

**STUDIES  
IN MILTON**

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Studies in Milton by S. B. Liljegren

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**S. B. LILJEGREN**

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BY

S. B. LILJEGREN

BY DUE PERMISSION OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY OF LUND  
TO BE PUBLICLY DISCUSSED IN ENGLISH IN LECTURE HALL VI  
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## PREFACE.

The changed attitude of recent research towards the Stuart period seems to have affected the conception of Milton very little, perhaps because it has set in principally on points likely to be overlooked by the strict historian of literature. Masson's industrious and monumental *Life* still offers the starting-point for the study of the poet, though it has grown out of the appreciative position of Macaulay, Carlyle, and Taine, now apparently rejected in other respects.

The origin of this treatise will, I think, be clear to anyone acquainted with these facts; as to extent, it was limited to some points long in dispute, or dealt with insufficiently or not at all elsewhere.

Concessions to historical detail, the pivot of the treatise, have required many and at times lengthy quotations. This reason also explains e. g. my retaining some accents, p. 14 and pass. (verified from Add. MS. 36354), reprinting Francini's ode from ed. pr. (based upon his MS.) in accordance with the fresh light thrown on this person, and the like. When not otherwise indicated, the quotations from Milton are to be found in Fletcher's (prose) or Beeching's (poetry) ed.

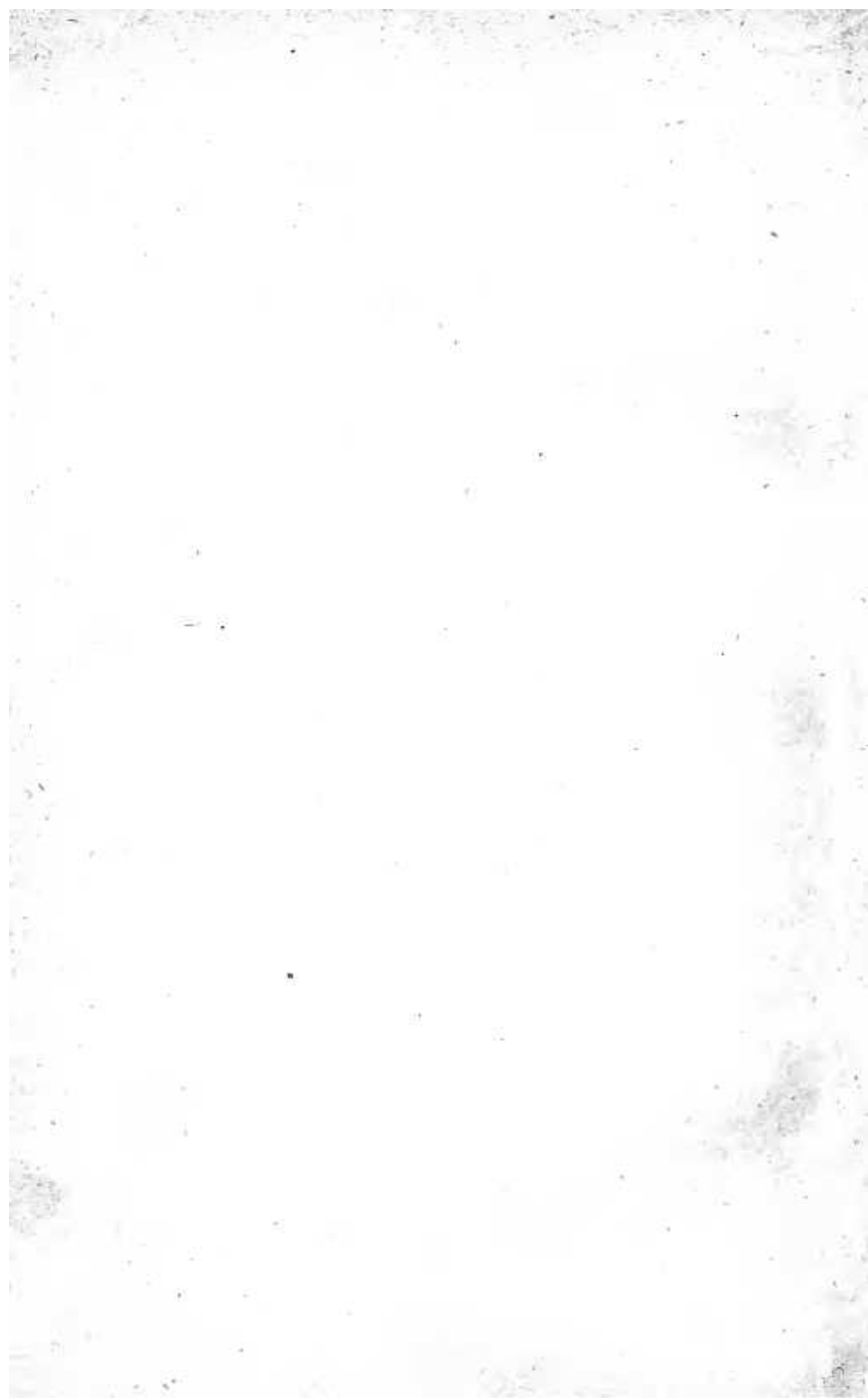
The present situation abroad has delayed publication. First by rendering access to England difficult; then by causing my MS. to lie in vain for half a year in Germany, where the editor of "*Anglistische Forschungen*" had kindly promised to publish it in that series. On both occasions I received effective assistance from the Royal Swedish Department for Foreign Affairs, on the former also from Sir Gilbert Murray, for which I here beg leave respectfully to express my gratitude.

I likewise wish to thank my teacher, Prof. E. Ekwall; F. J. Fielden M. A., my chief helper in revising style and proofs; and the officials of the British Museum, the Public Record Office, Stationers' Hall, and similar institutions to which recourse has been had.

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# INTRODUCTION



It is a well-known fact that conflicting principles in society, political, religious, etc., whether defined as liberalism — conservatism, progress — reaction, or otherwise, are mirrored in historians of different ages and nations, however disguised by name and apparel. And not only in such a manner as to show contemporary events in the recorder's colours, consciously or unconsciously individual; but even so as to illuminate the past principally by side-light and to foreshadow the future on anything but general lines.

As regards the past, one of the most highly esteemed historians of England thinks the history of his country more exposed to the consequences of this fact than that of other nations. And the explanation he finds in the peculiar relations of English institutions and English society to their origin and development: —

“The historical literature of England has indeed suffered grievously from a circumstance which has not a little contributed to her prosperity. The change, great as it is, which her polity has undergone during the last six centuries, has been the effect of gradual development, not of demolition and reconstruction. The present constitution of our country is, to the constitution under which she flourished five hundred years ago, what the tree is to the sapling, what the man is to the boy. The alteration has been great. Yet there never was a moment at which the chief part of what existed was not old. A polity thus formed must abound in anomalies. But for the evils arising from mere anomalies we have ample compensation. Other societies possess written constitutions more symmetrical. But no other society has yet succeeded in uniting revolution with prescription, progress with stability, the energy of youth with the majesty of immemorial antiquity.

This great blessing, however, has its drawbacks: and one of those drawbacks is, that every source of information as to our early history has been poisoned by party spirit. As there is no country where statesmen have been so much under the influence of the past, so there is no country where historians have been so much under the influence of the present. Between these two things, indeed, there is a natural connection. Where history is regarded merely as a picture of life and manners, or as a collection of experiments from which general maxims of civil wisdom may be drawn, a writer lies under no very pressing temptation to misrepresent transactions of ancient date. But where history is regarded as a