Since the publication of his novel *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded* in 1740, Samuel Richardson’s place in the English literary tradition has been secured. But how can that place best be described? Over the three centuries since embarking on his printing career the ‘divine’ novelist has been variously understood as moral crusader, advocate for women, pioneer of the realist novel, and print innovator. Situating Richardson’s work within these social, intellectual, and material contexts this new volume of essays identifies his centrality to the emergence of the novel, the self-help book, and the idea of the professional author, as well as his influence on the development of the modern English language; the capitalist economy; and gendered, medicalised, urban, and national identities. This book enables a fuller understanding and appreciation of Richardson’s life, work, and legacy and points the way for future studies of one of English literature’s most celebrated novelists.

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SAMUEL RICHARDSON
IN CONTEXT

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## Contents

**List of Illustrations**  
*page ix*

**Notes on Contributors**  
*xi*

**Preface**  
*xix*

**Acknowledgments**  
*xxii*

**Chronology**  
*xxiii*

**List of Abbreviations**  
*xxxi*

### PART I  LIFE AND WORKS  
*1*

1. Portraying the Life  
   *Thomas Keymer*  
   *page 3*

2. Publication History  
   *Peter Sabor*  
   *page 18*

3. Correspondence  
   *Louise Curran*  
   *page 26*

### PART II  CRITICAL FORTUNES  
*35*

4. Editions  
   *Hilary Havens*  
   *page 37*

5. Contemporary Transnational Reception  
   *Mary Helen McMurran*  
   *page 45*

6. Reputation  
   *Sören Hammerschmidt*  
   *page 53*

7. Critical Reception to 1900  
   *Brian Corman*  
   *page 64*
Contents

8 Critical Reception since 1900
   Albert J. Rivero

PART III THE PRINT TRADE
9 The Stationers’ Company
   Ian Gadd

10 Transnational Print Trade Relations
   Norbert Schürer

11 Authorship
   Betty A. Schellenberg

12 The Literary Marketplace
   Catherine Ingrassia

PART IV THE BOOK AND ITS READERS
13 The Material Book
   Christopher Flint

14 Editing
   Pat Rogers

15 Reading and Readers
   Eve Tavor Bannet

PART V LITERARY GENRES AND THE ARTS
16 The Novel
   April London

17 Fables and Fairy-Tales
   Margaret Anne Doody

18 Letters
   Joe Bray

19 Educational Writing
   Bonnie Latimer

20 The English Language
   Carol Percy
Contents

21 Salon Culture and Conversation
   Markman Ellis
22 The Visual Arts
   Lynn Shepherd
23 Theatre and Drama
   Darryl P. Domingo
24 Humour
   Simon Dickie

PART VI SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND SOCIAL LIFE
25 Money and Economics
   Edward Copeland
26 The Law
   Simon Stern
27 Family
   Toni Bowers
28 Gender
   Kathleen M. Oliver
29 Sexuality
   James Grantham Turner
30 Medicine and Health
   Heather Meek
31 Death and Mourning Culture
   Peter Walmsley
32 London
   Linda Bree
33 Sentiment and Sensibility
   Katherine Binhammer
34 Religion
   E. Derek Taylor
35 Social Hierarchy and Social Mobility
   Karen Lipsedge
Contents

36 Politics
   *Howard D. Weinbrot*

37 Nationalism
   *Lisa O'Connell*

Further Reading
Index

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Illustrations


1.2 Joseph Highmore, Samuel Richardson (1747). Reproduced by permission of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers. 8


List of Illustrations

6.1 Samuel Richardson, *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded* (1740), title page. Courtesy of the Huntington Library, San Marino, California. 55

6.2 Samuel Richardson, *Clarissa; or, The History of a Young Lady* (1747–8), title page. The William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, University of California, Los Angeles. 56


15.1 G. Scorodomow, *Reflections on Clarissa Harlowe*, engraving after the portrait by Joshua Reynolds of his niece Theophila Palmer reading *Clarissa*. Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2017. 140


22.1 Francis Hayman and Hubert Gravelot, first illustration to Samuel Richardson, *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded*, 6th edn (1742) (Vol. 1, opposite p. 4). © The British Library Board. 198

22.2 Joseph Highmore, *Pamela and Mr B in the Summerhouse* (c. 1744). © Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. 200

22.3 Joseph Highmore, *The Harlowe Family* (1747–8). Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection. 201

25.1 Pieter Angillis, *Covent Garden* (1726). Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection. 228

29.1 Joseph Highmore, *Pamela Fainting* (1743–4), oil on canvas, 635 × 762 mm. National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Felton Bequest, 1921 (1114-3). 256

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