



British Literature 1640-1789: An Anthology (Blackwell Anthologies)

By Robert DeMaria Jr.

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Spanning the period from the British Civil War to the French Revolution, the fourth edition of this successful anthology increases its coverage of canonical writings, plays, and of the development of British Literature in the American colonies.

- A thoroughly updated new edition of this popular anthology which focuses firmly on the eighteenth century without neglecting the seventeenth century
- Contains new texts including the play *Rover* by Aphra Behn, and *Beggars' Opera* by John Gay; increased canonical works, including works by Dryden, Pope, and Johnson; and historical contextual materials, with particular attention to the Americas
- Features updated introductions throughout, taking into account recent critical works and editions
- Includes useful resources such as an alternative list of contents by theme, and a chronology of literary and political events, providing valuable historical and cultural context

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British Literature 1640-1789: An Anthology (Blackwell Anthologies) By Robert DeMaria Jr. Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2493298 in Books
- Published on: 2016-02-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.60" h x 2.20" w x 6.70" l, .84 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 1248 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"This is a magisterial anthology, skilfully selected and rigorously edited by Robert DeMaria, with crisp, authoritative explanatory material. The fourth edition of *British Literature 1640-1789* retains the exciting openness of earlier editions to voices from the margins while intensifying its focus on the major authors and works as we teach them today." *Thomas Keymer, University of Toronto*

"Already the gold standard for this period, *British Literature 1640-1789* keeps getting better. The range and inclusiveness of genres and authors is remarkable and inventive – no instructor will be at a loss for the canon or the non-canonical. In fact, this anthology helps reshape the canon. No such collection can ever be perfect, but this one comes as close to perfection as the form allows. Headnotes are superb and succinct, the layout and design eminently inviting to the eye." *James Engell, Harvard University*

From the Back Cover

Spanning the period from the British Civil War to the French Revolution, the fourth edition of this successful anthology brings together an exceptional range of literature, including many works by women writers of the period, selections of literature from private and public life, and sources from letters to political ballads. Maintaining the volume's enduring commitment to what were once referred to as 'marginal' authors, the new edition also strengthens its coverage of canonical writings of the period, adding works by John Dryden, Alexander Pope, and Samuel Johnson.

The fourth edition has been significantly updated throughout, with revised introductions taking recent critical works and editions into account. In addition to expanding canonical writings, the anthology now contains four full plays, with Aphra Behn's *The Rover* and John Gay's *Beggar's Opera* having been added to this edition. There is also coverage of the development of British literature in the American colonies through the inclusion of a selection from Samson Occom and the Declaration of Independence. These works continue the anthology's original commitment to viewing the literary works of the period within their cultural context. Valuable student resources include a chronology of literary as well as political events to help guide readers with the broad and deep selection of works from this period.

About the Author

Robert DeMaria, Jr is the Henry Noble MacCracken Professor of English Literature at Vassar College, USA. He is the General Editor of the Yale edition of the *Works of Samuel Johnson*, and editor of the *Johnsonian News Letter*. He is the author of numerous books including *The Life of Samuel Johnson* (Wiley Blackwell, 1993), and *Samuel Johnson and the Life of Reading* (1997); and is the editor of *British Literature 1640-1789: A Critical Reader* (1998), *Classical Literature and Its Reception: An Anthology* (with Robert D. Brown, 2007), and *A Companion to British Literature* in four volumes (with Heesok Chang and Samantha Zacher, 2014), all published by Wiley Blackwell.

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