



### Samuel Richardson as Anonymous Editor and Printer

Recycling Texts for the Book Market

By John A. Dussinger

**Pub Date:** 05 March 2024

**Binding:** Hardback

**Price:** £80.00 / \$110.00

**ISBN:** 9781785273537

**Extent:** 250 pages

**Size:** 153 x 229 mm /  
6 x 9 inches

**BISAC CATEGORY:** LITERARY CRITICISM /

European / English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh

HISTORY / Europe / Great Britain / Georgian Era  
(1714-1837)

**BISAC CODE:** LIT004120

**BIC CODE:** DS

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**Exclusive:** WORLD

**Offers a comprehensive account of Samuel Richardson's numerous editorial interventions in producing books and pamphlets from his press.**

During the first two decades of his career, Richardson's role as printer was hardly limited to setting the type for the periodicals that issued from his shop. Perhaps the most glaring evidence of his intervention in producing text is the fact that both *The True Briton* (1723-24) and *The Weekly Miscellany* (1732-41) just happen to have letters supposedly from women who protest the legal restraints against their participation in the public sphere. Neither the Duke of Wharton, the owner of *The True Briton*, nor William Webster, the desperately impecunious producer of *The Weekly Miscellany*, launched their journals with the objective of advancing radical views about political equality for women. But almost inadvertently this middle-aged, rotund printer at Salisbury Court was quietly feminizing journalism. After his first experiments in Wharton's anti-Walpole journal he developed his satiric powers in *the Miscellany* by creating not only his own feisty counterpart to Pope's coquette Belinda but even partnering with Sarah Chapone's subversive Delia. As an outlier in what was perceived to be a corrupt, predatory political world, Richardson readily assumed a female voice to express his resistance.

#### Readership

This study should attract readers with an interest in the early English novel and in the history of the book.

#### Contents

1. Introduction to *The True Briton*: Oaths of Allegiance and Women's Empowerment; 2. Selected Texts of *The True Briton*; 3. Introduction to *The Weekly Miscellany*: Sarah Chapone, Women's "Championess."; 4. Selected Texts of *The Weekly Miscellany*; 5. Conclusion: Richardson's Press and Women's Entry into Public Life; 6. Bibliography.

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

John A. Dussinger, Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, has written widely about eighteenth-century authors from Astell to Austen.

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