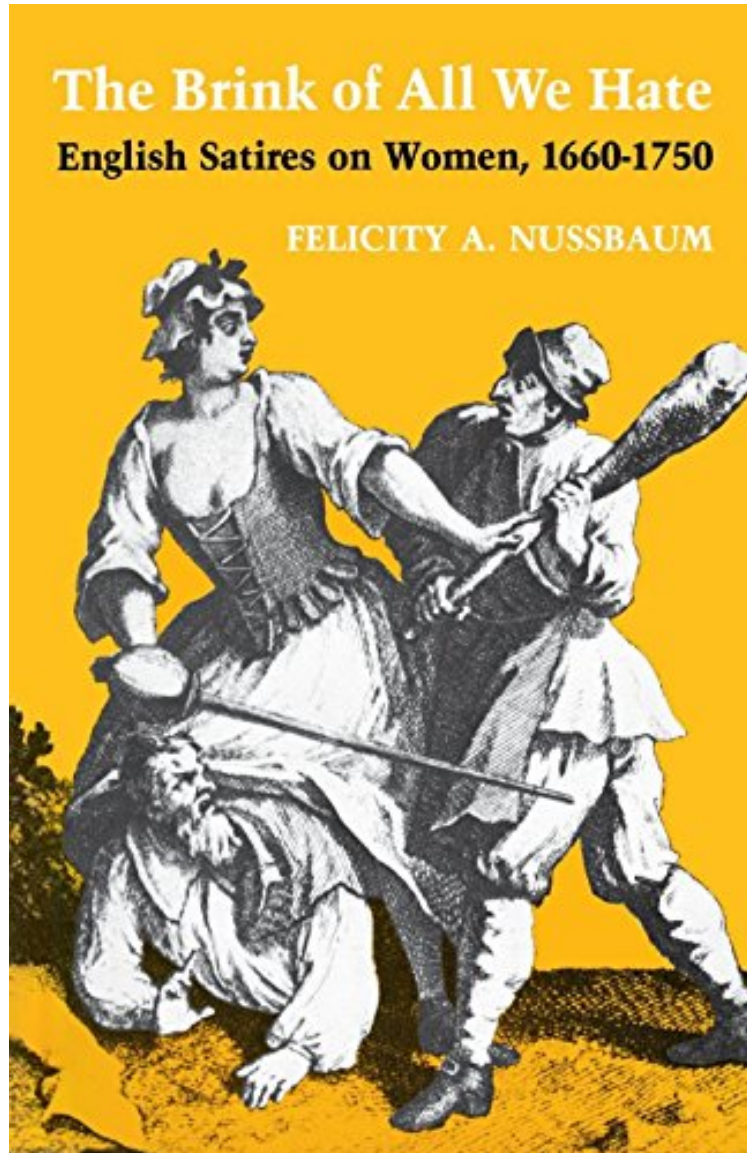


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The Brink of All We Hate: English Satires on Women, 1660–1750

Felicity A. Nussbaum

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Felicity A. Nussbaum : The Brink of All We Hate: English Satires on Women, 1660–1750 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Brink of All We Hate: English Satires on Women, 1660–1750:

"Is it not monstrous, that our Seducers should be our Accusers? Will they not employ Fraud, nay often Force to gain us? What various Arts, what Stratagems, what Wiles will they use for our Destruction? But that once accomplished, every opprobrious Term with which our Language so plentifully abounds, shall be bestowed on us, even by the very Villains who have wronged us"?Laetitia Pilkington, *Memoirs* (1748).In her scandalous *Memoirs*, Laetitia Pilkington spoke out against the English satires of the Restoration and eighteenth century, which employed "every opprobrious term" to chastise women. In *The Brink of All We Hate*, Felicity Nussbaum documents and groups those opprobrious terms in order to identify the conventions of the satires, to demonstrate how those conventions create a myth, to provide critical readings of poetic texts in the antifeminist tradition, and to draw some conclusions about the basic nature of satire. Nussbaum finds that the English tradition of antifeminist satire draws on a background that includes Hesiod, Horace, Ovid, and Juvenal, as well as the more modern French tradition of La Bruyere and Boileau and the late seventeenth-century English pamphlets by Gould, Fige, and Ames. The tradition was employed by the major figures of the golden age of satire?Samuel Butler, Dryden, Swift, Addison, and Pope.Examining the elements of the tradition of antifeminist satire and exploring its uses, from the most routine to the most artful, by the various poets, Nussbaum reveals a clearer context in which many poems of the Restoration and eighteenth century will be read anew.

"Will appeal to Restoration and eighteenth-century scholars and to women's studies faculty. . . . It will be the book on the subject for some time to come."?Shirley Strum KennyAbout the AuthorFelicity Nussbaum is professor of English at Syracuse University and has edited *Three Seventeenth-Century Satires*, *The Plays of David Mallet*, and *An Annotated Bibliography of Twentieth-Century Critical Studies of Women and Literature, 1660-1800*.