
David Urban, in conjunction with further editorial work and advice by Paul J. Klemp, has produced this crisply annotated Milton bibliography of 2411 numbered entries of articles, books, reviews, collections, illustrations, translations, collections, and dissertations from 1989-1999. I am always amazed at the meticulous work involved in assembling reference volumes of this type whose editors must run an exhaustive marathon of sorts in gathering, editing, sorting, writing and re-writing the hundreds of entries. Urban inherited the partly done work upon Calvin Huckabay’s death, and then began the process of reviewing, editing and lengthening Huckabay’s annotations, adding hundreds of new ones, as well as finding and including annotations missed in previous Huckabay volumes. The annotations are substantively longer than in previous Huckabay bibliographies, thus giving readers a better sense of the selections.

A bibliography should be attractive in appearance, spacious, not cramped, actually inviting reading; and this bibliography scores high. Duquesne’s copy editors are to be commended for choosing the large format, 6.5 x 9 inches, which is a delight: clear font, wide white margins all around and in-between the two-columns on each page. A well-done bibliography on any subject should above all assist researchers laboring to assemble all relevant materials to their ends; and this Milton collection exemplifies the very pinnacle of such efforts.

The bibliography is organized in nine sections—(1) Bibliography, (2) Biography, (3) Editions, (4) Translations, (5) General Criticism, (6) Criticism of Individual Works, (7) Style and Versification, (8) Criticism of Editions, Translations, and Illustrations, and (9) Fame and Influence. On virtually every page the impression of fullness of annotation is there—most of the entries, maybe 80%, average from 75-125 words. Representative of the longest entries is no. 1166, William B. Hunter’s essay, “Paradise Lost: Passionate Epic,” at 170 words. No. 1448, Jason P. Rosenblatt’s “Torah and Law in ‘Paradise Lost’” is 135 words of comment, followed by the locations appended of nine
reviews (a practice uniformly followed throughout for books). For a few entries, usually foreign, only the author and work appear when abstracts were not available. Although the Preface sets out the general process Urban set up in culling the materials from around the world, his rationale for determining length of annotations is not given.

My sense of this volume is that the Milton community should be greatly appreciative of how much labor Urban has saved them in researching the greatest poet in English. And to the point, the index is especially useful and impressive in the labor it took Duquesne’s indexer to cull and arrange the annotations by number under each author listed. The listings of poems and prose under Milton’s name are arranged so that it is easy to locate the entries under the various heads. Of the poems, dozens of entries occur under the names of the epics and major poems (e.g., Lycidas has 122 entries); and prose entries are plentiful (Areopagitica has 82 entries). If one wishes to find all of the annotations touching on Milton’s view of, say, “Antinomianism,” “Arianism,” or “Arminianism,” there in the index under his name they are listed as the first three of many topical arrangements of subject matter.


Oakeshott has written an engaging book of great use to scholars and students of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The book demystifies the material culture of an important aspect of the military and tournament activities of early modern European.

The book is not a monograph, nor is it textbook; instead it is a reflection of decades of study of the written and physical record of an essential component of European history. The author’s expertise is in swords, and they certainly predominate in the book, accounting for six of the fourteen chapters. However, he also addresses other weapons—handguns, staff weapons, and other edged weapons—in four other chapters. The discussion of matchlocks and wheel locks is particularly instructive, but the absence of any treatment of flintlocks