *Correspondence*. Ed. David Woolley. Frankfurt-am-Main: Peter Lang, 1999–. In progress, with four volumes projected, two published at this time.
- E Ehrenpreis, Irvin. *Swift: The Man, His Works, and the Age*. London and Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1962–83. 3 vols.
- JS *Journal to Stella*. Ed. Harold Williams. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1948. 2 vols.
- P *Poems*. Ed. Harold Williams. 2nd edn. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1958, 3 vols.
- Poems* *Complete Poems*. Ed. Pat Rogers. Harmondsworth: Penguin and New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983.
- PW *Prose Works*. Ed. Herbert Davis *et al.* Oxford: Blackwell, 1939–74, 14 vols.