

AUTHORSHIP

FROM PLATO TO THE POSTMODERN

A Reader

SEÁN BURKE

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FROM PLATO TO THE POSTMODERN: *A Reader*
– Seán Burke –

'Seán Burke writes with an appealing intellectual formality, a lucidity and stern momentum. This very distinguished book is that mixture of vigour and plainness in theory that readers who care about the author have been awaiting.'

The Guardian, on *The Death and Return of the Author*

What does it mean to author a text? What is the relationship between Divine and human creativity? Have God and the Author died a common death? How does the role of the author vary from one era to another? Is authorship an issue of gender? What are the politics of authorship? Does the author's life bear on the writing and the reading of the work? Is it possible to write the self?

These are but a few of the questions raised in Seán Burke's new volume which announces that authorship is once more at the forefront of literary, philosophical and cultural concerns. The first collection to gather together the essential material in the twentieth-century debate, this work also represents the major historical shifts in conceptions of authorship from the Classical age through to current debates concerning intention, influence, impersonality, authorial disappearance and the postmodern fragmentation of subjectivity. Connecting the conceptual and cultural, this reader foregrounds materialist, postcolonial and feminist critiques along with the issue of political accountability as it has been raised in the very different contexts of the controversies surrounding Martin Heidegger and Salman Rushdie.

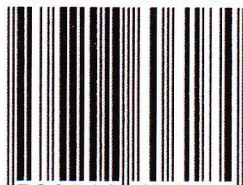
A comprehensive guide to the contemporary state of enquiry and a pointer to the future of authorship as a strong literary and cultural category, this collection provides invaluable reference material for scholars and teachers working in the field. Complete with a detailed general introduction and suggestive section notes, the work will also serve to orient those coming to the subject for the first time.

SEÁN BURKE's first book was *The Death and Return of the Author*. He is currently Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Durham.

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