

THE LONDON JILT;
OR, THE POLITICK WHORE

Anonymous

edited by Charles H. Hinnant



broadview editions

©2008 Charles H. Hinnant

All rights reserved. The use of any part of this publication reproduced, transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, or stored in a retrieval system, without prior written consent of the publisher—or in the case of photocopying, a licence from Access Copyright (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency), One Yonge Street, Suite 1900, Toronto, Ontario M5E 1E5—is an infringement of the copyright law.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

The London jilt, or, The politick whore / Anonymous ; edited by Charles H. Hinnant.

(Broadview editions)

Attributed to Alexander Oldys by some sources.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-1-55111-737-9

I. Hinnant, Charles H. II. Oldys, Alexander. III. Title: Politick whore.
IV. Series.

PR3291.A1L65 2007 823'.4 C2007-904890-0

Broadview Editions

The Broadview Editions series represents the ever-changing canon of literature in English by bringing together texts long regarded as classics with valuable lesser-known works.

Advisory editor for this volume: Morgan Rooney

Broadview Press is an independent, international publishing house, incorporated in 1985. Broadview believes in shared ownership, both with its employees and with the general public; since the year 2000 Broadview shares have traded publicly on the Toronto Venture Exchange under the symbol BDP.

We welcome comments and suggestions regarding any aspect of our publications—please feel free to contact us at the addresses below or at broadview@broadviewpress.com.

North America

Post Office Box 1243, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada K9J 7H5
2215 Kenmore Avenue, Buffalo, NY, USA 14207
Tel: (705) 743-8990; Fax: (705) 743-8353;
email: customerservice@broadviewpress.com

UK, Ireland, and continental Europe

NBN International, Estover Road, Plymouth PL6 7PY UK
Tel: 44 (0) 1752 202300 Fax: 44 (0) 1752 202330
email: enquiries@nbninternational.com

Australia and New Zealand

UNIREPS, University of New South Wales
Sydney, NSW, 2052 Australia
Tel: 61 2 9664 0999; Fax: 61 2 9664 5420
email: info.press@unsw.edu.au

www.broadviewpress.com



This book is printed on paper containing 100% post-consumer fibre.

Typesetting and assembly: True to Type Inc., Claremont, Canada.

PRINTED IN CANADA

A Note on the Text

The copy text for this Broadview edition is the London 1683 edition held in Harvard University Library. Obvious typographical errors have been corrected but, otherwise, every effort has been made to preserve the flavor of the non-standard English of the novel. Variant and idiosyncratic spellings have been maintained, while archaisms and obsolescent forms, euphemisms and neologisms, bawdy terms and words of uncertain meaning have been noted in the footnotes. In cases of ambiguity, I have relied upon the readings given in the online *Oxford English Dictionary* and have otherwise indicated words and phrases whose meaning cannot be identified.

THE
LONDON FILT:
OR, THE
POLITICK WHORE.

SHEWING,
All the Artifices and Stra-
tagems which the Ladies of Plea-
sure make use of for the In-
treaguing and Decoying of Men;
Interwoven with several Pleasant
Stories of the *Misses* Ingenious
Performances.

L O N D O N ,
Printed for *Hen. Rhodes*, next door to the
Bear-Tavern near *Bride-lane* in
Fleet-street. 1683.

TO THE READER

COURTEOUS Reader,

Notwithstanding the many Discoveries that have been made by several Authors in Pieces of this Nature, of the Subtilties and Cheats that the Misses of this Town put upon Men, yet we still dayly see that they find Cullies¹ enough to be imposed upon, to the decay and ruine-both of their Health, their Fortune and Reputation. Wherefore a Mirrour of their damned Wheadling Arts, and Cursed Devices, cannot be too often set before the Eyes of Mankind, that so the easy Fops² themselves may take a warning, and be diverted from falling into their Destructive Snare. For thou hast here, Reader, the Jilt displayed in her true Colours, all her Wheadling and Treacherous Decoys laid open. And in short, thou hast not only the Bulcker³ but the fine London Misses Picture drawn to the Life. Shee is here set before thee as a Beacon to warn thee of the Shoales and Quick-sands, on which thou wilt of necessity Shipwrack thy All, if thou blindly and wilfully continuest and perseverest in steering that Course of Female Debauchery, which will inevitably prove at length thy utter Destruction. This perhaps will be allowed to be no small Piece of Service, if it may be a means of dissuading, but some few from that Roving, Libertine, Lascivious Course of Life, and contribute but to the making Men be upon their Guard against all Female Ambuscadoes.⁴ And indeed what greater Folly can there be than to venture one's All in such rotten Bottoms, and at length become the Horror and Detestation of all the World, only for a Momentary Pleasure, and which in truth cannot well be termed Pleasure, considering what filthy, nasty, and stinking Carcasses, are the best and finest of our Common Whores? A Whore is but a Close-stool to Man, or a Common-shoar that receives all manner of Filth, shee's like a Barber's Chair, no sooner one's out, but t'others in, or as an other has likened 'em to Sampson's Foxes, who carry fire in their Tails to burn the standing Corn.⁵ And though the danger does so vastly surpass the Delight that can be had in the Conversation and Enjoyment of the

-
- 1 Men who are easily cheated or imposed upon; dupes, gulls.
 - 2 Conceited persons, mainly male, pretending to wit; men who are foolishly attentive to and vain of their appearance.
 - 3 A low-life person, petty thief, streetwalker, or prostitute (obsolete); may also refer to bulck, a framework projecting from the front of a shop (obsolete).
 - 4 Forces lying in ambush (obsolete).
 - 5 See Judges 15:4-5.

most *Charming* of 'em all, yet we see foolish silly Men such easy Fops, as to be lured by their *False Attractions* into that bitter *Trap* of theirs, which is ever followed or attended with all manner of *Diseases*, both of *Mind* and *Body*. Thus sure the *Publick* cannot blame or *Condemn* a *Man*, for drawing his *Pen* in so necessary an occasion, especially at this time, when the *Trade* of *Filting* is grown so ripe, that *Warnings* of this kind cannot be too often repeated, nor instances of their *Devilish Pranks* and *Practices* too frequently proclaim'd, that so Men may be as it were teiz'd into good sence and their own security. Not that this *Piece* had the *Dulness* and *Gravity* of a *Sermon*. It shows you the *Miss* revelling in her *Culleys Arms*, it shows her displaying all her *Arts* to entice, seduce and ensnare *Mankind*, and what thou thoughtest fondness of thy *Person*, thou wilt find only a damn'd unbounded self-interest, and an insatiable *Avidity* of *Money*; thou wilt discover her giving every one *Entertainment* suitable to the largeness of their *Purses*, and the *Extravagances* of their *Expences*. But when the weak and *Credulous Fop* has spent his *All* upon her, thou wilt see him shee so much before *Cherish'd* and *Indulg'd* shut out of *Door*, scorn'd and despis'd by her, and treated with all manner of *Infamy* and *Contempt*. Thus all her *Carriage* that was so tender and endearing while that thou lavished thy *Stock* and *Fortune* upon her when this once begins to fail, thou wilt find her *Favours* and *Affection* decay and languish at the same time. Wherefore *Reader*, take this seasonable *Advice*, leave off in time that leud *Course* of *Life*, and be not buled by *Detestable Creatures*, that are so little worthy of thy *Amusement* and *Application*. Avoid all their *Cursed Allurement*, and be mindful that a *Snake* lies concealed under such bewitching *Appearances*, and how beautiful and attractive soever the outside of the *Apple* may be, that it is *Rotten* and *Pestilent* at *Core*. But it is time, *Reader*, that thou seest our *Filt* exposed naked in all her *Deformities*, that it may so create a horroure in thee for what thou before so eagerly pursuedst, and so fondly adoredst. Not but that this *Narrative* of her *Stratagems* and *Artifices* will afford thee a peculiar delight and satisfaction, being agreeably interwoven with *Pleasant Stories* of her *Wiles* and *Juggles*, and in short, a perfect account of her *Performances* in the *Art* of winning others and her self. If this undertaking prove but as beneficial in curbing the bad and unlawful *Inclinations* of *Men*, as the *Author* design'd it, the *Pains* will be sufficiently rewarded, that have been taken for thy *Good*, thy *Diversion* and *Service*.

Farewel.