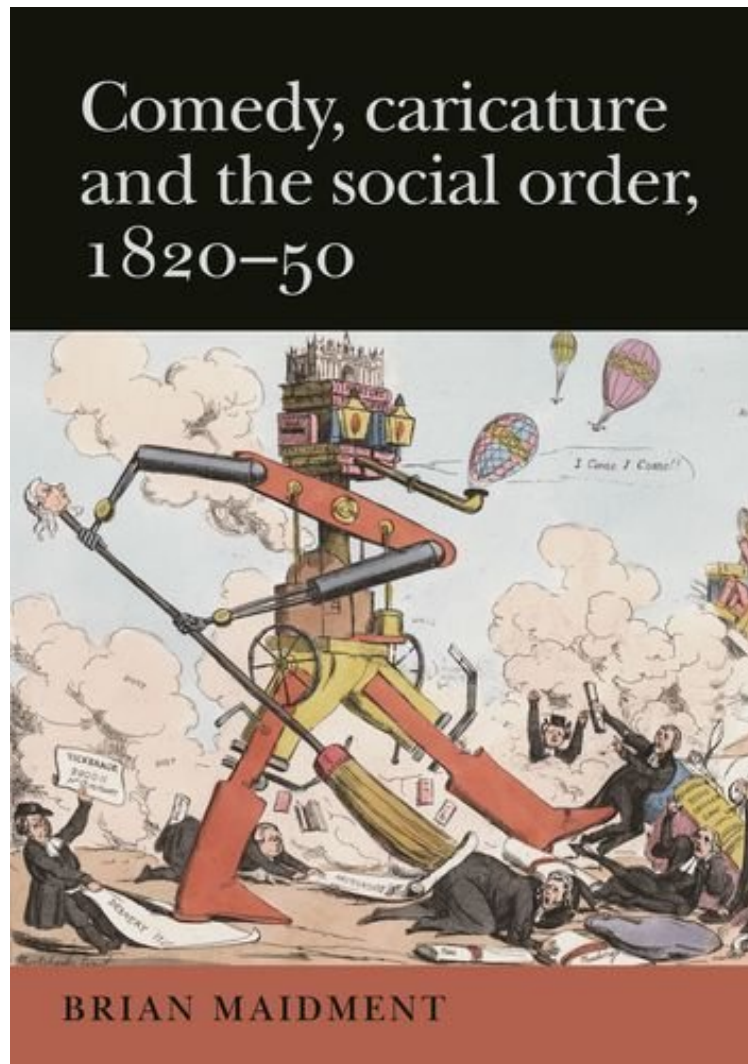


(Download) Comedy, caricature and the social order, 1820-50

## Comedy, caricature and the social order, 1820-50

*Brian Maidment*

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**Brian Maidment : Comedy, caricature and the social order, 1820-50** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Comedy, caricature and the social order, 1820-50:

Offering an overview of the market place for comic images between 1820 and 1850, this considers the impact on the development of print culture of the emergent, but soon widespread, use of lithography and wood engraving. Drawing on a wide range of commercially produced print genres, including song books, play-texts, comic annuals and magazines as well as single plate and series of caricatures, this book traces the ways in which Regency and early Victorian visual humour both sustains some of the characteristics of an earlier caricature tradition while also beginning

to develop new ways of analyzing and coping with social change through comic forms and genres. Beginning with an overview of the range of media, modes and genres that artists, engravers, publishers and entrepreneurs of print culture used in pursuit of wide readerships, the book discusses contemporary theories of humour in some detail and challenges the generally condescending response that art and social historians have offered to such material. The second half of the book is built upon four detailed case studies of related groups of images produced in the period, through which the broader arguments made in the first half of the book are subjected to more thorough scrutiny. The book is aimed at a broad range of scholars and students across art history, social history, cultural studies and literature.

"The book challenges text centric accounts of British culture between 1820 and 1850, it adds nuance and complexity to the 'mass' audience that emerged at the time, it shows how illustration and graphic satire played a role in making the novel reading habits of working people less threatening to the middle and upper classes, and it argues convincingly that Georgian graphic satire retained a strong influence into the 1850s." "Above all, *Comedy Caricature and the Social Order* is a book of huge warmth, a book littered with a sense of passion for the subject matter.. Few books manage to explore the comic and not only retain the comedy of the sources being explained but also build on them." "Maidment achieves this impressive level of analysis through his attention to detail in studying the range of comic images produced during the first half of the nineteenth century. *Comedy, Caricature and the Social Order, 1820-50* tells us a great deal about the content of the images and the market conditions in which they were produced." "As Maidment himself acknowledges, there still remains work to be done on the miscellanies, scraps and songbooks of this period, so I too strongly urge scholars and institutions to invest in purchasing this text as the rewards will be multiple and it is certainly a text that has the potential to inspire new and creative areas for study." "No brief account can do justice to the erudition and insight that is here brought to bear upon a subject that has waited a very long time for a champion. Maidment's book triumphantly makes a case for this vibrant, fluid era of graphic art as a subject worthy of serious and sustained investigation. His own study lights the way forward." -- (Patrick Leary, *Victorian Periodicals* review 47:1 Spring 2014) About the Author Brian Maidment is Professor of the History of Print Culture in the English Department at Liverpool John Moores University