

Laurence Sterne

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Marcus Walsh

literature /lɪ'tεrətʃər/ n. the art of composition in prose and verse; the whole body of literary composition universally, or in any language, or on a given subject; esp. literary matter; printed matter; humane learning; literary culture or knowledge. — adj. literate /'lɪtεrət/ (of books) learned; having literary knowledge. [L. literaria, from Latin (litera) a letter]

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The eighteenth century was a period when the modern Novel emerged through the work of writers such as Laurence Sterne (1713-68), Richardson, Defoe, Fielding and Johnson. However, the writing of Sterne is recognised as influencing modern writing from Joyce and Woolf onwards more than any of the other eighteenth century novelists. In the last twenty years Sterne's work has become a focus for a flourishing body of work and significant debates in many new and developing areas of literary theory which include gender, sexuality, postmodernism, and deconstruction. Sterne's major novel 'Tristram Shandy' is regarded as deploying a range of 'post-modern literary devices' expected to be found in late twentieth century work rather than in work written in the 1700s. This volume combines the most interesting and stimulating recent critical thinking about Sterne and represents recent theoretical and critical debates surrounding Sterne's writing.

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Laurence Sterne By Marcus Walsh Bibliography

- Rank: #4557567 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Routledge
- Published on: 2002-07-20
- Released on: 2002-07-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .50" w x 6.25" l, .77 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Marcus Walsh is Professor of English Literature at the University of Birmingham. He has written extensively on Smart, Swift, Johnson and Stern. Publications include *Christopher Smart: Poetical Works Vols I and II*, (OUP 1983, 1987), and *Shakespeare, Milton and Eighteenth-Century Literary Editing* (CUP 1997).

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