

English Abstract

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Title: *A Fragment on Shakespeare (1780) between Naples, Paris and London. A digital critical edition.*

The Irish traveler and writer Martin Sherlock (1757-1790) is one of the most interesting cases of cosmopolite author of eighteenth century. He travelled Europe from 1776 to 1780, and published several texts expressing his ideas about aesthetic models in literature and art. In particular, he published the *Consiglio ad un giovane poeta* (1779) in Italy--a long letter addressed to the young Italian readers where the author opposes to the Italian poetical tradition, the example of William Shakespeare. In fact, this text contains a long elogium to the Bard, considered as the major modern author whose poetic genius equals to that of Homer. However, the text inspired controversy and debates in Italy where Sherlock's negative judgements to the Italian poets, such as Dante, Ariosto and Tasso, were not well received. Despite the criticism, Sherlock's text circulates widely in Europe. The digression on Shakespeare is translated into French with the title of *Fragment sur Shakespeare* (1781), and later in English, *A Fragment on Shakespeare* (1786). In France, there were echoes of the Italian debate on Sherlock on the newspapers and reviews; while some other texts of Sherlock were well received, such as, *Lettres d'un voyageur anglois* (1780), and *Nouvelles Lettres d'un voyageurs anglois* (1781); translated (and self-translated) into English as well. In all his works, Sherlock reflects about art, literature and aesthetics models: he can be considered as one of the critics of the time who participated to the reception and re-evaluation of Shakespeare in the eighteenth century. The aim of this research is to present the *Fragment* in a trilingual critical digital edition and to study the critical atmosphere of that time, mostly about Shakespeare's reception in Italy, France and England, in order to understand the ideas and texts which influenced Sherlock the most.

Key Words: Sherlock ; XVIII century ; reception ; Shakespeare ; theater ; debate ; digital edition ; critical edition ; Great Tour ; translation ; self-translation