

British It-Narratives, 1750–1830

General Editor: **Mark Blackwell**

Volume Editors: **Liz Bellamy, Mark Blackwell, Heather Keenleyside and Christina Lupton**

4 Volume Set: c.1600pp: April 2012

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It-narratives are prose fictions that take as their central characters animals or inanimate objects. This four-volume reset collection includes numerous examples of narratives in different forms, including short stories, excerpts from novels, periodical fiction and serialized works. While some are told from the perspective of the objects themselves, others use them as hubs around which other characters' stories are spun. Though similar tales are the basis of many modern children's books, the earliest eighteenth-century examples addressed an adult audience. Exploring the circulation of objects in an increasingly commercial society they provide an insight into important social and cultural trends. Central to the genre are questions about how humans differ from animals or objects, an important issue for an age haunted by the Atlantic slave trade and capital punishment. These narratives are also of contemporary relevance to our concerns about cyborgs, smart machines, animal rights and ownership of the human genome.

The stories are contextualized by an extensive editorial apparatus including a substantial general introduction, volume introductions, headnotes, endnotes and a consolidated index. The edition will be of value to those studying eighteenth-century and Romantic literature, children's literature, the history of the novel and material culture.



Frontispiece to 'A Tale of a Tub'
by Jonathan Swift (1710)

- First scholarly collection of an important eighteenth-century genre
- Over 60 texts represented
- Links to other forms including spy fictions, secret histories, *romans à clef*, picaresque narratives, fables and domestic novels
- Extensive editorial matter includes: general introduction, volume introductions, headnotes, endnotes and a full consolidated index

**RESET
EDITION**

Contents†

The contents include relevant excerpts or full texts. Full texts are indicated with *

Volume 1: Money (Liz Bellamy)

'Adventures of a Halfpenny', *The Adventurer* (1753)*; Edward Thompson, 'Adventures of a Six-and-Nine-Pence, comprehending Anecdotes of Living Characters', *Westminster Magazine* (1774)*; *The Adventures of a Silver Penny. Containing Much Amusement, and many Characters with which Young Gentlemen and Ladies ought to be acquainted. Written by Mr. Truelove, For the Benefit of all Good Children, who love to be merry and wise* [1780?]; Helenus Scott, *The Adventures of a Rupee. Wherein Are Interspersed Various Anecdotes Asiatic and European* (1782); *The Adventures of a Silver Penny. Including Many Secret Anecdotes of Little Misses and Masters Both Good and Naughty* (1786); 'The Adventures of a Shilling', *The New Lady's Magazine* (1788–9)*; *Argentum: or, Adventures of a Shilling* (1794); 'The Adventures of a Bad Shilling, in the Kingdom of Ireland', *Ireland's Mirror* (1805–6)*; 'Adventures of a Farthing', *The Weekly Entertainer* (1807)*; Ann Hamilton, *The Adventures of a Seven-Shilling Piece* (1811); *The Origin and Adventures of a Hull Eighteen-penny Silver Token; containing descriptive sketches of the town and its inhabitants* [1811?]; 'The Adventures of a Three-Shilling Bank Token', *Town Talk* (1813)*; 'The Adventures of a Bank Note', *Scourge, or, Monthly Expositor of Imposture and Folly* (1813)*; 'The Adventures of a One Pound Bank Note', *Theatre, or, Dramatic and Literary Mirror* (1819)*; 'The Adventures of a Sovereign', *Lady's Monthly Museum, or, Polite Repository of Amusement and Instruction* (1819–22)*; *A Month's Adventures of a Base Shilling* [1820?]; *Aureus; or, The Life and Opinions of a Sovereign* (1824); 'The Life and Adventures, and Serious Remonstrances of a Guinea Note', *Edinburgh Magazine and Literary Miscellany* (1826)*

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