

Mock-epic Poetry From Pope To Heine

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This is a study of mock-epic poetry in English, French, and German from the 1720s to the 1840s. While mock-heroic poetry is a parodistic counterpart to serious epic, mock-epic poetry starts by parodying epic but moves on to much wider and richer literary explorations; it relies heavily on intertextual allusion to other works, on narratorial irony, on the sympathetic and sometimes libertine presentation of sexual relations, and on a range of satirical devices. It includes well-known texts (Pope's *Dunciad*, Byron's *Don Juan*, Heine's *Atta Troll*) and others which are little known (Ratschky's *Melchior Striregel*, Parny's *La Guerre des Dieux*). It owes a marked debt to Italian romance epic (especially Ariosto). The study places these texts in the literary context of the decline of serious epic, which helped mock epic to flourish, and of the 'Querelle des Anciens et des Modernes' which questioned the authority of Homer's and Virgil's epics; and it relates their substance to contemporary debates about questions of religion and gender. EAN/ISBN : 9780191572333 Publisher(s): Oxford University Press Format: ePub/PDF Author(s): Robertson, Ritchie

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