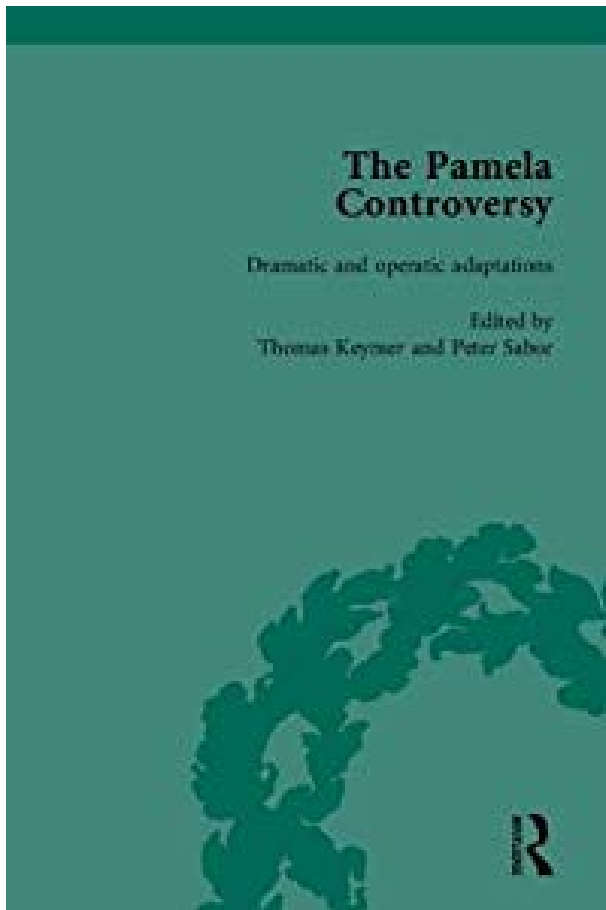


The Pamela Controversy: Criticisms And Adaptations Of Samuel Richardson's Pamela, 1740 1750



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The Pamela controversy of the early 1740s remains a landmark of literary history. So intense were the Pamela vogue and surrounding quarrels that one contemporary wrote of a world divided into two different Parties, Pamelists and Antipamelists, as though even the sensational political developments of the day had somehow been eclipsed. Fuelling the partisanship was the swift entrepreneurial opportunism of the 18th-century marketplace. As Terry Eagleton has written, this was not so much a novel as a whole cultural event ... the occasion of organizing principle of a multimedia affair, stretching all the way from domestic commodities to public spectacles, instantly recodable from one cultural mode to the next.