

THE SENTIMENTAL NOVEL IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

As a literary movement, the sentimental novel reached the height of its vogue in the 1770s and 1780s and was still popular as the eighteenth century drew to a close. This volume presents a comprehensive exploration of the sentimental novel in the eighteenth century beginning with its origins in the so-called amatory fiction of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Chapters from leading scholars combine the various aspects and contexts of the genre: from politics, slavery, women writers and the gothic to the sentimental novel in America, France and Germany, with historically informed close readings of novels by writers including Samuel Richardson (1689–1761), Laurence Sterne (1713–68) and Jane Austen (1775–1817). This volume demonstrates that the sentimental novel continues to engage readers and critics and that, far from being obsolete or only of antiquary interest, the sentimental novel remains a vibrant and exciting area of study.

Albert J. Rivero, Professor of English at Marquette University, has published widely on British literature of the long eighteenth century. He has edited critical editions of *Gulliver's Travels* (2002), *Moll Flanders* (2004), Samuel Richardson's *Pamela: or, Virtue Rewarded* (Cambridge, 2011), and *Pamela in Her Exalted Condition* (Cambridge, 2012).

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EDITED BY
ALBERT J. RIVERO



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Disease of Discovery (2017) where he explores the curious stimulation of the senses in the latter stages of that disease, leading to intense reactions to textures, smells, colours and sounds. He has followed that line of inquiry in the chapter appearing in this volume in order to exhibit the contrast between Sterne's two heroes, Tristram, the advocate of the eye, and Yorick, who is learning not so much to look at things as to handle them. He would like to write a book called *A Short History of Colour*.

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