

Emotional Economies of Pleasure and the Gentry of Eighteenth Century England

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Roger Newdigate, from Paris, 1738

‘Dear Madam...We were almost entirely taken up with fitting ourselves out with necessities and conveniences...I had the satisfaction of finding my cloaths in the top of the fashion, so sav’d the expences of making any alterations...We had only time to run over Versailles...It is certainly the greatest piece of magnificence since the time of Salomon...The streets are all finely pav’d, like Whitehall, & the manner of hanging the lamps in the middle of the street by ropes from house to house, has a very pretty effect...We were at an opera. I had the bad taste enough to think it the greatest jumble of noise and jargon that I ever yet heard...We had only time to run over Versailles...The Great Gallery is the finest room I ever saw...We lay the next night at Tours & next arriv’d at this place. The whole road was very pleasant lying all along the rais’d bank of the river...**I long very much to hear from you, which is the greatest pleasure I can receive at this distance. Till then I must content myself with the thoughts of old England and those I left in it, & believe my affection will grow, if possible, more strong by absence.**’



William Woolcombe from Oxford/London, 1796

'...I left John in quiet possession of all Oriel, over which he reigns supreme and uncontrolled, after having spent a very pleasant fortnight with him chiefly employed in turning over libraries and occasionally spent in the society of some pleasant men, among whom was Dr Williams of Corpus...I never felt much pleasure in the anticipation of my residence in London, and were it not for the vicinity of Woolwich I should still more anxiously look forward to the period when we shall meet in the West...**forget not that I always receive great pleasure from hearing from you...**'



Robert Parker to his wife, Elizabeth Parker, 1751

'I am just got out from bed where I went last Night about 10 in hopes to have found some Rest; but in vain for in doseing, tumbling & Reflection have I spent all the Night nay even that before; so that **I now can fairly say without flattery or dissimulation that I have no rest but when with you & no pleasure when absent from you...** those Reflections that pass'd betwixt us just before we part'd troubles me no little and the Confusion I find [in] every thing except House keeping here, makes me almost run Mad... I am my Dear Parky, with Duty & love as due your most sincere & loving Husband'



Mary Scully (nee Huddleston) to her Mother, Mary Huddleston, 1802

I saw Miss Dunsany Plunkett last night for the second time, it was at Mr O'Connors she was staying with Lady Fringel - **she looks altogether Pretty and has a very good figure and pleasing manner upon the whole I like his taste is to her but I do not consider she has money.** Richard means to remain I imagine in true Celebat if he loves Miss [illegible] it is I think his own fault I give him warning that if he lets a month longer pass away it is possible she may have other affairs...it is possible Richard will think I tease him about this business but this ithe last time I will given him any exhortation on the subject my love to him and all...



Mary Scully to her mother, Mary Huddleston, 1797

Ned came to town on Tuesday to see the Procession after travelling all night on the outside, there being no place within...he intended to set out again for Colchester at eight o'clock but was too late for the mail, so that he staid till six the next morning, **We knew nothing of his coming tho' I had somewhat expected his arrival the day before yet I was not a little surprised and rejoiced to behold him coming across Pall Mall as I sat at the Window - I** immediately (with Mrs Eystons leave) invited him in, while the King was saying his prayers we took a walk to see my Uncle, Aunt and then returned to Pall Mall where we all dined. The Processions that is what we saw of it was really very Grand, but yet seem'd rather melancholy than otherwise certainly such Pomp and such unecessary expenses are very ill timed...'

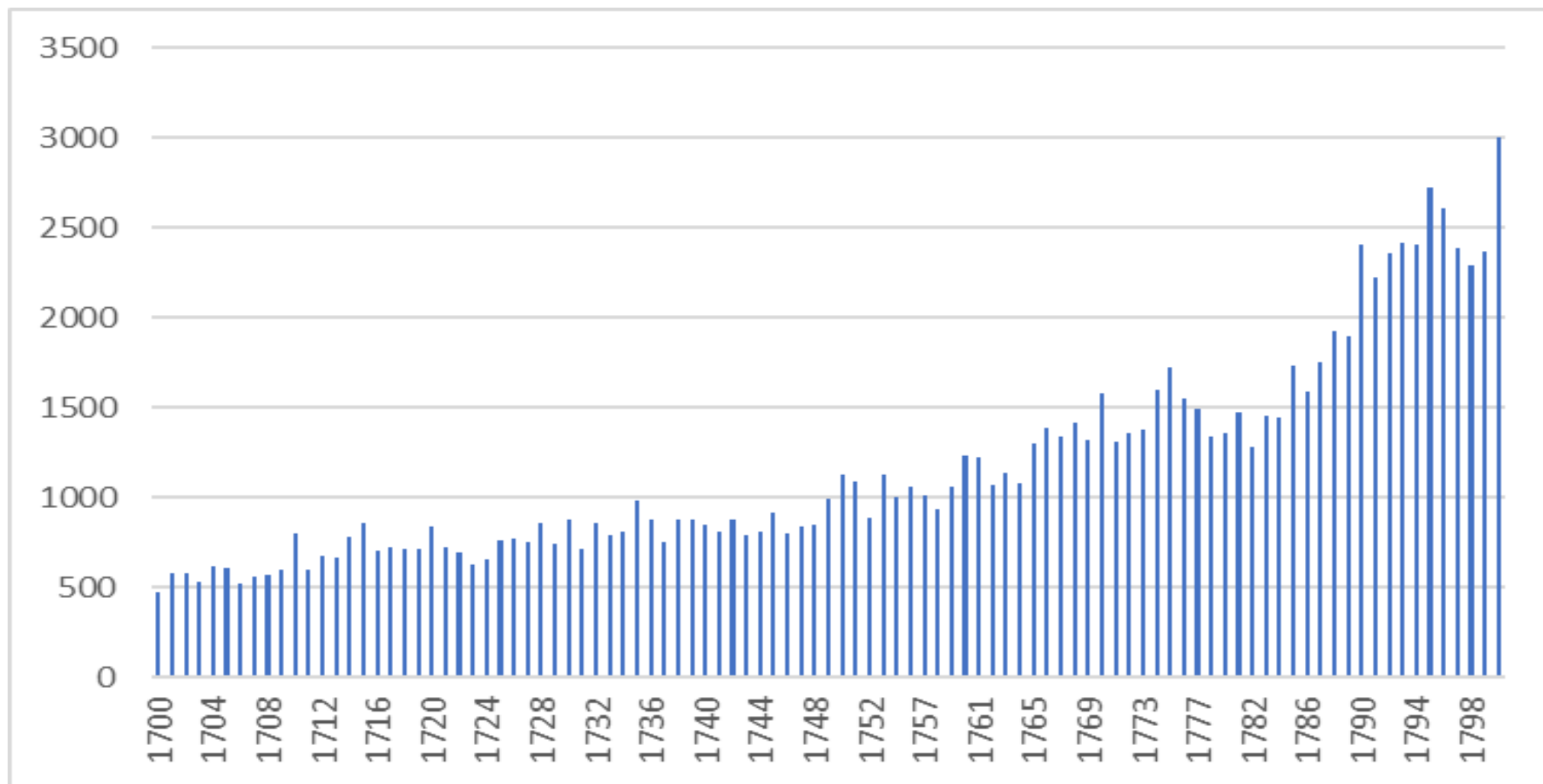


Sir Roger Newdigate to a tenant, Mr Boys, 1747

'If it was my disposition to be quarrelsome I could not have pass'd over your last but one in silence but should have given it the answer it deserved. Nothing in my letter could deserve so many uncivil reflections. I only told you as a man of honour that I had no doubt of your performance of those engagements you had enter'd into...The end of your letters [is such that] they require all my patience to refrain from answering, that **I desire this bargain may be canvass'd in the Courts of Westminster, & therefore would insist upon the lease which it is not in your power to be quit of as soon as you please...**'



Uses of Pleasure (in whole text) in ECCO



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