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Swift as Priest & Satirist

By Todd C. PARKER.

University of Delaware Press, Newark, 2009. Hardback/Cloth. Book Condition: New. 1st Edition. 232pp Illustrated. [In stock in Australia, for immediate delivery] One of the most tendentious and enduring questions of Swift scholarship concerns his faith. What did Swift believe? Was his career in the Church primarily a means of political and social advancement? Did Swift subscribe to a coherent theology, or were his beliefs simply expedient? How did the turbulent streams of 18th-century Anglican and Protestant theologies influence Swift's satiric vision? In the light of recent work on his tenure in the Church of Ireland, this volume presents a timely critical appraisal of Swift's role as a priest vis-a-vis his identity as one of the Enlightenment's premier satirists. The essays in this volume cover four broad categories: (I) Essays that historicise his relationship to the Church of Ireland and to the bruising world of 18th-century theological discourse in general. Into this category fall Brian A. Connery's "Wild Work in the World": The Church, the Public Sphere, and Swift's Abstract of Collins's Discourse', and Christopher Fox's essay, Swift and the Rabble Reformation'. Both parse the relationship between the tenuous authority of the Established Church and the contesting discourses of freethinking and Scottish...



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