

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDIES
IN ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE
LITERATURE; THE LIFE AND
ROMANCES OF MRS. ELIZA
HAYWOOD**

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Mrs. Eliza Haywood by George Frisbie Whicher

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GEORGE FRISBIE WHICHER

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MRS. ELIZA HAYWOOD

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A. H. THORNDIKE,
Executive Officer

PREFACE

The purpose of the following study is not to revive the reputation of a forgotten author or to suggest that Mrs. Haywood may yet "come into her own." For the lover of eighteenth century fashions her numerous pages have indeed a stilted, early Georgian charm, but with the passing of Ramillies wigs and velveteen small-clothes the popularity of her novels vanished once for all. She had her world in her time, but that world and time disappeared with the French Revolution.¹ Now even professed students of the novel shrink from reading many of her seventy odd volumes, nor can the infamous celebrity conferred by Pope's attack in "The Dunciad" save her name from oblivion. But the significance of Mrs. Haywood's contributions cannot safely be ignored. Her romances of palpitating passion written between 1720 and 1730 formed a necessary complement to Defoe's romances of adventure exactly as her Duncan Campbell pamphlets supplied the one element lacking in his. The domestic novels of her later life foreshadowed the work of Miss Burney and Miss Austen, while her career as a woman of letters helped to open a new profession to her

¹ Through the kindness of Professor J. M. Clapp I am provided with the following evidence of the decline of Eliza Haywood's popularity. In W. Bent's *General Catalogue of Books* (1786) fourteen of her productions are advertised, namely: *Works*, 4 vols; *Clementina*; *Dalinda*; *Epistles for the Ladies*; *La Belle Assemblée*; *Female Spectator*; *Fortunate Foundlings*; *Fruitless Enquiry*; *Jemmy and Jenny Jessamy*; *Betsy Thoughtless*; *The Husband*; *Invisible Spy*; *Life's Progress through the Passions*; *Virtuous Villager*. In 1791 only four—*Clementina*; *Dalinda*; *Female Spectator*; *Jemmy and Jenny Jessamy*—appeared in Bent's *London Catalogue*, and of these the first two had fallen in value from 3/6 to 3 shillings.