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0521023335 - British Fiction and the Production of Social Order, 1740-1830

Miranda J. Burgess

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In *British Fiction and the Production of Social Order*, Miranda Burgess examines what Romantic-period writers called “romance”: a hybrid genre defined by its role in the negotiation of conflicts between political economy and moral philosophy. Reading a broad range of fictional and nonfictional works published between 1740 and 1830, Burgess places authors such as Richardson, Scott, Austen, and Wollstonecraft in a new economic, social, and cultural context. She explores the ways in which some romances illustrated and produced among their readers particular forms of gendered virtue and feeling, even as the same genre, in the hands of other writers, provided tools for resisting such forms. Burgess argues that the romance held a key role in remaking the national order of a Britain dependent on ideologies of human nature for justification of its social, economic, and political systems.

MIRANDA BURGESS is Assistant Professor of English at the University of British Columbia. Her work in the area of eighteenth-century and Romantic British and Irish studies has been published in *MLQ: A Journal of Literary History*, and *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521773294

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First published 2000

This digitally printed first paperback version 2005

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

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Burgess, Miranda J.

British fiction and the production of social order, 1740–1830/Miranda J. Burgess.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in Romanticism; 43)

Includes bibliographical references

ISBN 0 521 77329 6 (hardback)

1. English fiction – 18th century – History and criticism.
 2. Literature and society – Great Britain – History – 18th century.
 3. Literature and society – Great Britain – History – 19th century.
 4. English fiction – 19th century – History and criticism.
 5. Politics and literature – Great Britain – History.
 6. Books and reading – Great Britain – History.
 7. Romanticism – Great Britain.
 8. Social ethics in literature.
- I. Title. II. Series.

PR858.S62 B87 2000

823'609355 – dc21 00-086370

ISBN-13 978-0-521-77329-4 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-77329-6 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-02333-7 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-02333-5 paperback

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Figure

1 Anne Bayin, "11:30 P.M., Fetish Night, The Docks, Toronto."

Reproduced by kind permission of Anne Bayin.

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Acknowledgements

In writing about books and the ways in which they can help to produce constellations of readers, it seems especially appropriate to begin by acknowledging the contributions of the friends and colleagues who have made up my own reading and writing communities. I am indebted to Jon Klancher and Michael Prince, who respectively supervised and read the dissertation with which this book began, and from whose questions, criticisms, and example I have benefited immeasurably. Other teachers and colleagues also read the manuscript. I am grateful to Ian Duncan and to the first, unknown reader for Cambridge University Press for incisive readings and invaluable suggestions for revision, to James Chandler for advice about final revision, and to Virginia Jackson, Charles Rzepka, and James Siemon. I wish to thank Josie Dixon of Cambridge University Press for guidance and encouragement at all stages in bringing this book to press. My colleagues at the University of British Columbia and the University of New Brunswick have been congenial and learned interlocutors; I am particularly grateful to Nicholas Hudson for his erudition and advice and to Mary Brodkorb for many stimulating conversations. The undergraduates who have taken my eighteenth-century and Romantic-period courses will recognize their energy and questions in the shape of this book.

Research for this book was supported by a research grant and a doctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, a grant from the University of New Brunswick, and doctoral and dissertation fellowships from Boston University. An earlier version of parts of chapter two was originally published in *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, copyright 1995, by Brown University, and is reprinted with the permission of the copyright owner. Portions of chapter four appeared in earlier form in *Lessons of Romanticism: A Critical Companion*, edited by Thomas Pfau and Robert F. Gleckner, copyright 1998, by Duke University Press.

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<i>C</i>	Richardson, <i>Clarissa; Or the History of a Young Lady</i>
<i>DL</i>	<i>Diary and Letters of Frances Burney</i>
<i>ED</i>	Frances Burney, <i>Early Diary 1768–1778</i>
<i>ELH</i>	<i>English Literary History</i>
<i>LCS</i>	The London Corresponding Society
<i>MLQ</i>	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
n.d.	no date
<i>NLH</i>	<i>New Literary History</i>
n.p.	no page number
n.s.	new series
<i>P₁</i>	Richardson, <i>Pamela</i>
<i>P₂</i>	[Richardson], <i>Pamela: Or, Virtue Rewarded. The Third and Fourth Volumes</i>
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
<i>RM</i>	Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindication of the Rights of Men</i>
<i>RW</i>	Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i>
<i>ST</i>	Hume, “Of the Standard of Taste”, in <i>Essays, Moral, Political, and Literary</i>
<i>T</i>	Hume, <i>Treatise of Human Nature</i>
<i>T₁</i>	Locke, <i>First Treatise</i> , in <i>Two Treatises of Government</i>
<i>T₂</i>	Locke, <i>Essay Concerning the True Original, Extent and End of Civil Government</i> , in <i>Two Treatises of Government</i>
<i>TMS</i>	Adam Smith, <i>The Theory of the Moral Sentiments</i>