

CONVERSION AND REFORM IN THE
BRITISH NOVEL IN THE 1790S

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BRITISH NOVEL IN THE 1790S
A REVOLUTION OF OPINIONS

A. A. Markley

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For Stuart and Joe

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Philadelphia, March 2008

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CHRONOLOGY OF WORKS PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND, 1788–1805

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1788 <i>James Wallace</i>
<i>Emmeline</i>
<i>Mary, A Fiction</i> | Robert Bage
Charlotte Smith
Mary Wollstonecraft |
| 1789 <i>The Interesting Narrative of the
Life of Olaudah Equiano,
or Gustavus Vassa</i>
<i>The Castles of Athlin and Dunbayne</i>
<i>Ethelinde, or The Recluse of the Lake</i> | Olaudah Equiano

Ann Radcliffe
Charlotte Smith |
| 1790 <i>Reflections on the Revolution
in France</i>
<i>Dangers of Coquetry</i>
<i>A Sicilian Romance</i>
<i>Julia, A Novel</i>
<i>Letters Written in France</i>

<i>A Vindication of the Rights of Men</i> | Edmund Burke

Amelia Opie
Ann Radcliffe
Helen Maria Williams
Helen Maria Williams
(additional volumes
1792, 1793, 1795,
and 1796)
Mary Wollstonecraft |
| 1791 <i>A Simple Story</i>
<i>The Rights of Man, Part I</i>
<i>The Romance of the Forest</i>
<i>An Italian Romance</i> | Elizabeth Inchbald
Thomas Paine
Ann Radcliffe
Ann Radcliffe |

1791 (*continued*)

*Impartial Reflections on the Present
Situation of the Queen of France by
a Friend to Humanity* Mary Robinson

Celestina Charlotte Smith

1792 *The Excursion of Osman*

Man As He Is Anonymous

Anna St Ives Robert Bage

Slavery: Or, The Times Thomas Holcroft

The Rights of Man, Part II Anna Maria Mackenzie

Vancenza; or, the Dangers Thomas Paine

of Credulity Mary Robinson

Desmond Charlotte Smith

*A Vindication of the Rights
of Woman* Mary Wollstonecraft

1793 *An Enquiry Concerning
Political Justice*

*Letters and Essays, Moral,
and Miscellaneous* William Godwin

*The Emigrants, &c., or the History
of an Expatriated Family* Mary and Elizabeth Hays

The Old Manor House Gilbert Imlay

1794 *Things As They Are; or,
The Adventures of Caleb Williams*

*The Adventures of Hugh Trevor,
vols. I–III* William Godwin

The Age of Reason Thomas Holcroft

The Mysteries of Udolpho Thomas Paine

The Widow, or A Picture of Ann Radcliffe

Modern Times Mary Robinson

The Banished Man Charlotte Smith

The Wanderings of Warwick Charlotte Smith

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|------|---|--|
| 1795 | <p><i>Such Follies Are</i>
 <i>Letters for Literary Ladies</i>
 <i>Secresy; or, The Ruin on the Rock</i>
 <i>Memoirs of Planetes</i>
 <i>Montalbert</i>
 <i>Rural Walks</i></p> | <p>Anonymous
 Maria Edgeworth
 Eliza Fenwick
 Thomas Northmore
 Charlotte Smith
 Charlotte Smith</p> |
| 1796 | <p><i>The Female Gamester; or</i>
 <i>The Pupil of Fashion</i>
 <i>Hermesprung; or Man As He Is Not</i>
 <i>Camilla</i>
 <i>Memoirs of Emma Courtney</i>
 <i>Nature and Art</i>
 <i>The Monk</i>
 <i>Angelina, a Novel</i>
 <i>Hubert de Sevrac, A Romance,</i>
 <i>of the Eighteenth Century</i>
 <i>Marchmont</i>
 <i>Rambles Farther, a continuation</i>
 <i>of Rural Walks</i>
 <i>Theodore Cyphon;</i>
 <i>or The Benevolent Jew</i>
 <i>Letters Written during a</i>
 <i>Short Residence in Sweden,</i>
 <i>Norway, and Denmark</i></p> | <p>Anonymous
 Robert Bage
 Frances Burney
 Mary Hays
 Elizabeth Inchbald
 Matthew G. Lewis
 Mary Robinson
 Mary Robinson
 Charlotte Smith
 Charlotte Smith
 George Walker
 Mary Wollstonecraft</p> |
| 1797 | <p><i>The Enquirer. Reflections on</i>
 <i>Education, Manners and Literature</i>
 <i>The Adventures of Hugh Trevor,</i>
 vols. IV–VI
 <i>The Italian, or the Confessional</i>
 <i>of the Black Penitents</i>
 <i>Walsingham; or,</i>
 <i>The Pupil of Nature</i></p> | <p>William Godwin
 Thomas Holcroft
 Ann Radcliffe
 Mary Robinson</p> |
| 1798 | <p><i>Henry Willoughby</i></p> | <p>Anonymous</p> |

- 1798 (*continued*)
- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| <i>Practical Education</i> | Maria and R. L. Edgeworth |
| <i>Memoirs of the Author of
A Vindication of the
Rights of Woman</i> | William Godwin |
| <i>Appeal to the Men of Great
Britain in behalf of Women</i> | Mary Hays |
| <i>The Young Philosopher</i> | Charlotte Smith |
| <i>A Tour in Switzerland</i> | Helen Maria Williams |
| <i>The Wrongs of Woman; or,
Maria (Posthumous Works)</i> | Mary Wollstonecraft |
- 1799
- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| <i>St Leon: A Tale of the
Sixteenth Century</i> | William Godwin |
| <i>The Victim of Prejudice</i> | Mary Hays |
| <i>The False Friend: A Domestic Story</i> | Mary Robinson |
| <i>A Letter to the Women of England</i> | Mary Robinson |
| <i>The Natural Daughter</i> | Mary Robinson |
| <i>The Vagabond</i> | George Walker |
| <i>Sketches of Modern Life</i> | William Frederick Williams |
- 1800
- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| <i>Obi; or, The History of
Three-fingered Jack</i> | William Earle, Jr. |
| <i>Castle Rackrent, an Hibernian Tale</i> | Maria Edgeworth |
| <i>The Letters of a Solitary Wanderer,
vols. I–III</i> | Charlotte Smith |
- 1801
- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| <i>Belinda</i> | Maria Edgeworth |
| <i>Moral Tales for Young People</i> | Maria Edgeworth |
| <i>The Father and Daughter</i> | Amelia Opie |
| <i>Memoirs of the Late Mrs. Robinson</i> | Mary E. Robinson, ed. |
| <i>The Daughter of Adoption;
A Tale of Modern Times</i> | John Thelwall |
| <i>Sketches of the State of Manners
and Opinions in the French Republic</i> | Helen Maria Williams |

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| 1802 | <p><i>Essay on Irish Bulls</i>
 <i>The Letters of a Solitary Wanderer,</i>
 vols. IV–V</p> | <p>Maria and R. L. Edgeworth
 Charlotte Smith</p> |
| 1803 | <p><i>Female Biography; or Memoirs of</i>
 <i>Illustrious and Celebrated Women,</i>
 <i>of All Ages and Countries</i>
 <i>The Political and Confidential</i>
 <i>Correspondence of Lewis the Sixteenth</i></p> | <p>Mary Hays

 Helen Maria Williams</p> |
| 1804 | <p><i>Popular Tales</i>
 <i>Harry Clinton; or, A Tale of Youth</i>
 <i>Adeline Mowbray, or</i>
 <i>The Mother and Daughter</i></p> | <p>Maria Edgeworth
 Mary Hays
 Amelia Opie</p> |
| 1805 | <p><i>The Modern Griselda</i>
 <i>Fleetwood: or,</i>
 <i>The New Man of Feeling</i>
 <i>Memoirs of Bryan Perdue</i></p> | <p>Maria Edgeworth
 William Godwin

 Thomas Holcroft</p> |

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If in any society wealth be estimated at its true value, and accumulation and monopoly be regarded as the seals of mischief, injustice and dishonour, instead of being treated as titles to attention and deference, in that society the accommodations of human life will tend to their level, and the inequality of conditions will be destroyed. A revolution of opinions is the only means of attaining to this inestimable benefit.

—*William Godwin, Enquiry Concerning Political Justice*
(1796 ed.), book VIII, chapter 2