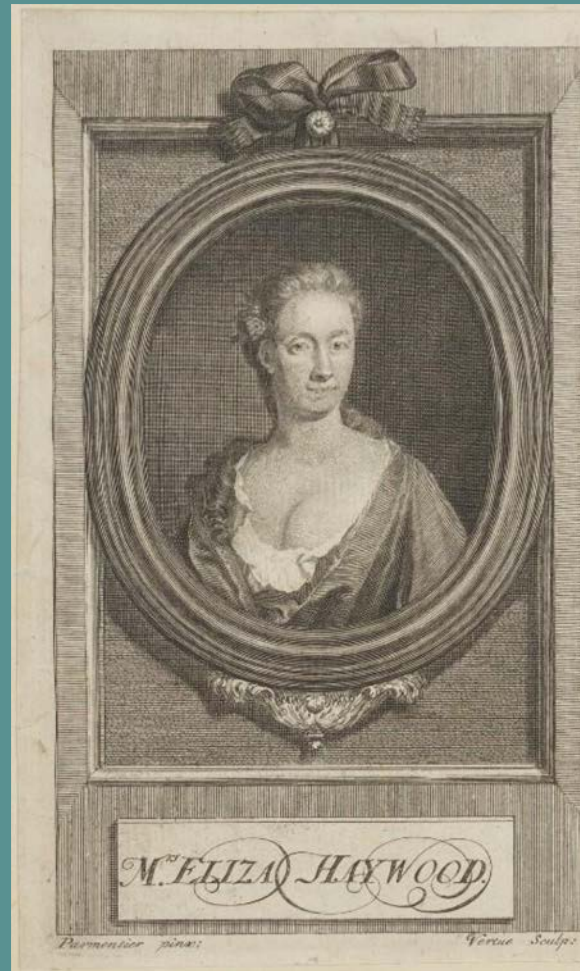


Eliza Haywood (1693?-1756)

Erin Schilling



This portrait is Eliza Haywood, created by Georgia Vertue, circa 1700-1725.

[Source: National Portrait Gallery](#)



Early and personal life

- Little is known about her early life, including discrepancies about her year of birth and family
- Her father was probably small shopkeeper, and it is not clear how she was educated.
- There are some discrepancies on her marriage, but it is confirmed she left her husband around the 1720s and supported herself and her two children by her personal literary pursuits.

Haywood's literary career

- Started acting in Dublin around 1715, transitioned into playwriting
- Wrote romance and adventure novels which evolved into more conservative, developed novels at the end of her career; influenced Jane Austen
- Translated other works to support herself and kids
- Audience of middle-class women
- Produced more than 60 romances, secret histories and translations, edited two periodicals, composed guide and manner books and wrote essays

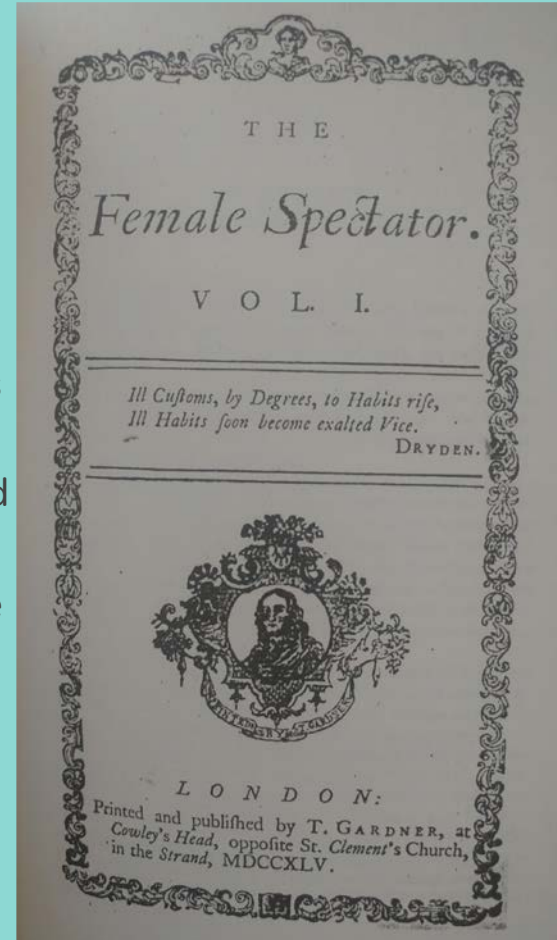


Frontispiece to the 1722 edition of *Love in Excess* (engraved by Elisha Kirkall).

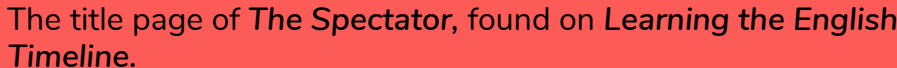
The title page of *The Female Spectator* reprinted
in *Selected Works of Eliza Haywood*, edited by
Alexander Pettit

The Female Spectator

- Anonymously published this popular monthly journal from 1744-1746
- Purpose to comment on manners and bad practices in society (gambling, lying, etc)
- Topics introduced by conversation or letter followed by story
- Spinoff of Joseph Addison and Richard Steele's *The Spectator*



- 1711-1712
- Bestseller
- Carried news but also commented on manners, morals and literature
- Popular model for showing different perspectives





The Female Spectator

- “I believe I shall easily be understood to mean Marriage, since there is no one Thing, on which the Happiness of Mankind so much depends; it is indeed the Fountain-Head of all the Comforts we can enjoy ourselves, and of those we transmit to our Posterity” (54-55).
- In fine, there are no Words to express the Miseries of a loath’d Embrace; and she who sacrifices to Pride or Pique the Pleasures of her Youth, by marrying with the Man she hates, will soon, tho’ too late to repair the irremediable Mischief, repent in the utmost Bitterness of Soul what she has done” (56).



The Spectator

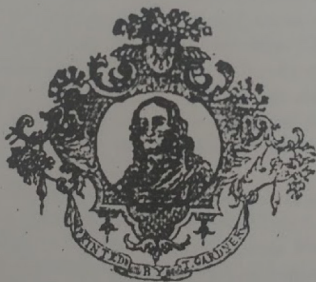
- “If those Speeches and Actions, which in their own Nature are indifferent, appear ridiculous when they proceed from a wrong Sex, the Faults and Imperfections of one Sex transplanted into another, appear black and monstrous” (252).
- “Women were formed to temper Mankind and sooth them into Tendernesss and Compassion; not to set an Edge upon their Minds, and blow up i them those Passions which are too apt to rise of their own Accord” (252).

THE
Female Spectator.

V O L. I.

*Ill Customs, by Degrees, to Habits rise,
Ill Habits soon become exalted Vice.*

DRYDEN.



L O N D O N:

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Vs.

NUMB. LXXXII.

The SPECTATOR.

— *Caput domina venale sub hasta.* Juv.

Monday, June 4. 1711.

Passing under Ludgate the other Day I heard a Voice bawling for Charity, which I thought I had somewhere heard before.

Coming near to the Grate the Prisoner called me by my Name, and desired I would throw something into the Box: I was out of Countenance for him, and did as he bid me, by putting in half a Crown. I went away reflecting upon the strange Constitution of some Men, and how meanly they behave themselves in all Sorts of Conditions.

The Person who begged of me is now, as I take it, Fifty: I was well acquainted with him till about the Age of Twenty five; at which Time a good Estate fell to him, by the Death of a Relation. Upon coming to this unexpected good Fortune, he ran into all the Extravagances imaginable; was frequently in drunken Disputes, broke Drawers Heads, talked and swore loud; was unmannerly to those above him, and insolent to those below him. I could not but remark that it was the same Balance of Spirit which worked in his Behaviour in both Fortunes: The same little Mind was insolent in Riches, and shameless in Poverty. This Accident made me mope upon the Circumstance of being in Debt in general, and solve in my Mind what Tempters were most apt to fall into this Error of Life, as well as the Misfortune it must needs be to languish under such Pressures. As for my self, my natural Aversion to that Sort of Conversation which makes a Figure with the Generality of Mankind, exempts me from any Temptations to Expendence; and all my Business lies within a very narrow Compass, which is, only to give an honest Man who takes care of my Estate proper Vouchers for his quarterly Payment to me, and observe what Linnen my Landlady brings and takes away with her once a Week: My Steward brings his Receipt ready for my signing, and I have a pretty Inventory with the respective Names of Shirts, Cravats, Handkerchiefs and Stockings, with proper Numbers to know how to reckon with my Landlady. This being almost all the Business I have in the World for the Care of my own Affairs, I am as full as

sure to observe upon what others do, with Relation to their Equipage and Oeconomy.

When I walk the Street, and observe the Hurry about me in this Town,

*Where with like Haste, tho' different Ways, they run,
Some to mirth, and some to be undone.*

I say, when I behold this vast Variety of Persons and Humours, with the Pains they both take for the Accomplishment of the Ends mentioned in the above Verses of Denham, I cannot much wonder at the Endeavour after Gain; but am extremely astonished that Men can be so indefatigable of the Danger of running into Debt. One would think it impossible a Man who is given to contract Debts should know, that his Creditor has from that Moment in which he undresses Payment, so much as that Demand comes to in his Debtor's Honour Liberty and Fortune. One would think that he did not know that his Creditor can lay the worst thing imaginable of him to wit, *That he is a rascal*; without Defamation, and can seize his Person without being guilty of an Assault. Yet such is the loose and abandoned Turn of some Mens Minds, that they can live under these constant Apprehensions, and still go on to exercise the Cause of them. Can there be a more low and servile Condition, than to be ashamed, or afraid, to see any one Man breathing? yet he that is much in debt, is in that Condition with relation to every different People. There are indeed Circumstances wherein Men of honest Natures may become liable to Debts, by some unadvised Behaviour in any great Point of their Life, or mortgaging a Man's Honour as a Security for that of another, and the like; but these Instances are so particular and circumstantiated, that they cannot come within general Considerations: For one such Case as one of these, there are ten where a Man, to keep up a Face of Retirement and Grandeur within his own House, shall shrink at the Expectation of fully Demands at his Doors.