



Daily Life in 18th-Century England

By Kirstin Olsen

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The eighteenth century was dirtier, more dangerous and more intimate with the physical functions of life than our own. This excellent study of England during this era provides a wealth of information for students and interested readers who want to discover the everyday details of living. What does it really mean to read the riot act? Why does Yankee Doodle call his hat macaroni? What's the scoop on pig's face, boiled puddings, powdered wigs, farthings, face patches, and footmen? Find out in this introduction to the work of gouty squires, scurvy sailors, hanged apprentices, and underpaid maids-of-all work.

Illuminating the food, habits, language, behavior, sex lives, childhoods, health care, housing, and attitudes of 18th-century English people, this exploration of the time and place also provides the reader with such detailed information as how people fought, courted, drank, married, traveled, worshipped, shopped, and dressed. Twenty chapters describe and illustrate the century's politics, class structure, family structure, urban and rural environments, architecture and much more. Also offered are recipes, so the reader can recreate an eighteenth-century meal, song lyrics, children's rhymes, rules for eighteenth-century games, an extensive list of salaries for different occupations, the text of the original Riot Act, reproduced cosmetics recipes, and other concrete examples of daily life and language that make the century tangible.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Although some excellent specialized studies are available, very few general studies of social life and customs in eighteenth-century England have been published in the past 75 years. None of them have the scope and detail of the present volume, which can be read through with pleasure or (due to its arrangement and extensive index) used for reference purposes....Recommended for circulating collections of public and academic libraries and for reference collections of libraries that support English or European history curricula."-American Reference Books Annual

"[t]he author and Greenwood Press are to be commended."-Albion

"This book provides an excellent look at what it must have been like to live in England at that time....An interested reader can find recipes to recreate an 18th-century meal, rules for games, children's rhymes and song lyrics, how much someone earned in a certain occupation, and other excellent examples of everyday life in that time and place. High school readers will find this an easy and interesting read."-The Book Report

"Olsen's descriptions are so lively that the book is a virtual tour of England in the 1700s....Every part of the country and every facet of life come under Olsen's magnifying glass....Daily Life in 18th - Century England is a useful compilation of a great deal of interesting and useful information, with a detailed bibliography for readers who want to examine primary and secondary sources. Illustrations are plentiful and helpful. Anyone with an interest in eighteenth-century or Victorian England will find much to enjoy here."-Reviewers Consortium

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About the Author

KIRSTIN OLSEN is the author of several books including *Chronology of Women's History* (Greenwood, 1994).

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