

CHLOE WIGSTON SMITH

Women, Work and Clothes in the Eighteenth-Century Novel



CAMBRIDGE

Women Work And Clothes In The Eighteenth Century Novel

Lauren Gillingham



Women Work And Clothes In The Eighteenth Century Novel:

Women, Work, and Clothes in the Eighteenth-Century Novel Chloe Wigston Smith, 2013-06-13 This groundbreaking study examines the vexed and unstable relations between the eighteenth century novel and the material world Rather than exploring dress s transformative potential it charts the novel s vibrant engagement with ordinary clothes in its bid to establish new ways of articulating identity and market itself as a durable genre In a world in which print culture and textile manufacturing traded technologies and paper was made of rags the novel by contrast resisted the rhetorical and aesthetic links between dress and expression style and sentiment Chloe Wigston Smith shows how fiction exploited women s work with clothing through stealing sex work service stitching and the stage in order to revise and reshape material culture within its pages Her book explores a diverse group of authors including Jane Barker Jonathan Swift Daniel Defoe Eliza Haywood Samuel Richardson Henry Fielding Charlotte Lennox John Cleland Frances Burney and Mary Robinson

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Women, Work, and Clothes in the Eighteenth-Century Novel Chloe Wigston Smith, 2013-06-13 This book charts the novel s vibrant engagement with clothes examining how fiction revises and reshapes material objects within its pages

Women's Writing, 1660-1830 Jennie Batchelor, Gillian Dow, 2016-12-19 This book is about mapping the future of eighteenth century women s writing and feminist literary history in an academic culture that is not shy of declaring their obsolescence It asks what can or should unite us as scholars devoted to the recovery and study of women s literary history in an era of big data on the one hand and ever more narrowly defined specialization on the other Leading scholars from the UK and US answer this question in thought provoking cross disciplinary and often polemical essays Contributors attend to the achievements of eighteenth century women writers and the scholars who have devoted their lives to them and map new directions for the advancement of research in the area They collectively argue that eighteenth century women s literary history has a future and that feminism was and always should be at its heart Featuring a Preface by Isobel Grundy and a Postscript by Cora Kaplan

European Fans in the 17th and 18th Centuries Miriam Volmert, Danijela Bucher, 2019-12-02 In 17th and 18th century Europe folding fans were

important socially coded fashion accessories In the course of the 18th century painted and printed fan leaves displayed an increasing variety of visual motifs and artistic subject matter while many of them also addressed contemporary political and social topics This book studies the visual and material diversity of fans from an interdisciplinary perspective The individual essays analyze fans in the context of the fine and applied arts discussing the role of fans in cultures of communication and examining them as souvenir objects and vehicles for political and social messages

Material Literacy in 18th-Century Britain Bloomsbury Publishing,2020-09-03 The eighteenth century has been hailed for its revolution in consumer culture but Material Literacy in Eighteenth Century Britain repositions Britain as a nation of makers It brings new attention to eighteenth century craftswomen and men with its focus on the material knowledge possessed not only by professional artisans and amateur makers but also by skilled consumers This edited collection gathers together a group of interdisciplinary scholars working in the fields of art history history literature and museum studies to unearth the tactile and tacit knowledge that underpinned fashion tailoring and textile production It invites us into the workshops drawing rooms and backrooms of a broad range of creators and uncovers how production and tacit knowledge extended beyond the factories and machines which dominate industrial histories This book illuminates for the first time the material literacies learnt enacted and understood by British producers and consumers The skills required for sewing embroidering and the textile arts were possessed by a large proportion of the British population men women and children professional and amateur alike Building on previous studies of shoppers and consumption in the period as well as narratives of manufacture these essays document the multiplicity of small producers behind Britain s consumer revolution reshaping our understanding of the dynamics between making and objects consumption and production It demonstrates how material knowledge formed an essential part of daily life for eighteenth century Britons Craft technique practice and production the contributors show constituted forms of tactile languages that joined makers together whether they produced objects for profit or pleasure

Novels, Needleworks, and Empire Chloe Wigston Smith,2024-03-12 The first sustained study of the vibrant links between domestic craft and British colonialism In the eighteenth century women s contributions to empire took fewer official forms than those collected in state archives Their traces were recorded in material ways through the ink they applied to paper or the artifacts they created with muslin silk threads feathers and shells Handiwork such as sewing knitting embroidery and other crafts formed a familiar presence in the lives and learning of girls and women across social classes and it was deeply connected to colonialism Chloe Wigston Smith follows the material and visual images of the Atlantic world that found their way into the hands of women and girls in Britain and early America in the objects they made the books they held the stories they read and in doing so adjusted and altered the form and content of print and material culture A range of artifacts made by women including makers of color brought the global into conversation with domestic crafts and consequently placed images of empire and colonialism within arm s reach Together fiction and handicrafts offer new evidence of women s material

contributions to the home's place within the global eighteenth century revealing the rich and complex connections between the global and the domestic

A Cultural History of Dress and Fashion in the Age of Enlightenment Peter

McNeil, 2018-11-01 Eighteenth century fashion was cosmopolitan and varied Whilst the wildly extravagant and colorful elite fashions parodied in contemporary satire had significant influence on wider dress habits more austere garments produced in darker fabrics also reflected the ascendancy of a puritan middle class as well as a more practical approach to dress With the rise of print culture and reading publics fashions were more quickly disseminated and debated than ever and the appetite for fashion periodicals went hand in hand with a preoccupation with the emerging concept of taste Richly illustrated with 100 images and drawing on pictorial textual and object sources A Cultural History of Dress and Fashion in the Age of Enlightenment presents essays on textiles production and distribution the body belief gender and sexuality status ethnicity and visual and literary representations to illustrate the diversity and cultural significance of dress and fashion in the period

The Significance of Fabrics in the Writings of Elizabeth Gaskell Amanda Ford, 2022-12-30 Elizabeth Gaskell's writings abound in references to a cultural materiality encompassing different types of fabric stuffs calicoes chintzes and fine point lace These are not merely the motifs of the Realist genre but reveal a complex polysemy Utilizing a metonymic examination of these tropes this volume exposes the dramatic structural and socio economic upheaval generated by industrialization urbanization and the widening sphere of empire The material evidence testifies to the technological and production innovations evolving diachronically for the period and the evolution of Manchester as the industrial Cottonpolis that clothed the world by the 1840s This volume analyses Gaskell's manipulation of the materiality arguing its firm roots lie in the quotidian of women's domestic and provincial life within the growing ranks of the middle classes Exploring Gaskell's tactile imagination an embodied relationship with fabrics and sewing a function of her daily life from an early age this volume provides insight into the sensory aspects of cloth and its ability to stir affective responses emotions and memories whereby worn fabrics and even the absence of previous textile treasures is poignant recreating layers of recollection This book aims to restore the pulsating dynamic context of ordinary women's dressed lives and presents innovative interpretations of Gaskell's texts

Fashionable Fictions and the Currency of the Nineteenth-Century British Novel Lauren Gillingham, 2023-05-25

Revealing how a modern notion of fashion helped to transform the novel and its representation of social change and individual and collective life in nineteenth century Britain Lauren Gillingham offers a revisionist history of the novel With particular attention to the fiction of the 1820s through 1840s this study focuses on novels that use fashion's idiom of currency and obsolescence to link narrative form to a heightened sense of the present and the visibility of public life It contends that novelists steeped their fiction in date stamped matters of dress manners and media sensations to articulate a sense of history as unfolding not in epochal change but in transient issues and interests capturing the public's imagination Reading fiction by Mary Shelley Letitia Landon Edward Bulwer Lytton W H Ainsworth Charles Dickens Mary Elizabeth

Braddon and others *Fashionable Fictions* tells the story of a nineteenth century genre commitment to contemporaneity that restyles the novel itself

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