

BALLADS AND BROADSIDES IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY CULTURE

Ruth Perry's Folger Seminar
February-April, 2005

February 4 : The Inheritance of the Eighteenth Century

Sigurd Hustvedt, Ballad Criticism in Scandinavia and Great Britain (1916), pp.32-61; 65-155, (coursepack xerox)

Margaret Spufford, Small Books and Pleasant Histories, 1-18.

Adam Fox, Oral and Literate Culture in England, 1-50.

Albert Friedman, The Ballad Revival, "The Broadside Ballad" pp. 35-63; 79-83.

[Additional reading for the insatiable: Natascha Wurzbach, The Rise of the English Street Ballad 1550-1650, 1-26, 236-41, 253-85.]

February 11: The Eighteenth Century Ballad Culture Before Percy

Albert Friedman, The Ballad Revival, "Ballad Collections Before Percy" pp. 114-55.

Dave Harker, Fakesong, "The Early Mediators," pp. 3-14. (coursepack xerox)

.Joseph Addison, The Spectator nos. 70, 74, 85. (coursepack xerox)

Margaret Spufford, Small Books and Pleasant Histories, pp. 83-110; 111-128.

Dianne Dugaw, "The Popular Marketing of "Old Ballads": The Ballad Revival and Eighteenth-Century Antiquarianism Reconsidered," Eighteenth-Century Studies 21 (Fall, 1987): 71-90. (coursepack xerox)

Sigrid Rieuwerts, "Allen Ramsey and the Scottish Ballads," Aberdeen University Review LVIII (Spring 1999): 29-41. (coursepack xerox)

Take a look at Thomson's Orpheus Caledonius , Ramsey's Ever-Green and Tea-Table Miscellany, and A Collection of Old Ballads—copies of which the Folger has.

Display of Dicey broadsides in class.

February 18: The Making of Percy's Reliques

Nick Groom, The Making of Percy's Reliques, pp. 5-73, 98-119, 133-149, 161-78, 237-39.

Dave Harker, Fakesong, "From Thomas Percy to Joseph Ritson," pp. 15-37. (coursepack xerox)

Albert Friedman, "Percy's Reliques," pp. 185-232.

Sigurd Hustvedt, Ballad Criticism in Scandinavia and Great Britain (1916), pp. 157-200.
(coursepack xerox)

Thomas Percy, Reliques of Ancient Poetry, browse through vol. I, including the Preface, the texts, and “An Essay on the Ancient Minstrels in England”; vol. III: read “Essay on Ancient Metrical Romances.”

Ballad concert @ 4:00 pm in the Theater.

February 25: Ballad Fraud and Ballad Scholarship

Albert Friedman, The Ballad Revival, chapters 8 & 9, pp. 233-91.

Bertrand Bronson, Joseph Ritson: Scholar-at Arms, pp. 543-610.

M. L. MacKenzie, “The Great Ballad Collectors, Percy, Herd and Ritson,” Studies in Scottish Literature, vol. 2 (1965): 213-33. (coursepack xerox)

Nick Groom, The Making of Percy’s Reliques, pp. 73-98. (on Macpherson)

Discussion of Ritson, Macpherson, and Ossian.

March 4: Goldsmith and Other Literati

Sigurd Hustvedt, Ballad Criticism in Scandinavia and Great Britain (1916), pp. 201-244.
(coursepack xerox)

Oliver Goldsmith, The Vicar of Wakefield

James Beattie, The Minstrel

Discussion of Oliver Goldsmith, Beattie, Aiken, Gray, and others.

March 11: Sir Walter Scott and the *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*

Dave Harker, “From Walter Scott to Robert Chambers” in Fakesong, p. 38-77.

(coursepack xerox)

Valentina Bold, “‘Nouther right spelled nor right setten down’: Scott, Child, and the Hogg Family,” in The Ballad in Scottish History, ed. Edward J. Cowan, Tuckwell Press, 2000, pp. 116-41. (coursepack xerox)

Sigrid Rieuwerts, “Boundaries of Cultural Experience: Singers and Scholar,” in Ballads and Boundaries, ed. James Porter (UCLA: 1995), pp. 374-76. (coursepack xerox)

Sir Walter Scott, Introductory Remarks on Popular Poetry (1830)—often appended to later editions of the Minstrelsy.

Sir Walter Scott, Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border (1802-3). Look especially at the notes to Auld Maitland, Sir Patrick Spens, Bonny Hind, Twa Sisters, Kathryn Jaffrey, Twa Corbies, Johnny Armstrong.

Is it possible to discuss Sir Walter Scott's Lay of the Last Minstrel ?
Or Heart of Midlothian (optional) ?

March 18: Irish Ballads

Charlotte Brooke, Reliques of Ancient Irish Poetry. (daughter of Henry Brooke)
Andrew Carpenter, Verse in English from Eighteenth-Century Ireland, Cork University Press, 1998. Read especially the sections of "Anonymous poetry."

To prepare for this class on Irish ballads, consult the following:

J. R. R. Adams, The Printed Word and the Common Man: Popular Culture in Ulster 1700-1900, Institute of Irish Studies, Belfast, 1987.

Donnelly, J. S. and Kerby A. Miller, eds. Irish Popular Culture 1650-1850, Irish Academic Press, 1998.

April 8: Robert Burns and Johnson's Museum

Carol McQuirk, "The Crone, the Prince, and the Exiled Heart" Burns's Highlands and Burns's Scotland," typescript, forthcoming in Studies in Scottish Literature (coursepack xerox)

"Burns, Love, and Liberty" in Thomas Crawford, Society and the Lyric, Scottish Academic Press, Edinburgh, 1979, pp. 185-212. (coursepack xerox)

Mary Ellen Brown, Burns and Tradition University of Illinois Press, 1984.

April 15: William Motherwell

William B. McCarthy, The Ballad Matrix, pp. 25-54. (coursepack xerox)

William B. McCarthy, "William Motherwell as Field Collector," in Folk Music Journal 5, 3 (1987) 295-316. (coursepack xerox)

Mary Ellen Brown, William Motherwell's Cultural Politics, University of Kentucky Press, 2001, pp. 10-33, 78-102. (coursepack xerox)

Motherwell's review of Buchan's Ancient Ballads and Songs of the North of Scotland (Paisley Magazine, 1823 rpt. Journal of Folklore Research 31, 1-3 (1994): 191- 213. (coursepack xerox)

Sigrid Rieuwerts, "The Case Against Peter Buchan," in The Flowering Thorn, ed. Thomas A. McKean, Utah State University Press, 2003, pp. 341-51. (coursepack xerox)

David Buchan, The Ballad and the Folk, Tuckwell Press, 1972, "The Peter Buchan Controversy" pp. 205—22.

John Speirs, "The Scottish Ballads" in The Critics and the Ballad, eds. MacEdward Leach and Tristram P. Coffin, pp. 236-244. (coursepack xerox)

April 22: Francis James Child and the Eighteenth-Century Legacy

David Buchan, The Ballad and the Folk, Tuckwell Press, 1972, chapters 7-13, pp. 62-173.

Sigrid Rieuwerts, "The Genuine Ballads of the People": F. J. Child and the Ballad Cause, Journal of Folklore Research, 31, 1-3 (1994): 1-34. (coursepack xerox)

Choose a ballad from Child's volumes, one that was collected in the long eighteenth century, xerox enough copies for the rest of us, and come prepared to report on the meaning of its 18th C. provenience.

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