
The annual survey of *Recent Studies in the Restoration and 18C,* in that issue of *SEL: Studies in English Literature 1500-1900* covering mostly 2013 publications, was written by Frances Ferguson (emerita, U. of Chicago). Ferguson, the author of *Pornography, The Theory* and two books mainly on the Romantic period, one on Wordsworth, covers well several books on the Restoration, particularly the late historian Kevin Sharpe’s *Rebranding Rule: The Restoration and Revolution Monarchy, 1660-1714.* Ferguson observes that the 2013 publications surveyed are “extensive” in scope, rarely treating single authors, and that the greatest concentration of scholarly attention . . . is Gothic fiction” (746). Ferguson, disposed to theory, characterizes the inclinations of the thousands of scholars working on English literature 1660-1820 (see 755-57), a tricky undertaking. I was struck by the survey’s extensive attention to cultural history, e.g., books on sex, sports, and household politics--far and away the lengthiest treatment concerns *The Architecture of Concepts: The Historical Formation of Human Rights,* by Peter de Bolla, a professor of history. One might think one was reading the interdisciplinary *ECS* as one reads through accounts of the reprinting of William Buchan’s *Domestic Medicine,* Samuel Pufendorf’s *Introduction to the History of the Principal Kingdom and States of Europe,* and Lord Kames’s *Principles of Equity* (753). Although important works in English literature are covered, such as Deborah Kennedy’s *Poetic Sisters,* Ashley Marshall’s *The Practice of Satire in England 1658-1770,* the Georgia edition of Smollett’s *Peregrine Pickle,* and John Radner’s *Johnson and Boswell: A Biography,* these don’t receive the attention they might have were the survey more focused on literary study. Superficial examination is sometimes suggested, as when the coverage of *Peregrine Pickle* fails to reflect the editors’ relative shares in the effort and when paperback reprints of earlier publications are covered as if they are new scholarship. The value of the survey as a review of scholarship is undermined by the absence of important journal articles, which take up the bulk of both *Year’s Work* surveys—what we get in *SEL* is “books received.” Of course, to judge from conference programs, Ferguson’s survey mirrors the interests of most working in “literary” studies.

*Cover illustration:* William Hogarth’s “The Bruiser” (1763), a caricature of Charles Churchill (c. 36 x 26 cm; one of multiple states). See p. 35 for Corey Andrews’s discussion of the context of this etching and engraving.