

Cruelty And Laughter Forgotten Comic Literature And The Unsentimental Eighteenth Century Author Simon Dickie Published On May 2014

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Cruelty and laughter : forgotten comic literature and the

Simon Dickie's Cruelty and Laughter surveys a vast array of archival materials to demonstrate that very many people in eighteenth-century Britain, of all social ranks and both genders, richly enjoyed unkind, often brutal jokes and other forms of ugly humor. He focuses on the period 1740-70 but also discusses crudely humorous works from earlier decades that, he points out, continued to be reprinted and read.

Simon Dickie Cruelty and Laughter: Forgotten Comic

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Abstract. Eighteenth-century British culture is often seen as polite and sentimental—the creation of an emerging middle class. This book disputes these assumptions, plunging into the forgotten comic literature of the age. Beneath the surface of Enlightenment civility, it uncovers a rich vein of cruel humor that forces us to recognize just how slowly ordinary human sufferings became worthy of sympathy.

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