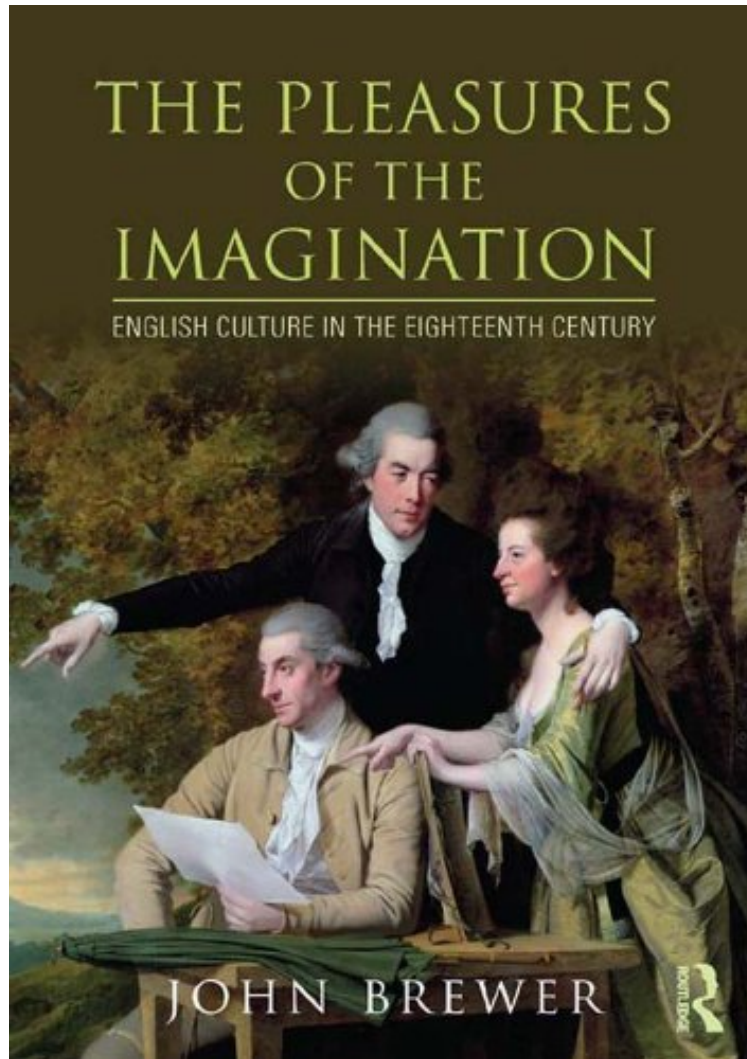


[Download free pdf] The Pleasures of the Imagination: English Culture in the Eighteenth Century

The Pleasures of the Imagination: English Culture in the Eighteenth Century

Von John Brewer

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Von John Brewer : The Pleasures of the Imagination: English Culture in the Eighteenth Century before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pleasures of the Imagination: English Culture in the Eighteenth Century:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. 18th Century England Von Dr. Jens P. Becker Auf dem Umschlagtext der Originalausgabe lobt Simon Schama das Buch seines Kollegen John Brewer als "brilliant" und eine Art "Vauxhall Gardens of a book: an exuberant festival of ideas and incidents". Ganz so weit sollte man mit dem Lob vielleicht nicht gehen. Obgleich dieses Buch eins der besten und

belesensten Werke zur Kultur Englands im 18. Jahrhundert und zur Entstehung der bürgerlichen Gesellschaft ist, wünscht man sich bei der Lektüre, dass Simon Schama das Buch und nicht den Klappentext geschrieben hätte. Brewer hat die Gelehrsamkeit und die Recherche von Schama, aber nicht dessen leichte Hand der Präsentation. Diese "sprezzatura", wie Baldassare Castiglione es genannt hat. Aber das wäre auch schon die einzige Kritik an diesem Buch, denn ansonsten ist es eine Fundgrube, oder, um im Bilde von Schama zu bleiben, ein Vergnügungspark aller Ideen und Strömungen, die das 18. Jahrhundert in England ausmachen. Und bei allem, was man hier über Schriftsteller (dies ist das Jahrhundert, in dem England den Roman erfindet), den Literaturmarkt, die Malerei und das Theater, die Herausbildung des Nationalgefühls (erstaunlicherweise unter Knigen aus Hannover) liest, hat man das Gefühl, das sich wenig geändert hat. Denn vieles, was jetzt entsteht, prägt (wenn auch in variiert Form) die "middle class" heute immer noch. Dieses Buch ist ein hervorragendes Buch. Wenn es jetzt noch den zusätzlichen Pep hätte, diesen "Schama touch", dann würde es fünf Sterne bekommen. Aber die hat ja sowieso nicht im Programm. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. John Brewer's Pleasures of the Imagination Von dwdavison@aol.com From the first page to the last, John Brewer's recent study of the eighteenth century English culture is itself a "pleasure of the imagination". Offering a synoptic interpretation of the lettered -- and unlettered -- culture of Enlightenment England, Brewer invites his readers to the Turk's Head Inn, where the Great Cham of literature, Samuel Johnson, presided over his philosophic family, including such luminaries as Edmund Burke, James Boswell and Oliver Goldsmith. In addition, Brewer exposes us to the shrewd politics and repartee behind the scenes of the Drury Lane playhouse -- where the renowned actor and theater manager, David Garrick, modified the plays of Shakespeare in order to popularize "the Bard" for the average Londoner, hoping to maintain the interest of a crude, but critical, audience. Brewer ranges freely between contemporary memoirs and philosophical tracts -- describing not only the pomp and pretence of the intellectual elite, such as the epicurean dilettantes (who praised the phallus and spurned the Christian sacraments), but also the painters, musicians, and rustic "sages" (both male and female), whose studied affectations combined with their genuine sentiments make their biographical accounts so enjoyable. Brewer's format is redolent of Simon Schama, and is as witty and entertaining to read. The illustrations are admirably selected, and help to make the narrative even more dynamic. Considering the excessive drivel that passes for social history nowadays, it's so refreshing to read a scholar who is not only intimately familiar with the literature of the era, but himself a gifted prose stylist. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. excellent overview of 18th cen. England Von Ein Kunde This book is a fine introduction to 18th cen. English culture. Perhaps we can apply some of the ideas in this book to our world today.

Kurzbeschreibung The Pleasures of the Imagination examines the birth and development of English "high culture" in the eighteenth century. It charts the growth of a literary and artistic world fostered by publishers, theatrical and musical impresarios, picture dealers and auctioneers, and presented to the public in coffee-houses, concert halls, libraries, theatres and pleasure gardens. In 1660, there were few professional authors, musicians and painters, no public concert series, galleries, newspaper critics or reviews. By the dawn of the nineteenth century they were all apart of the cultural life of the nation. John Brewer's enthralling book explains how this happened and recreates the world in which the great works of English eighteenth-century art were made. Its purpose is to show how literature, painting, music and the theatre were communicated to a public increasingly avid for them. It explores the alleys and garrets of Grub Street, rummages the shelves of bookshops and libraries, peers through printsellers' shop windows and into artists' studios, and slips behind the scenes at Drury Lane and Covent Garden. It takes us out of Gay and Boswell's London to visit the debating clubs, poetry circles, ballrooms, concert halls, music festivals, theatres and assemblies that made the culture of English provincial towns, and shows us how the national landscape became one of Britain's greatest cultural treasures. It reveals to us a picture of English artistic and literary life in the eighteenth century less familiar, but more surprising, more various and more convincing than any we have seen before. **Pressestimmen** 'If you want to understand how English culture reinvented itself in the 18th century, read The Pleasures of the Imagination. John Brewer's brilliant work is itself a great teeming Vauxhall Gardens of a book: an exuberant festival of ideas and incidents, a commotion of colour and texture. Like all really original achievements it makes us sharply rethink things we supposed we knew well, but it does so with humour and humanity; and through the text runs Brewer's remarkable intellect - forceful, lucid and penetrating.' **SIMON SCHAMA** **Kurzbeschreibung** The Pleasures of the Imagination examines the birth and development of English "high culture" in the eighteenth century. It charts the growth of a literary and artistic world fostered by publishers, theatrical and musical impresarios, picture dealers and auctioneers, and presented to the public in coffee-houses, concert halls, libraries, theatres and pleasure gardens. In 1660, there were few professional authors, musicians and painters, no public concert series, galleries, newspaper critics or reviews. By the dawn of the nineteenth century they were all apart of the cultural life of the nation. John Brewer's enthralling book explains how this happened and recreates the world in which the great works of English eighteenth-century art were made. Its purpose is to show how literature, painting, music and the theatre were communicated to a public increasingly avid for them. It explores the alleys and garrets of Grub Street, rummages the shelves of bookshops and

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