



JOHN MILTON PROSE

MAJOR WRITINGS ON LIBERTY, POLITICS, RELIGION, AND EDUCATION

Edited by David Loewenstein

 WILEY-BLACKWELL

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Praise for *John Milton: Prose*

"This excellent selection is what I have always wanted for my students: un-modernized texts very well edited and contextualized. Milton's seering radicalism, the extraordinary controlled freedom of his rhetoric, the engagement with the great issues of England's revolution, but also with universal themes of God, Humankind, liberty, accountability, are made accessible as never before."

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"This is the most ambitious one-volume edition of Milton's prose to date, one that both invites the general reader who is curious about the author of *Paradise Lost*, and that also

satisfies the needs of classrooms. Readers will have at their fingertips works from across Milton's writing career, with its wide range of occasions and styles. We see the scrappy polemicist, the rhetorically powerful tyrannicide, the critic and participant in religious reform, a Milton who was always daring, witty and engaged. With crisp prefatory introductions to each work, helpful annotations, and a generous introduction to the whole, there is no better guide to Milton's prose treasures than this one. I will be eager to assign this to students."

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David Loewenstein is Helen C. White Professor of English and the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. His books include *Representing Revolution in Milton and his Contemporaries: Religion, Politics, and Polemics in Radical Puritanism* (2001), which received the Milton Society of America's James Holly Hanford Award for Distinguished Book. He is the author of *Treacherous Faith: The Specter of Heresy in Early Modern English Literature and Culture* (2013). He has co-edited *The Cambridge History of Early Modern English Literature* (2002), *Early Modern Nationalism and Milton's England* (2008), and *The Complete Works of Gerrard Winstanley* (2009). He is an Honored Scholar of the Milton Society of America.

Also available:

John Milton: "Paradise Lost"
Edited by Barbara K. Lewalski

John Milton: Complete Shorter Poems

Edited by Stella P. Revard

The Life of John Milton: A Critical Biography

Barbara K. Lewalski

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PROSE

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AND EDUCATION

EDITED BY
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BARBARA K. LEWALSKI

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For Barbara Lewalski and in Memory of Norman T. Burns

Figure 1 Portrait of Milton at age 62 by William Faithorne; from *The History of Britain* (1670). By permission of the Folger Shakespeare Library.



Note on This Edition

This is an original spelling edition of Milton's prose (except, of course, for translations of Milton's Latin texts). It is intended for a broad readership: students, teachers, scholars, and general readers. I have prepared fresh annotations for all the texts; however, because of the need to keep this large one-volume edition from becoming too big, I have not provided annotations (except for several contemporary names) to the substantial selections from Milton's theological treatise, *De Doctrina Christiana*. I have aimed to keep the annotations concise but full, so that readers of Milton's prose can get as much as possible from the old-spelling texts. I have also followed the original punctuation.

In preparing this edition, I have followed the chosen copy-texts closely. In cases where there are clearly typographical errors in the original, I have made emendations without noting them. Biblical citations in the annotations are from the Authorized (King James) Version.

This is one of three volumes presenting the complete poetry and major prose in original language. The shorter poems are edited by Stella Revard; *Paradise Lost* is edited by Barbara Lewalski. Quotations from the shorter poetry are taken from *John Milton: Complete Shorter Poems*, edited by Stella P. Revard (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009); quotations from *Paradise Lost* are taken from *John Milton: "Paradise Lost,"* edited by Barbara K. Lewalski (Wiley-Blackwell, 2007).

Abbreviations

Any abbreviations refer to works cited in the Select Bibliography at the end of this edition. *CPW* refers to the Yale edition of the *Complete Prose Works of John Milton*,

general editor Don M. Wolfe, 8 volumes (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1953–82). Thomason refers to the major collection of published texts assembled by the London bookseller, George Thomason, between 1640 and 1661; the collection is kept in the British Library. Wing refers to *The Short-title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America and of English Books Printed in Other Countries, 1641–1700* by Donald Goddard Wing, 2nd edition, revised and enlarged (New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1972–98).

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I would also like to thank warmly Emma Bennett, my editor at Wiley-Blackwell, for much helpful advice and patience as I prepared this edition. I am also grateful to Benjamin Thatcher at Wiley-Blackwell for his expertise in seeing this large book through production. I thank Fiona Screen for her expert copy-editing skills. Much work on this edition was conducted using the resources of the following libraries: the Bodleian Library, the British Library, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Library, and the Folger Shakespeare Library. I am grateful to their staffs for much assistance and many kindnesses.

I am also very grateful to the editors of the other two Wiley-Blackwell editions of Milton: Barbara K. Lewalski and Stella P. Revard. It has been a special pleasure to work with them as we discussed and designed all three volumes of Milton's writings. Barbara Lewalski has provided much support, valuable criticism, and practical advice. Her scholarship on Milton has been exemplary in its range and depth – for its attention to the aesthetic achievements of Milton's writing (in both his poetry and prose), as well as to the constant freshness with which Milton expresses his arguments and ideas about politics, religion, and domestic issues. This volume is dedicated to her. It is also dedicated to the memory of Norman T. Burns, with whom I was lucky enough to enjoy the kind of lively intellectual friendship Milton himself deeply treasured.

List of Illustrations

- [1](#) Portrait of Milton at age 62 by William Faithorne; from *The History of Britain* (1670). By permission of the Folger Shakespeare Library.
- [2](#) *Eikon Basilike: The Pourtraicture of His Sacred Majestie in his Solitude and Sufferings* (1649), frontispiece. By permission of the Folger Shakespeare Library.
- [3](#) John Milton, *Pro Populo Anglicano Defensio* (London, 1651), title page. By permission of the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Chronology

Milton's Life

Historical and Literary Events

Dec. 9, born in Bread Street, Cheapside London, to John and Sarah Milton.

1608

1611 King James ("Authorized") Bible.

Educated by private tutors, including the Presbyterian cleric, Thomas Young.

1614-20

Brother Christopher born.

1615

1616 Death of Shakespeare.

Portrait at age 10 painted by Cornelius Janssen.

1618 Ben Jonson's *Works* published.

Begins to attend St. Paul's School; - friendship with Charles Diodati begins. (?) **1620**

1621 Donne appointed Dean of St. Paul's.

Milton's Life

Historical and Literary Events

	1623	Shakespeare's First Folio published.
First known poems, paraphrases of Psalms 114 and 136.	1623-4	
Admitted to Christ's College, Cambridge (Feb. 12).	1625	Death of James I; accession of Charles I. Outbreak of plague.
Writes funeral elegies, "In quintum Novembris," verse epistles, and Prolusions in Latin; "On the Death of a Fair Infant," "At a Vacation Exercise" in English.	1626-8	William Laud made Bishop of London.
Takes BA degree (March).	1629	Charles I dissolves Parliament.
Writes "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity" (Dec).		
Writes "L'Allegro" and "Il Penseroso"(?).	1631	

Milton's Life

"On Shakespeare" published in the Second Folio of Shakespeare's plays. Admitted to MA degree (July 3). Writes *Arcades*, entertainment for the Countess of Derby(?). Writes sonnet "How soon hath Time" (Dec). Starts to live with his family at Hammersmith.

Writes "On Time," "At a Solemn Music"(?).

A Maske (Comus) performed at Ludlow with music by Henry Lawes (Sept. 29).

Moves with his family to Horton, Buckinghamshire. Begins notes on his reading in *Commonplace Book*.

Publication of *A Maske Presented at Ludlow Castle*. Mother dies (April 3).
Writes "Lycidas."

Historical and Literary Events

1632 Galileo's *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* published in Italian.

1633 Donne's *Poems* and Herbert's *The Temple* published.

Laud made Archbishop of Canterbury.

1634 Carew's masque, *Coelum Britannicum*.

1635

Trial and punishment of Puritans William Prynne, John Bastwick, and Henry Burton.

Milton's Life

Historical and Literary Events

Descartes,
Discourse on Method.

"Lycidas" published in collection of elegies for Edward King. **1638**

Begins Continental tour (May 1638); meets Grotius, Galileo, Cardinal Barberini, Manso; visits Academies in Florence and Rome; visits Vatican Library; visits Naples, Venice, and Geneva. **1638-9**
Writes "Mansus," other Latin poems.

Learns of Charles Diodati's death. **1639** First Bishops' War with Scotland.
Returns to England (July).
Takes lodgings in Fleet Street.
Begins teaching nephews Edward and John Phillips and a few others.

Writes *Epitaphium Damonis* (epitaph for Charles Diodati). **1640** Long Parliament convened (Nov. 3);
Begins work on *Accidence Commenc't Grammar, Art of Logic, Christian Doctrine(?)*.
impeachment of Laud. George Thomason, London bookseller, begins his collection of tracts and books.

Milton's Life

Publishes anti-episcopal tracts: *Of Reformation; Of Prelatical Episcopacy; Animadversions upon the Remonstrants Defense.*

Publishes *The Reason of Church-government* and *An Apology* [for] . . . *Smectymnuus*
Marries Mary Powell (May?), who returns (Aug.?) to her royalist family near Oxford.
Writes sonnet, "Captain or Colonel" when royalist attack on London expected.

Publishes *Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce* (Aug.).

Historical and Literary Events

1641 Impeachment and execution of Strafford (May)
Root and Branch Bill abolishing bishops.
Irish rebellion breaks out (Oct.).

1642 Civil War begins (Aug. 22).
Royalists win Battle of Edgehill. Closing of theaters.

1643 Westminster Assembly of Divines to reform Church.
Solemn League and Covenant subscribed.
Thomas Browne, *Religio Medici*.

Milton's Life

Publishes second edition of *Doctrine and Discipline; Of Education* (June); *The Judgement of Martin Bucer concerning Divorce* (Aug.); *Areopagitica* (Nov.).

Publishes *Tetrachordon* and *Colasterion* on the divorce question.

Mary Powell returns. Moves to a large house in the Barbican.

Poems of Mr. John Milton published (Jan., dated 1645).

Writes sonnet to Lawes.

Daughter Anne born (July 29).

Father dies; moves to High Holborn. **1647**

Historical and Literary Events

1644 Royalists defeated at Battle of Marston Moor (July 2).

1645 Execution of Laud.
New Model Army wins decisive victory at Naseby (June).
Edmund Waller, *Poems*.

1646 First Civil War ends.
Crashaw, *Steps to the Temple*.

Milton's Life

Daughter Mary born (Oct. 26).
Writes sonnet to Lord General
Fairfax.
Translates Psalms 80-88.

Historical and Literary Events

1648 Second Civil
War.
Pride's Purge
(Dec.) expels
many
Presbyterians
from
Parliament,
leaving c.150
members of the
House of
Commons (the
Rump).
Herrick,
Hesperides.

Milton's Life

Publishes *Tenure of Kings and Magistrates* (Feb.).
Appointed Secretary for Foreign Tongues to the Council of State (March 15).
Writing the *History of Britain*.
Publishes *Observations* on Irish documents; *Eikonoklastes* ("The Idol Smasher") (Oct.).
Given lodgings in Scotland Yard

Second edition of *Eikonoklastes* (June).

Historical and Literary Events

1649 Trial of Charles I, executed Jan. 30. *Eikon Basilike* ("The Royal Image") published in many editions. Acts abolishing kingship and House of Lords (March). Salmasius, *Defensio Regia*. Parliament declares England a free Commonwealth (May).

1650 Marvell, *Horatian Ode upon Cromwell's Return from Ireland*.
Vaughan, *Silex Scintillans* (Part 1).

Milton's Life

Publishes *Defensio pro populo Anglicano* in reply to Salmasius (Feb. 24).

Birth of son, John (March 16).

Moves to Petty France, near St. James Park.

Milton totally blind.

Writes sonnet, "When I consider how my light is spent" (?) and sonnets to Cromwell and Sir Henry Vane.

Daughter Deborah born (May 2).

Mary Powell Milton dies (May 5).

Son John dies (June).

Translates Psalms 1-8.

Historical and Literary Events

1651 Hobbes, *Leviathan*.

1652 *Regii Sanguinis Clamor* ("Cry of the Royal Blood"), answer to Milton's *Defensio*, published. First Dutch War (to 1654).

1653 Cromwell dissolves Rump Parliament (April 20). "Barebones" Parliament. Cromwell made Lord Protector (Dec), under Constitution, "Instrument of Government."

Milton's Life

Historical and Literary Events

Publishes *Defensio Secunda* ("A Second Defense of the English People"), answer to *Regii Sanguinis* (May 30).

1654

Writes sonnet, "Avenge O Lord thy Slaughter'd Saints."
Publishes *Pro Se Defensio* ("Defense of Himself") (Aug.).
Works on *Christian Doctrine*(?).

1655

Massacre of the Protestant Vaudois on order of the Prince of Savoy (April).
Andrew Marvell, *The First Anniversary of the Government Under O.C.*

Marries Katherine Woodcock (Nov. 12).

1656

James Harrington, *Oceana*, published.

Daughter Katherine born (Oct. 10).
Marvell appointed his assistant in Secretariat for Foreign Languages.

1657

"Humble Petition and Advice," constitution establishing more conservative government.