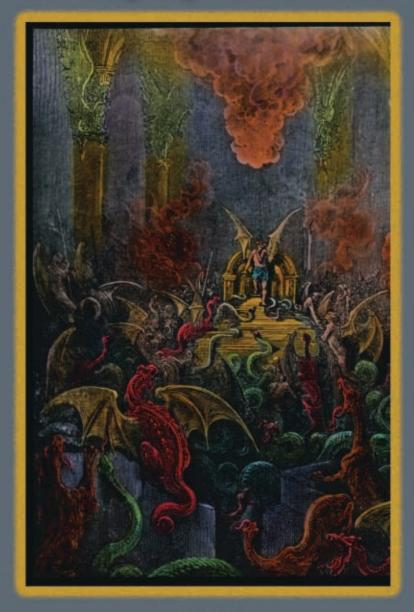
MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE LITERARY STUDIES



~ 2014 :~



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Cover art: Magic lantern slide depicting colored illustration of Paradise Lost, book 10, from Gustav Doré. From the personal collection of Eric C. Brown. See page 3, Milton on Film.

edieval & Renaissance Literary Studies (MRLS) seeks to promote the study of late medieval and early modern English literature by publishing scholarly and critical monographs, collections of essays, editions, and compilations. Of particular interest are works concerning Spenser, Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, and women writers of the period. The series encourages a broad range of interpretation, including the relationship of literature and its cultural contexts, close textual analysis, and the use of contemporary critical methodologies.

Recognized as one of the finest sources of scholarship in this field, the *MRLS* series has achieved numerous distinctions, including:

- Outstanding University Press Title, selected by AASL and PLA Library Committee, 2011, for *The Plague in Print: Essential Elizabethan Sources, 1558–1603*, edited by Rebecca Totaro
- John Donne Society Award for Distinguished Publication, 2008, for *Refiguring* the Sacred Feminine: The Poems of John Donne, Aemilia Lanyer, and John Milton by Theresa DiPasquale
- Outstanding Academic Title, *Choice*, 2007, for *Milton the Dramatist* by Timothy Burbery
- John T. Shawcross Award of the Milton Society, 2007, for "Paradise Lost: A Poem Written in Ten Books": An Authoritative Text of the 1667 First Edition, edited by John T. Shawcross and Michael Lieb
- Outstanding Academic Title, Choice, 2006, for Theological Milton by Michael Lieb
- Irene Samuel Memorial Award of the Milton Society, 2006, for *Milton in the Age of Fish: Essays on Authorship, Text, and Terrorism*, edited by Michael Lieb and Albert C. Labriola
- John Donne Society Award for Distinguished Publication, 2005, for *John Donne:* An Annotated Bibliography of Modern Criticism, 1979-1995 by John R. Roberts
- James Holly Hanford Award of the Milton Society, 2004, for David Norbrook's essay in *Milton and the Grounds of Contention*

MRLS is under the general editorship of **Dr. Rebecca Totaro**, professor of English at Florida Gulf Coast University. She is the author of Suffering in Paradise: The Bubonic Plague in English Literature from More to Milton; editor of The Plague in Print: Essential Elizabethan Sources, 1558–1603; and coeditor of Representing the Plague in Early Modern England. She received the 2010 Monroe Kirk Spears Award for the best essay of the year published in SEL Studies in English Literature 1500–1900 for her essay, "Securing Sleep in Hamlet."

MRLS also benefits from an editorial board that includes some of today's most respected scholars.

Editorial Board

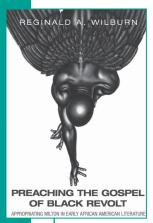
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Preaching the Gospel of Black Revolt

Appropriating Milton in Early African American Literature

Reginald A. Wilburn

Pursuing things yet unattempted" in literary criticism, Reginald A. Wilburn offers the first scholarly work to theorize African American authors' rebellious appropriations of John Milton and his canon. This comparative and hybrid study engages African Americans' transatlantic negotiations with perhaps the preeminent freedom writer in the English tradition.



"Wilburn illuminates early African American writers' bold and ingenious interpretations of one of Western literature's epic poets, John Milton. In doing so, Wilburn renders 'darkness visible' for a new generation of literary scholars."

— Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Preaching the Gospel of Black Revolt: Appropriating Milton in Early African American Literature contends that early African American authors appropriated and remastered Milton by "completing and complicating" England's epic poet of liberty with the intertextual originality of repetitive difference. Wilburn focuses on a diverse array of early African American authors, such as Phillis Wheatley, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Frederick Douglass, and Anna Julia Cooper, to name a few. He examines the presence of Milton in these works as a reflection of early African Americans' rhetorical affiliations with the poet's "satanic epic" for their own messianic purposes of freedom and racial uplift.

Wilburn explains that early African American authors were attracted to Milton because of his preeminent status in literary tradition, strong Christian convictions, and poetic mastery of the English language. This tripartite ministry makes Milton an especially indispensible intertext for authors whose writings and oratory were, sometimes, presumed "beneath the dignity of criticism." Through close readings of canonical and obscure texts, *Preaching the Gospel of Black Revolt* explores how various authors rebelled against such assessments of black intellect by altering Milton's meanings, themes, and figures beyond orthodox inter-

pretations and imbuing them with hermeneutic shades of interpretive and cultural difference. However they remastered Milton, these artists respected his oeuvre as a sacred yet secular "talking book" of revolt, freedom, and cultural liberation.

Preaching the Gospel of Black Revolt particularly draws upon recent satanic criticism in Milton studies, placing it in dialogue with methodologies germane to African American literary studies. By exposing the subversive workings of an intertextual Middle Passage in black literacy, Wilburn invites scholars from diverse areas of specialization to traverse within and beyond the cultural veils of racial interpretation and along the color line in literary studies.

REGINALD A. WILBURN is associate professor of English at the University of New Hampshire, where he teaches African American literature and drama, women's literary traditions, and intertextuality studies. Wilburn has published in *Milton Studies* and is a contributing author to *Milton Now*.

May 2014 / 340 pages ISBN 978-0-8207-0471-5 / \$58.00s cloth

Milton on Film

Eric C. Brown

In January 2012, shooting was set to begin in Sydney, Australia, on the Hollywood-backed production of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, with Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper cast as Satan. Yet just two weeks before the start of production, Legendary Pictures delayed the project, reportedly due to budgetary concerns, and soon the

company had suspended the film indefinitely. Milton scholar Eric C. Brown, who was then serving as a script consultant for the studio, sees his experience with that project as part of a long and perplexing story of Milton on film. Indeed, as Brown details in this comprehensive study, Milton's place in the popular imagination — and his extensive influence upon the cinema, in particular — has been both pervasive and persistent.

As this latest venture demonstrates, the history of Milton on film has been full of ambitious visions and dazzling failures. From the earliest proto-cinematic inventions, Milton has represented the quintessential subject for increasingly spectacular visual entertainment: mechanical pantomimes and spectacles in the eighteenth century; panoramas, dioramas, musical extravaganzas, and magic lantern shows in the nineteenth century. Milton has also figured centrally in the development of the cinema over the past century, from the silent era and its turn to a technological sublime to the contemporary age of sprawling digital cinematography and Hollywood blockbusters.

Milton on Film examines the two competing narratives that have tended to describe Milton's relationship to the cinema since its beginnings. In the first, Milton's imagination defines the very limits of cinematic representation, as the extraordinary ineffability of a work

MILTON ON FLM ERIC C. BROWN

For centuries, Paradise
Lost has been regarded
as the perfect choice
for artists wishing to
showcase the newest
technologies and
special effects. Yet it
has largely remained,
like God's own Mount,
unassailable.

like *Paradise Lost* could only be realized in a filmic medium. In the second, though, there is something too serious or obscure in Milton's epic to translate into any popular medium, especially film.

Interestingly, the volume also includes the earliest image of *Paradise Lost* on film, and nearly 150 other films are considered in a Miltonic context. Examples range from the mainstream to the marginal, literary period pieces to schlock horror, westerns, space odysseys, and film noir. As Brown asserts, *Paradise Lost* may well be the greatest film never made, but Milton continues to shape and define the contours of the cinema in unexpected and, occasionally, quite glorious ways.

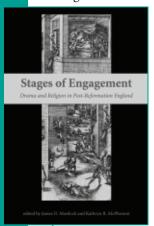
ERIC C. BROWN is professor of English at the University of Maine at Farmington. He has been a visiting professor at Harvard University and the Université du Maine in Le Mans, France. He is the editor of *Insect Poetics*, an interdisciplinary collection that theorizes insects in a variety of texts and contexts, and coeditor of *Shakespeare in Performance*.

Stages of Engagement

Drama and Religion in Post-Reformation England

Edited by James D. Mardock and Kathryn R. McPherson

"Neuer came Reformation in a Flood, / With such a heady currance," exclaims the Archbishop of Canterbury in Shakespeare's *Henry V*, describing the king's seemingly miraculous conversion from the reprobate prince he had been. This description must have seemed quite apt to Shakespeare's post-Reformation audience. Religious reform in early modern England, whether driven by individual experience



Contributors

Terri Bourus
Daniel Cadman
John D. Cox
Katherine A. Gillen
Brian J. Harries
Lisa Hopkins
Robert Hornback
Elizabeth Pentland
William W. E. Slights
Adrian Streete
Jay Zysk

or by institutional theology or politics, occurred as more of a deluge than as a clearly defined or steady voyage. And the English stage — where drama revised, resisted, and reacted against Reformation doctrine, but also reinforced it — became a place for engaging and even navigating this "heady currance" of changing religious belief and attitudes.

Stages of Engagement, in 12 essays from a wide range of scholars, reflects a reinvigorated concern for religion's role in the early modern English stage. The essays address reformed redefinitions of intimate, sacred experience, anxiety about Calvinist determinism, attitudes toward icons and representation, and the relationship of liturgy and performance. Importantly, these intertextual discussions are grounded in a meticulously historicized viewpoint that acknowledges the often chaotic and multidirectional nature of Reformation in England.

Throughout, the contributors offer a corrective to the secularization thesis by treating religion on the stage on its own terms while also challenging older histories that see professional English drama evolving from liturgical ritual. Thus, it becomes clear that the confessional makeup of English drama's audiences cannot be reduced to Protestant and Catholic, or to recusant, Anglican, and Puritan; rather, we must explore the ways in which early modern theater staged its religious culture's complex negotiations of ideas.

From the early Elizabethan touring companies' role in disseminating reformed doctrine to the representation of Wolsey and Cranmer in London's playhouses, English stages were potential sites of encounter — officially sanctioned or not — with mainstream ideology. As *Stages of Engagement* demonstrates, early modern drama both conveyed and shaped Protestant beliefs and practices, and drama was itself shaped by the religion of its producers and its audiences.

James D. Mardock is associate professor of English at the University of Nevada and the author of *Our Scene Is London: Ben Jonson's City and the Space of the Author.*

KATHRYN R. McPherson is professor of English at Utah Valley University. She is the coeditor of Shakespeare Expressed: Page, Stage, and Classroom in Shakespeare and His Contemporaries; Performing Pedagogy in Early Modern England; and Performing Maternity in Early Modern England.

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Milton and the Poetics of Freedom

Susanne Woods

n our contemporary Western culture, "freedom" is a powerful term with elastic meanings and contradictory uses; it has both driven rebellion and justified empire. John Milton's world, like our own, struggled to understand freedom within what was already considered a heritage of political and personal liberty, compounded in the seventeenth century by theological questions of freedom.

For Milton, we find, freedom is fundamentally about human choice; God gave humankind genuine free will, with reason and the light of conscience to enable choice. True freedom comes from who one is, formed and asserted by the choices one makes. This is true for the reader as well as for the author, Milton believed, and the result is what Woods terms an "invitational poetics." By locating freedom in thoughtful choice, in other words, Milton must offer his reader opportunities to consider alternatives, even to his own wellargued positions.

In six chapters, Woods examines these invitational poetics on several levels: as they develop in Milton's prose and early poetry, in theory as well as practice; as they are expressed within prose sentences and lines of poetry through choices of diction and syntax; and as they inform character, plot, and genre. Chapter 1 connects Milton's most famous statement about his ongoing interest in liberty with debates that preceded him. Chapter 2 shows Milton's Elizabethan predecessors grappling with the possibilities and limits of poetic indirection; Philip Sidney, in particular, provides an underappreciated rhetorical and theoretical foundation on which Milton's invitational poetics could build. These background chapters allow us to see Milton's evolution toward a poetics of choice, followed by their confident manifestation in the great poems. Later chapters consider Paradise Lost as Milton's grand disquisition on knowledge, choice, and freedom; and



"Offers a disciplined scholarly survey of religious, political, and literary issues of 'freedom' in early modern England and suggests a fresh perspective through which to reexamine Milton's poetry and prose.The latter alone makes this book appealing. Recommended."

Choice

Paradise Regained and Samson Agonistes in relation to the ambiguities of choice and vocation. Finally, Milton is situated in relation to the most influential seventeenth century political thinkers, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, and Woods examines the influence of Areopagitica on political culture since Milton's time, placing Milton's ideas in a tradition that leads to modern contestations of freedom.

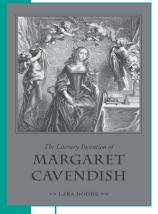
SUSANNE WOODS is provost and professor of English emerita at Wheaton College (Massachusetts) and visiting scholar at the University of Miami. She received the Inaugural Award for Special Achievement from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women for her founding of the Brown University Women Writers Project. In addition to three other books, Woods has published over 40 articles on Renaissance poetry and poetics.

October 2013 / 289 pages ISBN 978-0-8207-0466-1 / \$58.00s cloth

The Literary Invention of Margaret Cavendish

Lara Dodds

s a reader of her literary predecessors, and as a writer who herself contributed to the emerging literary tradition, Margaret Cavendish is an extraordinary figure whose role in early modern literary history has yet to be fully acknowledged. In this study, Lara Dodds reassesses the literary invention of Cavendish — the use she makes of other writers, her own various forms of writing, and the ways in which she



"This exploration of Cavendish's engagement with her English literary predecessors shows that Cavendish read 'widely, if not deeply.' This is a sophisticated, nuanced, and finely written book, and Dodds reads her chosen texts attentively and illuminatingly." - Seventeenth-Century News

creates her own literary persona — to transform our understanding of Cavendish's considerable accomplishments and influence.

In spite of Cavendish's claims that she did little reading whatsoever, Dodds demonstrates that the duchess was an agile, avid reader (and misreader) of other writers, all of them male, all of them now considered canonical — Shakespeare, Jonson, Donne, Milton, Bacon. In each chapter, Dodds discusses Cavendish's "moments of reading" of these authors, revealing their influence on Cavendish while also providing a lens to investigate more broadly the many literary forms — poetry, letters, fiction, drama — that Cavendish employed. Seeking a fruitful exchange between literary history and the history of reading, Dodds examines both the material and social circumstances of reading and the characteristic formal features and thematic preoccupations of Cavendish's writing in each of the major genres. Thus, not only is our view of Cavendish and her specific literary achievements enhanced, but we see too the contributions of this female reader to the emerging idea of "literature" in late seventeenth century England.

Most previous studies of Cavendish have been preoccupied with literary biography, looking into her royalist politics, materialist natural philosophy, and ambivalent protofeminism. *The Literary Invention of Margaret Cavendish* is significant, then, in its focus outward from

Cavendish to her most enduring and positive contributions to literary history — her revival of an expansive model of literary invention that rests uneasily, but productively, alongside a Jonsonian aesthetics of the verisimilar and a Hobbesian politics of social strife.

LARA DODDS is associate professor and graduate studies coordinator in the Department of English at Mississippi State University, where she has taught since 2004. Her scholarship on Margaret Cavendish, John Milton, and other early modern subjects has appeared in *English Literary Renaissance, John Donne Journal, Milton Studies, Restoration*, and elsewhere.

July 2013 / 304 pages ISBN 978-0-8207-0465-4 / \$58.00s cloth

Satan's Poetry

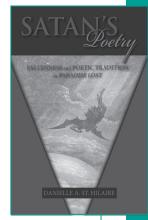
Fallenness and Poetic Tradition in Paradise Lost

Danielle A. St. Hilaire

Readers of *Paradise Lost* have long been struck by two prominent—and seemingly unrelated—aspects of the poem: its compelling depiction of Satan and its deep engagement with its literary (and specifically epic) tradition. *Satan's Poetry* brings these two issues together to provide a bold, provocative, and fresh reading of the poem—one that responds to the resurgent interest in Milton's Satan by examining the origins of conflict and ambiguity in *Paradise Lost*.

Without needing to resolve whether Satan is the hero or the villain, a mastermind or fool, Satan's Poetry examines the more fundamental role of Satan as the origin of the fallen world, the entity that initiates the poem-perhaps, indeed, that initiates poetry itself. Paradise Lost, like all else in our fallen human existence, is permeated by Satan's evil, which alters human life in ways that cannot be remedied within the course of human history, but Milton's epic demonstrates that this generative evil does not ultimately determine what fallen creatures can do with that life. The whole point of the poem, then, can be seen as an attempt to understand what Satan's fall means for us, the poem's fallen readers, and only by achieving that understanding and working within our fallenness can our fallen state be resolved in the promise of redemption.

Drawing on the philosophical frameworks of Hegel and Adorno, Satan's Poetry argues that satanic creation, although fundamentally negative, nevertheless exists positively in Milton's universe by virtue of its dialectical relation to God's creation. Qualitatively different from God's creation, producing only fragments, satanic creation is essential for Milton because it is the only mode of creation available to fallen consciousness, and therefore the only kind available to the poem seeking to create itself. So it is unnecessary, St. Hilaire concludes, to assume that sympathy for the devil means implicit agreement with the devil, or that Milton's narrator must dissociate himself from Satan in order to justify God's ways. Paradise Lost is Satan's poetry because it participates in a form of existence that is in need of redemption; it is by embracing this fact that it renders itself fit for redemptive reading.



"In Satan's Poetry, Danielle A. St. Hilaire examines how and why Satan holds such a central position in Milton's Paradise Lost. Demonstrating an exemplary emphasis on close reading and on the significance of textual evidence to literary criticism, St. Hilaire's book is concise, focused and convincing." -Sixteenth Century Journal

DANIELLE A. St. HILAIRE is assistant professor of English at Duquesne University, where she focuses on the British Renaissance. She is a contributing author to *John Milton: "Reasoning Words,"* edited by Kristin A. Pruitt and Charles W. Durham. St. Hilaire has also taught at Quinnipiac University and Wells College.

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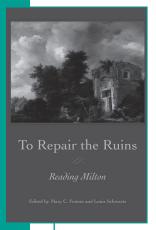
To Repair the Ruins

Reading Milton

Edited by Mary C. Fenton and Louis Schwartz

Recent John Milton scholarship has seen a revival of interest in the practice of close reading: historically and theoretically informed attention to the author's poetic and rhetorical style. Responding to this emerging trend, *To Repair the Ruins* examines how close reading functions as an act of recovery, an attempt to close the gap between past and present, or as an act of repair that uses the past to reenvision

a ruined or fallen present.



"Presents 12 original and engaging essays by established and emerging scholars. Each chapter makes a distinctive contribution to the field; some of the essays may even prove themselves to be paradigm-shifting for their commanding arguments about key texts ... or for their robust interdisciplinary examinations of Milton's legacy." - Milton Quarterly

In this volume's 12 essays, esteemed scholars offer fresh perspectives on the significance of close reading for Milton criticism, presenting both new topics in Milton studies and new ways to read and think about previously considered topics. Part 1 of the book calls for revival—for a return to close reading, an exploration of Milton's undervalued Latin poems, and a reexamination of neglected aspects of *Paradise Lost*. Part 2 analyzes Milton's understanding of inward experience and the relationship between reading, self-reflection, and action. Part 3 explores the historical record—medieval Catholicism, Milton's biography, and seventeenth century religious conflicts—to shed light on forgotten or obscured details central to the meaning of particular texts. Finally, part 4 assesses not merely the author's reception history, but also the ways in which Milton's work has been used to address the concerns and even amend the problems of later readers—from politicians to visual artists to prisoners.

Each chapter, in one way or another, attempts to bridge the gap between literary and historical studies—between the delight we may take in the beauty, in the unstable, sometimes bewildering proliferation of meanings we encounter in a poem, and the worldly commitments of an author trying to prosecute arguments in a world of policy and ideological or theological conflict.

A significant contribution to Milton studies, *To Repair the Ruins* will also be of interest to scholars concerned with general discussions of close reading, as well as

Protestant revisionist poetics, art, environment, and devotional practice.

MARY C. FENTON is professor of English at Western Carolina University. She is the author of *Milton's Places of Hope: Spiritual and Political Connections of Hope with Land*, and coeditor of *Their Maker's Image: New Essays on John Milton*.

LOUIS SCHWARTZ is professor of English at the University of Richmond. His book, *Milton and Maternal Mortality*, was the winner of the Milton Society of America's James Holly Hanford Award.

Milton and Homer

"Written to Aftertimes"

Gregory Machacek

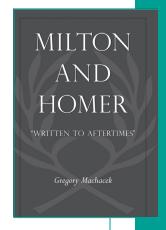
his is the first full-length study of the relation between Milton and Homer, arguably Milton's most important precursor. It is also the first study of a major interpoetic relationship that is responsive to the historicist critical enterprise, which has been dominant within literary study for the past 30 years, and engages the work of theorists of canon formation such as Barbara Herrnstein Smith and John Guillory.

Most studies of the relation between one poet and another are wholly diachronic, examining the way in which brief, verbal recollections of the earlier poet—allusions—enhance or qualify the significance of passages in the later, alluding poet's work. But this study goes beyond that, considering its focal poets within a synchronic framework that allows us to respond to the Homer of mid-seventeenth century England specifically rather than to some transhistorically unvarying Homer, thus revealing that Homer is important not only to the *significance* but also to the canonical *status* of *Paradise Lost*.

Machacek not only examines the ways in which Homer enriches our understanding of Paradise Lost, but also argues that Milton was guided by the ways that Homeric epics were being reproduced in his time to "leave something so written to aftertimes as they should not willingly let it die." The Homeric poems influenced Milton in his own ambition of composing an enduring work of literature, as Machacek details in chapters on the war in heaven as moral exemplum; on Milton's negotiation of the contradictions inherent in the genre of Christian epic; on the relation of Paradise Lost to the emerging critical categories of originality and the sublime; and on the institution of the school, to which Milton entrusted the perpetuation of his epic. Milton's approach to (and success at) securing canonical status for Paradise Lost provides important insights not only into his own artistry, but into the dynamics of literary canon formation in general.

GREGORY MACHACEK is professor of English at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, where he teaches courses on early modern British and ancient Greek and Roman literature. A former member of the executive committee of the Milton Society of America, he has published essays in *Milton Quarterly*, the *American Journal of Philology*, and *PMLA*.

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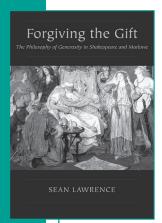
"Machacek has a sharper sense than most of how the priorities of Milton and his best early readers are likely to have differed from those of modern critics; and he has important and interesting points to make that others can develop further." Review of **English Studies**

Forgiving the Gift

The Philosophy of Generosity in Shakespeare and Marlowe

Sean Lawrence

Porgiving the Gift challenges the tendency to reflexively understand gifts as exchanges, negotiations, and circulations. Lawrence reads plays by Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare as informed by an early modern belief in the possibility and even necessity of radical generosity, of gifts that break the cycle of economy and self-interest.



"Lawrence follows **Emmanuel Levinas** in focusing upon a radical generosity advanced outside of exchange, without expectation of reciprocity. Forgiving the Gift is a clearly written and illuminating account of the ethics of Shakespearean and Marlovian drama." — SEL Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900

In the introduction, the author frames his argument theoretically by placing Marcel Mauss's classic essay, *The Gift*, into dialogue with Jacques Derrida, Emmanuel Levinas, and Paul Ricoeur to sketch two very different understandings of gift-giving. In the first, described by Mauss, the gift becomes a covert form of exchange. Though Mauss contrasts the gift economy with the market economy, his description of the gift economy nevertheless undermines his own project of discovering in it a basis for social solidarity. In the second understanding of gift exchange, derived from the philosophy of Levinas, the gift expresses the radical asymmetry of ethical concern.

Literature and philosophy scholars alike will benefit from the original readings of *The Merchant of Venice*, *Edward II*, King Lear, Titus Andronicus, and The Tempest, which constitute the body of the text. These readings find in the plays a generosity that exceeds the social practice of giftgiving, because extraordinarily generous acts of friendship or filial affection survive the collapse of social norms. Antonio in Merchant and the title character in Edward II practice a friendship whose extravagance marks its excess. Lear, on the other hand, brings about his tragedy by attempting to reduce filial love to debt. Titus also discovers a love excessive to social convention when rape and mutilation annihilate his daughter's cultural value. Finally, Prospero in The Tempest sacrifices power and even his own life for the love of his daughter, giving a gift rendered asymmetrical by both its excess and its secrecy.

While proposing new readings of works of Renaissance drama, *Forgiving the Gift* also questions the model of human life from which many contemporary readings, especially those characterized as new historicist or cultural materialist, grow. In so doing, it addresses questions of how we are to understand literary texts, but also how we are to live with others in the world.

SEAN LAWRENCE is associate professor of English at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan, and is a past fellow of the Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship at Dalhousie University. His work has appeared in the *European Journal of English Studies*, *English Studies in Canada*, *Renascence*, and other journals.

March 2012 / 270 pages ISBN 978-0-8207-0448-7 / \$58.00s cloth

Milton's Rival Hermeneutics

"Reason Is But Choosing"

Edited by Richard J. DuRocher and Margaret O lofson Thickstun

Recent critical conversation has described John Milton's major works as sites of uncertainty, irreconcilability, or even confusion—as texts that actually reflect radical incoherence and openness. These newer critical voices posit, moreover, that

traditional critics must strain to find coherence and authorial control in Milton's poetry. Richard DuRocher and Margaret Thickstun, together with an esteemed group of Milton scholars from a wide range of critical and theoretical backgrounds, respond to this challenge. While accepting the presence of uncertainty and welcoming the multiple perspectives that Milton builds into his works, this volume offers a variety of nuanced approaches to Milton's texts.

As these 11 essays demonstrate, Milton's own acts of interpretation compel readers to reflect not only on the rival hermeneutics they find within his works but also on their own hermeneutic principles and choices—an interpretive complexity that is integral to his poetry's enduring appeal. Thus, each of the contributors takes up the problem of this interpretive dilemma in some way: several explore Milton's own engagement with the texts of Scripture and the classics; some examine the ways in which Milton represents the process of interpretation in his narrative poems; and still others are intrigued by the challenges that Milton's works present for the reader's own interpretive skills.

Milton's Rival Hermeneutics, in responding directly to the "incertitude critics" of Milton, will be of interest to those on all sides of this debate and will certainly redirect the ongoing conversation.

The late **RICHARD J. DUROCHER** was professor of English at St. Olaf College and the recipient of a 2007 NEH fellowship to study Milton's representation of the emotions. He is author of *Milton and Ovid* and *Milton Among the Romans*, in addition to essays on Dante, Spenser, and Bradstreet as well as Milton. DuRocher

Milton's Rival Hermeneutics

"Reason Is Bui Chousing"

Ldited by Richard J.-DoRredilis & Margaret Olohon Thicking.

"Milton's Rival Hermeneutics ... represents two major achievements: First, it exemplifies the significance and potential of the terms hermeneutics and choosing in Milton studies; second, it exemplifies the variegated nature of the responses Miltonists have to their subject. Each of these essays represents a competing, or rival, hermeneutics. one which contributes to the Milton dialogue. This is Milton scholarship at its best." — Seventeenth-Century News

was a member of the editorial board for *Milton Quarterly*, a contributor to the Milton Variorum project, and general editor of the *Medieval & Renaissance Literary Studies* series.

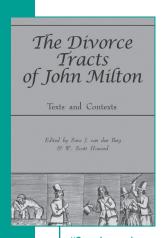
MARGARET OLOFSON THICKSTUN is the Jane Watson Irwin Professor of English at Hamilton College and the author of *Fictions of the Feminine: Puritan Doctrine and the Representation of Women* and *Milton's "Paradise Lost": Moral Education*, as well as articles on Bunyan, Milton, Swift, and seventeenth century women's religious arguments.

The Divorce Tracts of John Milton

Texts and Contexts

Edited by Sara J. van den Berg and W. Scott Howard

In a span of only 18 months—from August 1643 to March 1645—John Milton published five tracts on divorce: *The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce,* a much enlarged edition of that tract, *The Judgement of Martin Bucer, Tetrachordon,* and



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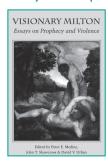
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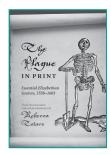
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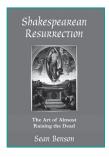
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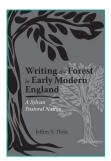
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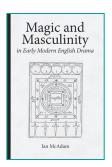


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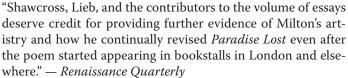
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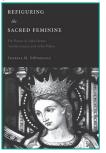
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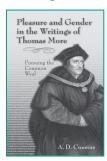


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