Beyond Slavery and Abolition

The first full-length historical study of pre-abolition black British writing, this book challenges established narratives of eighteenth-century black history that focus almost exclusively on slavery and abolition. Ryan Hanley expands our perspectives to encompass the often neglected but important black writers of the time and highlights their contribution to politics, culture and the arts. He considers the lives and works of contemporary black literary celebrities alongside largely forgotten evangelical authors and political radicals to uncover how they came to produce such diverse and powerful work. By navigating the social, religious, political and professional networks that surrounded these authors and their writing, he also reveals that black intellectuals were never confined to the peripheries of British culture. From the decks of Royal Navy ships to the drawing rooms of country houses, from the pub to the pulpit, black writers, and the work they produced, helped to build modern Britain.

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Beyond Slavery and Abolition

*Black British Writing, c. 1770–1830*

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For J.P.
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Abbreviations

AVB  Authorised Version Bible (1611 translation)
BL  The British Library, London
Ch.F.  Cheshunt Foundation, Westminster College, University of Cambridge
GRO  Gloucestershire Records Office, Gloucester
HRO  Hampshire Record Office, Sussex
JRL  John Rylands Library, University of Manchester
MNC  Methodist New Connexion
SEAST  London Committee of the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade
TNA  The National Archives, London