

# 18th Century British Literature

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Common Sense in Early 18th-Century British Literature and Culture  
The Routledge Research Companion to Nineteenth-Century British Literature and Science  
Eighteenth Century English Literature and Its Cultural Background  
A Companion to British Literature, Volume 4  
Humanism and Good Books in Sixteenth-Century England  
From Queen Anne to Queen Victoria  
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Things and Images in 18th and 19th Century British Literature  
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The Beginnings of English Literature  
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Catalogue  
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envisioning today's readers as poised between an impossible attempt to read texts as their original readers experienced them and an awareness of our own temporal moment, Simon Dentith complicates traditional prejudices against hindsight to approach issues of interpretation and historicity in nineteenth-century literature, suggesting that the characteristic aesthetic attitude encouraged by the backward look is one of irony rather than remorse or regret. He examines works by Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Anthony Trollope, William Morris, and John Ruskin in terms of their participation in significant histories that extend to this day: liberalism, class, gender, political representation, and notions of progress, utopianism, and ecological concern. As currently understood, can be traced back to the nineteenth century just as today's critics strive to respect the authenticity of nineteenth-century writers and readers who responded to these ideas within their historical world. So too do those nineteenth-century imaginings persist to challenge the assumptions of the present. It is therefore possible, Dentith argues, to conceive of the act of reading historical literature with an awareness of the historical context and of the difference between the past and the present while allowing that friction or difference to be part of how we think about a text and how it communicates. His book summons us to consider how words travel to the reality of the reader's own time and how engagement with nineteenth-century writers' anticipation of the judgements of future generations reveal hindsight's capacity to transform our understanding of the past in the light of subsequent knowledge.

While the popular talk of English common sense in the eighteenth century might seem a by-product of familiar enlightenment discourses of rationalism and empiricism, this book argues that terms such as common sense or good sense are not simply synonyms of applied reason. On the contrary, the discourse of common sense is shaped by a defensive impulse against the totalizing intellectual regimes of the enlightenment and the cultural climate of change they promote in order to contain the unbounded discursive proliferation of modern learning. Hence common sense discourse has a vital regulatory function in cultural negotiations of political and intellectual change in eighteenth-century Britain. Against the backdrop of patriotic national self-concepts, this study discusses early eighteenth-century common sense in four broad complexes as to its discursive functions that are ethical, which at that time implies aesthetic as well as transgressive, as a corrective political in patriotic constructs of the nation, and repressive of otherness. The selection of texts in this study strikes a balance between dominant literary culture (Swift, Pope, Defoe, Fielding, Johnson) and the periphery (such as pamphlets and magazine essays, satiric poems, and patriotic songs).

tracing the continuities and trends in the complex relationship between literature

and science in the long nineteenth century this companion provides scholars with a comprehensive authoritative and up to date foundation for research in this field in intellectual material and social terms the transformation undergone by western culture over the period was unprecedented many of these changes were grounded in the growth of science yet science was not a cultural monolith then any more than it is now and its development was shaped by competing world views to cover the full range of literary engagements with science in the nineteenth century this companion consists of twenty seven chapters by experts in the field which explore crucial social and intellectual contexts for the interactions between literature and science how science affected different genres of writing and the importance of individual scientific disciplines and concepts within literary culture each chapter has its own extensive bibliography the volume as a whole is rounded out with a synoptic introduction by the editors and an afterword by the eminent historian of nineteenth century science bernard lightman

a companion to british literature victorian and twentieth century literature 1837 2000

explores the mindset in which people approached reading and writing in the sixteenth century specifically the idea that reading books was good for you in the sense that it was morally useful and informative

this ambitious undertaking is designed to acquaint students teachers and researchers with reference sources in any branch of english studies which marcuse defines as all those subjects and lines of critical and scholarly inquiry presently pursued by members of university departments of english language and literature within each of 24 major sections marcuse lists and annotates bibliographies guides reviews of research encyclopedias dictionaries journals and reference histories the annotations and various indexes are models of clarity and usefulness and cross references are liberally supplied where appropriate although cost conscious librarians will probably consider the several other excellent literary bibliographies in print such as james l harner s literary research guide modern language assn of america 1989 larger academic libraries will want marcuse s volume jack bales mary washington coll lib fredericksburg va library journal

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