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978-1-107-06439-3 - Lord Rochester: In the Restoration World

Edited by Matthew C. Augustine and Steven N. Zwicker

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LORD ROCHESTER IN THE RESTORATION WORLD

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.

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Berkeley: The Language of Poetry and Philosophy (2005) and of *Poetic Language: Theory and Practice from the Renaissance to the Present* (2012).

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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.