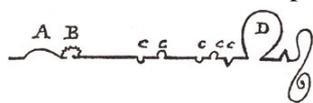
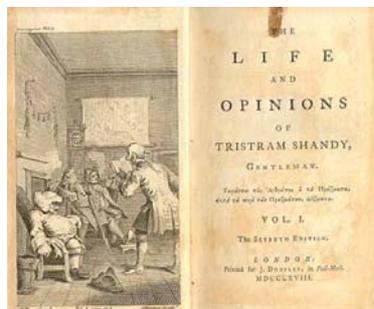


Veranstalter:	Dr. Felix Sprang
Thema:	<i>Tristram Shandy</i> and the English Enlightenment [AA-V3a/b, ENG-12, AA-M12, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-548
Zeit:	2st. Mi. 10-12
Raum:	Phil 1269
Beginn:	4. April 2012

When James Boswell and Samuel Johnson discussed “some ludicrous fantastick dialogues between two coach horses and other such stuff, which Baretti had lately published,” they agreed that “nothing odd will do long. *Tristram Shandy* did not last”. *Tristram Shandy* did last. It is arguably the first modern novel or, if you will, the first anti-novel in English literary history. We will tackle the text and identify its uniqueness. Turning to the graphic novel *Tristram Shandy* by Martin Rowson and the film *Tristram Shandy: A Cock & Bull Story* directed by Michael Winterbottom we will explore cross-generic features of this erratic and fascinating text.



Tristram Shandy is certainly a modern, arguably a timeless work of art. However, looking at the context, the age of reason, will undoubtedly facilitate our understanding of the text itself and its adaptations as a graphic novel and a film. The Enlightenment is usually associated with continental Europe and philosophers like Rousseau, Voltaire or Kant. There is a “Scottish Enlightenment” with Hutcheson, Hume or Smith as leading figures. The “English Enlightenment”, though, is still a contested concept. Is it possible that England never experienced a similar movement? We will consider the text *Tristram Shandy* as a fascinating document that propagates and at the same time mocks Enlightenment ideas. With its playful attitude towards empiricism and towards the primacy of mind over matter the text may indeed represent the “English Enlightenment”: an Enlightenment less dogmatic, less confident; an Enlightenment fascinated with the human passion for digression and utter nonsense.



primary sources:

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 Martin Rowson. *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman* [graphic novel]. London: Picador, 1996.
Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story (UK 2005; Scion Films [Tristram] Production Partnership, BBC Films; dir. Michael Winterbottom)

selected secondary sources:

Cash, Arthur H. “The Lockean Psychology of *Tristram Shandy*.” *ELH* 22, 2 (1955): 125-135
 Keymer, Thomas. *Laurence Sterne’s Tristram Shandy: A Casebook*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
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 Richter, David H. “Narrativity and Stasis in Martin Rowson’s *Tristram Shandy*.” *Shandean: An Annual Devoted to Laurence Sterne and His Works* 11 (1999-2000): 70-90.
 Voigts-Virchow, Eckart. “Metadaptation: Adaptation and Intermediality - Cock and Bull.” *Journal of Adaptation in Film and Performance* 2, 2 (2009): 137-152.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Di. 9:30 – 11:00
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	nach Vereinbarung per email