

**Samuel Rowe, Beckford's Insatiable Caliph: Oriental Despotism and Consumer Society**

This article argues that William Beckford's oriental tale *Vathek* (published 1786) makes use of the trope of oriental despotism to address the experience of early British consumer society. Scholarship has neglected the degree to which eighteenth-century European commentary on oriental despotism, especially in Montesquieu's *Spirit of the Laws*, emphasizes the super-abundant consumption of the despot. Beckford's *Vathek* explores this theme in detail, organizing its narrative around the despot's insatiability. A reading of Beckford's novel suggests that eighteenth-century consumer culture contained both a decadent and a rationalized element. The novel departs, furthermore, from optimistic accounts of the history of consumption by depicting consumer society as driven by pathological compulsion and social isolation.

Keywords: Beckford, Montesquieu, orientalism, despotism, consumption, consumer society, desire, insatiability, Lacan

**Stephanie O'Rourke, Histories of the Self: Anne-Louis Girodet and the Trioson Portrait Series**

Between 1797 and 1804, the French artist Anne-Louis Girodet-Trioson produced a series of portraits depicting a young boy, the son of the artist's mentor Benoît-François Trioson. The paintings trace the development of a single child, but they also reference contemporaneous scientific and philosophical discourses that share the series' preoccupation with temporality. By considering the Trioson portraits in relation to these discourses, this article argues that the paintings disclose the durational—or even historical—nature of selfhood at the end of the eighteenth century.

Keywords: Girodet, Girodet-Trioson, portraiture, subjectivity, history, natural history, French Revolution, childhood, child development

**Celestina Savonius-Wroth, Bardic Ministers: Scotland's Gaelic-speaking Clergy in the Ossian Controversy**

Although the Gaelic-speaking clergy of Scotland played a central role in the controversy over the authenticity of James Macpherson's *Ossian* opus, their involvement, and in particular the religious dimensions of their involvement, has received little scholarly attention. This article explores the cultural context of the Gaelic-speaking clergy, both within Gaelic society and in the broader British and Continental European milieu of clerical learning, in order to bring Evangelical revival into dialogue with the Ossian controversy, the Scottish Enlightenment, and Romanticism.

Keywords: Ossian, Ossian controversy, Scottish Presbyterian clergy, Scottish Gaelic literature, oral tradition, Romanticism, Evangelicalism, Scottish Enlightenment

**Juliane Engelhardt, *Anxiety, Affect, and the Performance of Feeling in Radical Pietism: Towards a Topography of Religious Feeling in Denmark-Norway in the Early Enlightenment***

This article investigates the emotional practices among radical Pietists during their conversion from “false” to “true” Christianity. It argues that melancholy and anxiety were considered necessary and edifying feelings in this process. Through bodily practices, the convert demonstrated that he or she was in a state of affect: a medium for the works of God. Among the wider population in Denmark-Norway, however, the distinction between true and false Christians, employed by both moderate and radical Pietists, caused despair. This article discusses the influence of Pietism on modern emotional categories, and demonstrates how Pietists both relied on old understandings of emotions and created new ones.

Keywords: Early modern emotions, history of emotions, melancholy, anxiety, Radical Pietism, performance of feelings, lived religion