#### WOMEN, WRITING AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE, 1700–1830

In this interdisciplinary volume, an international team of specialists examines the dynamic relation between women and the public sphere in the period 1700 to 1830. Drawing on literary and visual evidence, contributors highlight the range and diversity of women's cultural activity, from historiography, publishing and translation to philosophical and political writing. *Women, Writing and the Public Sphere* examines the history of the public spaces women occupied, raising questions of scandal and display, improvement, virtue and morality in the context of the production and consumption of culture by women. The contribution of educated women to the British Enlightenment and the role of translation and exchange between European intellectual movements in shaping ideas of nationhood is also addressed. This book offers a comprehensive account of women's philosophical and political reflections on the nature of their place in the public sphere.

ELIZABETH EGER is Research Fellow at the Eighteenth Century Centre at Warwick University. She is the editor of *Selected Works of Elizabeth Montagu* (1999) and a contributor to *Women's Poetry in the Enlightenment* (1999) and *The Cambridge Guide to Women's Literature in English.* 

CHARLOTTE GRANT is a Fellow and Director of Studies in English at Jesus College, Cambridge. She writes and teaches in the area of eighteenth-century studies.

CLÍONA Ó GALLCHOIR is Lecturer in English at University College, Cork. She is co-editor with Susan Manly of volume IX of *Novels and Selected Works of Maria Edgeworth*.

PENNY WARBURTON has worked as a book reviewer, archivist and university teacher. She is a contributor to *The Cambridge Guide to Women's Literature in English* and is currently finalising her doctoral thesis, 'Women Writing on Economics: Aesthetics, Writing and the Economy, 1760–1833'.

# WOMEN, WRITING AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE, 1700–1830

EDITED BY

ELIZABETH EGER, CHARLOTTE GRANT, CLÍONA Ó GALLCHOIR AND PENNY WARBURTON



> PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK www.cup.cam.ac.uk 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011–4211, USA www.cup.org 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain

© Cambridge University Press 2001

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2001

Typeface Monotype Baskerville 11/12.5 pt System QuarkXPress™ [SE]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Women and the public sphere: writing and representation 1700–1830 / edited by Elizabeth Eger, Charlotte Grant, Clíona O'Gallchoir and Penny Warburton

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references. ISBN 0 521 77106 4 (hardback)

1. Women in public life - Great Britain - History. I. Eger, Elizabeth.

HQ1391.G7 W66 2001 305.42'0941-dc21 00-031285

ISBN 0 521 77106 4 hardback

Transferred to digital printing 2003

#### Contents

List of illustrations List of contributors		page vii ix
	Preface and acknowledgements	
	Introduction: women, writing and representation Elizabeth Eger, Charlotte Grant, Clíona Ó Gallchoir and Penny Warburton	I
PAR	T I WOMEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE	
Ι	Coffee-women, <i>The Spectator</i> and the public sphere in the early eighteenth century <i>Markman Ellis</i>	27
2	Misses, Murderesses and Magdalens: women in the public eye <i>Caroline Gonda</i>	53
PAR	RT II CONSUMING ARTS	
3	The choice of Hercules: the polite arts and 'female excellence' in eighteenth-century London <i>Charlotte Grant</i>	75
4	Representing culture: <i>The Nine Living Muses of Great Britain</i> (1779) <i>Elizabeth Eger</i>	104
5	A moral purchase: femininity, commerce and abolition, 1788–1792 <i>Kate Davies</i>	133

vi	Contents		
PART III LEARNED LADIES: FROM BLUESTOCKINGS TO COSMOPOLITAN INTELLECTUALS			
6	Bluestocking feminism Gary Kelly	163	
7	Catharine Macaulay: history, republicanism and the public sphere Susan Wiseman	181	
8	Gender, nation and revolution: Maria Edgeworth and Stéphanie-Félicité de Genlis <i>Clíona Ó Gallchoir</i>	200	
9	Salons, Alps and Cordilleras: Helen Maria Williams, Alex von Humboldt and the discourse of Romantic travel <i>Nigel Leask</i>	217	
PART IV THE FEMALE SUBJECT			
10	The most public sphere of all: the family Sylvana Tomaselli	239	
II	Theorising public opinion: Elizabeth Hamilton's model of self, sympathy and society <i>Penny Warburton</i>	<sup>2</sup> 57	
12	Intimate connections: scandalous memoirs and epistolary indiscretion <i>Mary Jacobus</i>	274	
Bibliography		290	
Index		313	

## Illustrations

I	Frontispiece to James Miller's comedy The Coffee-House A page	e 40
	Dramatick Piece. As it is Perform'd at the Theatre Royal in Drury	
	Lane (London: J. Watts, 1737). Reproduced by permission	
	of the Syndics of the Cambridge University Library.	
2	Hogarth, The Harlot's Progress, Plate 1. © The British Museum.	77
3	Simon Gribelin (after Paolo de Matthaies), The Judgement of	
	Hercules (1713), in Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury,	
	Characteristicks of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times, 3rd edn	
	(London: John Derby, 1723). Reproduced by permission of	
	the Syndics of the Cambridge University Library.	79
4	Edward Fisher (after Joshua Reynolds), Garrick between Tragedy	
-	and Comedy (1762). © The British Museum.	89
5	Angelica Kauffman, Self-Portrait: Hesitating Between the Arts of	
	Music and Painting (1791). Oil on canvas. Reproduced by kind	
	permission of the Winn Family and The National Trust	
	(Nostell Priory, Yorks).	90
6	Johann Zoffany, The Academicians of the Royal Academy (1772).	
	Oil on canvas, 100.7 cm by 147.3 cm. Reproduced by kind	
	permission of The Royal Collection. © 1999, Her Majesty	
	Queen Elizabeth II.	91
7	Hannah Rush, Compartment with Cattle (1758). Reproduced by	
	kind permission of the Royal Society for the encouragement	
	of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.	93
8	James Barry, The Distribution of the Premiums to the Society of Arts.	
	Mural, 462.28 cm by 360.68 cm. Fifth picture in The Progress	
	of Human Knowledge and Culture (1777–1783). Reproduced by	
	kind permission of the Royal Society for the encouragement	
	of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.	96
9	Ackermann (after Pugin and Rowlandson), The Society's 'Great	-
-	Room' (1809). Reproduced by kind permission of the Royal	

Cambridge University Press
0521771064 - Women, Writing and the Public Sphere, 1700-1830
Edited by Elizabeth Eger, Charlotte Grant, Cliona O Gallchoir and Penny Warburton
Frontmatter
More information

viii	Illustrations	
	Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.	98
IO	Richard Samuel, <i>The Nine Living Muses of Great Britain</i> . Oil on canvas, 132.1 cm by 154.9 cm. Exhibited at the Royal Academy	ζ,
	1779. By courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London.	105
ΙI	Frontispiece to Thomas Heywood, Nine Bookes of Various	
	History Concerninge Women (1624). Reproduced by kind	
	permission of the Syndics of the Cambridge University Library.	110
12	Page (after Samuel), The Nine Living Muses of Great Britain	110
12	(c. 1778). Engraving, 12.5 cm by 10 cm. In <i>Johnson's Ladies</i> '	
	New and Polite Pocket Memorandum for 1778. © The British	
	Museum.	112
13	Angelica Kauffman, Self-Portrait in the Character of Painting	
	<i>Embraced by Poetry</i> (1782). Oil on canvas. The Iveagh Bequest,	
	Kenwood. By kind permission of English Heritage.	120
14	G. S. and I. G. Facius (after Angelica Kauffman), Sappho	
	Inspired by Love. Published by Boydell, 1778. © The British	
	Museum.	121

## Contributors

**Kate Davies** is Lecturer in English at the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies at the University of York. She has published essays on Catharine Macaulay and on Emma Hamilton's 'attitudes' and is the coeditor of *Consuming the Past in Contemporary Culture* (Shaftesbury: Donhead, 1998). Her current projects include a critical reader on language and eighteenth-century ideas of empire, and a book on gender, republicanism and sentimentality in eighteenth-century Britain and America.

**Elizabeth Eger** is Research Fellow at the Warwick Eighteenth Century Centre, University of Warwick, working on The Luxury Project. She is editor of *Selected Works of Elizabeth Montagu* (London: Pickering & Chatto, 1999) and has contributed to *Women's Poetry in the Enlightenment*, ed. Isobel Armstrong and Virginia Blain (London: Macmillan, 1999). She is now writing a literary and cultural history of women's intellectual identity in the long eighteenth century: 'Living Muses: Women of Reason from Enlightenment to Romanticism'.

**Markman Ellis** is Senior Lecturer in the School of English and Drama, Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London. He is the author of *The Politics of Sensibility* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), and *The History of Gothic Fiction* (Edinburgh University Press, 2000). He is currently working on a study of poetic genre and the representation of empire in the late eighteenth century.

**Caroline Gonda** is Newton Trust Lecturer in the Faculty of English and a Fellow of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge. Her publications include *Reading Daughters' Fictions 1709–1834: Novels and Society from Manley to Edgeworth* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), and articles on Sarah Scott, Mary Shelley, contemporary Scottish lesbian writing, and lesbian theory. She is currently working on a study of relations between poetry and narrative, c.1760–1830.

**Charlotte Grant** is a Fellow and Director of Studies in English at Jesus College, Cambridge. She is editor of the forthcoming *Flora*, vol. IV of

х

#### Contributors

*Literature and Science 1660–1832* (London: Pickering & Chatto), and is currently working on a book on the visual culture of sensibility.

**Mary Jacobus**, formerly Professor of English and Women's Studies, Cornell University, is now Professor of English at the University of Cambridge. She has written widely on Romantic literature, psychoanalysis and feminism. Her books include *Reading Women* (London: Methuen, 1986), *Romanticism, Writing and Sexual Difference* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1989) and *First Things* (New York and London: Routledge, 1995).

**Gary Kelly** is Professor of English at the University of Alberta, Canada. He has written widely on the Jacobin novel and women's writing. His books include *Revolutionary Feminism: The Mind and Career of Mary Wollstonecraft* (London: Macmillan, 1992) and *Women, Writing, and Revolution 1790–1827* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993). He has recently acted as General Editor for *Bluestocking Feminism: Writings of the Bluestocking Circle*, 6 vols. (London: Pickering & Chatto, 1999).

**Nigel Leask** is a Fellow of Queens College, Cambridge and Lecturer in the English Faculty. He is the author of *The Politics of Imagination in Coleridge's Critical Thought* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1988), *British Romantic Writers and the East: Anxieties of Empire* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992) and numerous articles on Romantic literature. He has recently completed a study of exotic travel writing and antiquarianism entitled "From an antique land": Romanticism, Colonialism, and the Curious Travel Account'.

**Clíona Ó Gallchoir** is a graduate of University College Dublin, and received her PhD from Trinity College, Cambridge. She is a lecturer in the department of English at University College Cork. She is co-editor, with Susan Manly, of Edgeworth's *Helen*, vol. IX of *The Novels and Selected Works of Maria Edgeworth* (London: Pickering and Chatto, 1999).

**Sylvana Tomaselli** is a Fellow of Hughes Hall, Cambridge and an affiliated lecturer in the History Faculty. As an intellectual historian working principally on the Enlightenment, she has written on a variety of subjects, including mind-body dualism, the self, political and population theories and the conjectural history of woman. 'Intolerance, the Virtue of Princes and Radicals', in Ole Grell and Roy Porter, eds., *Toleration in the Enlightenment* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), is her most recent publication.

**Penny Warburton** is completing a doctorate on 'Women writing on economics: aesthetics, utility and the economy, 1760–1833'. She has worked as a book reviewer, contributed to reference works on women

#### Contributors

xi

writers, and has taught widely in the area of Romantic literature and eighteenth century studies at Cambridge University and other institutions.

**Susan Wiseman** is Reader in English at Birkbeck College, University of London. Her books include *Women, Writing, History: 1640–1740*, edited with Isobel Grundy (London: Batsford, 1992).

## Preface and acknowledgements

The editors would like to thank all those involved in the preparation of this volume. We first worked together in organising a conference held in Cambridge in June 1996, 'Women and the Public Sphere, 1700–1830', and are grateful to all those who attended this event, where many of the following essays originated. We are also grateful to the Cambridge institutions which funded the conference: The Judith E. Wilson Fund, Faculty of English; King's College; Trinity College; and The MacArthur Foundation. Many individuals contributed to the conference and the ongoing dialogue it inspired: we would like to thank all our contributors to this volume, and also Chris Roulston, Leah Price, Charlotte Sussman and Emma Donoghue. Emma Francis, Nick Harrison, Anne Janowitz, Moynagh Sullivan and John Shaw all read versions of our introduction and offered invaluable advice and encouragement.

We are grateful to the Eighteenth Century Centre, University of Warwick; Jesus College and King's College, Cambridge; and University College Dublin and University College Cork, for providing supportive environments in which to work. We would also like to thank the following libraries and their librarians: the British Library; Cambridge University Library; the Huntington Library, USA; the London Library; University of Warwick Library; and Susan Bennett of the Royal Society of Arts library.

For permission to reproduce illustrations we would like to thank the Syndics of the Cambridge University Library; the British Museum; the Winn Family and the National Trust; Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce; the National Portrait Gallery, London; and English Heritage.

Lastly, we would like to thank Jocelyn Pye, our copy-editor, and our editor, Linda Bree, for her encouragement and invaluable advice throughout the course of this project.