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John Milton & Seventeenth Century Culture

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JOHN MILTON & Seventeenth-Century Culture

Mezzanine Exhibit Gallery
Thomas Cooper Library
University of South Carolina
April-July, 2000
John Milton (1608-1674) was not only among the most influential of British poets. He was the most directly involved of any British poet in the centres of political power and in the great historical events of the English Revolution. He was also arguably the most learned of the great British poets, even in a learned and bookish century.

This exhibit includes twenty-three 17th-century Milton editions, most notably the first editions of Milton’s first prose work (1641), of his great defense of a free press *Areopagitica* (1644), of his first collection of poetry (1645), and of several political works of the 1650s. For his epic *Paradise Lost*, the exhibit includes all four editions published in Milton’s life-time, and for *Paradise Regained* both the first and second editions. Complementing the books on display are engravings of English and Italian cities where Milton lived, studied and visited, from the John Osman Collection of Braun & Hogenberg City Views, donated by Mrs. Mary Osman in 1989.

The exhibit was first mounted for the fifty-seventh annual meeting of the Southeastern Renaissance Conference, held at the University in April 2000.

**ISLAND 1: LONDON, CAMBRIDGE, HORTON**

* Title-page and London, from Braun and Hogenberg. *Civitates Orbis Terrarum, Lib. I* Frankfurt [1572].
Lownes, 1609.
* Cambridge from Braun & Hogenberg, *Civitates, Lib. II* [1575].
* Oxford and Windsor, from Braun and Hogenberg, *Civitates, Lib. II* [1575].

**ISLAND 2: ITALY & THE PAMPHLET WARS**
* Florence, Rome, and Naples, from Braun and Hogenberg, *Civitates, Lib. I* [1572].
* Torquato Tasso, *La Giervsalemme liberata*. 
Con le figure di Bernardo Castello. Genova: Bartoli. 1590.

* Tasso, Goffredo, overo Gierusalemme liberata. Vinegia: Franceschi, 1600.
* The Phlegrean Fields and the Sibyl’s Cave, from Braun & Hogenberg, Civitates, Lib. III [1581].
* William Prynne, Tom-Tell-Troth, or A free discourse touching the murmurs of the times. London: n.p., 1642.
* Milton, Areopagitica; A Speech of Mr. John

ISLAND 3: THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION

* Joshua Sprigg. Anglia rediviva; . . . the army under the immediate conduct of his excellency Sr. Thomas Fairfax. London: Partridge, 1647.
* “The Description of the Armies . . . at the Battayle of Naseby,” John Partridge, 1647. Presented by A. F. McKissick.
* John Rushworth. Historical collections . . from . . . 1645, to the Death of King Charles the First. 2nd ed. London: J. Walthoe, 1721. Vol. VII.
* [John Gauden]. Eikon basilike, the pourtraicture of His Sacred Maiestie in his solitudes and sufferings. [N. p.: n.p.]. 1648.
* Claudius Salmasius, Defensio Regia pro Carolo I. Lugduni Batav.: Elzevirius, 1649. South Carolina College Library.
* Milton, Pro populo anglicano defensio.
Londini: typis Du-Gardianis, 1651.
Londini: typis Du Gardianis, 1652.
London: A. Ckooke, 1651.
* "A Form of Prayer upon . . . the Martyrdom of the blessed King Charles," in *The Book of common prayer.* Oxford: the University Printers, 1700.

**ISLAND 4: PARADISE LOST & LATER YEARS**
* Andrew Marvell, "On Paradise Lost [1674]." from *Paradise regain'd.* Birmingham: John Baskerville, 1758.
* Milton. *Poems, &c. Upon Several*


* York, Shrewsbury, Lancaster, Richmond, from Braun and Hogenberg, Civitates, Lib. VI [1618].

* Newes for the People, Oct. & Nov. 1663.

* London Gazette, June 1684 & May 1687.


ISLAND 5: RESPONSES TO MILTON

* Voltaire, An essay upon the civil wars of France, . . also upon the epick poetry of the European nations. 2d ed. London: Prevost, 1728.
* Joseph Ivimye, John Milton: his life and times, religious and political opinions. London: Effingham Wilson, 1833.
* William Howitt, Homes and haunts of the most eminent British poets. London: Bentley, 1847.
* Gustave Doré, Milton’s Paradise Lost. Chicago: Thompson & Thomas, [1880?].