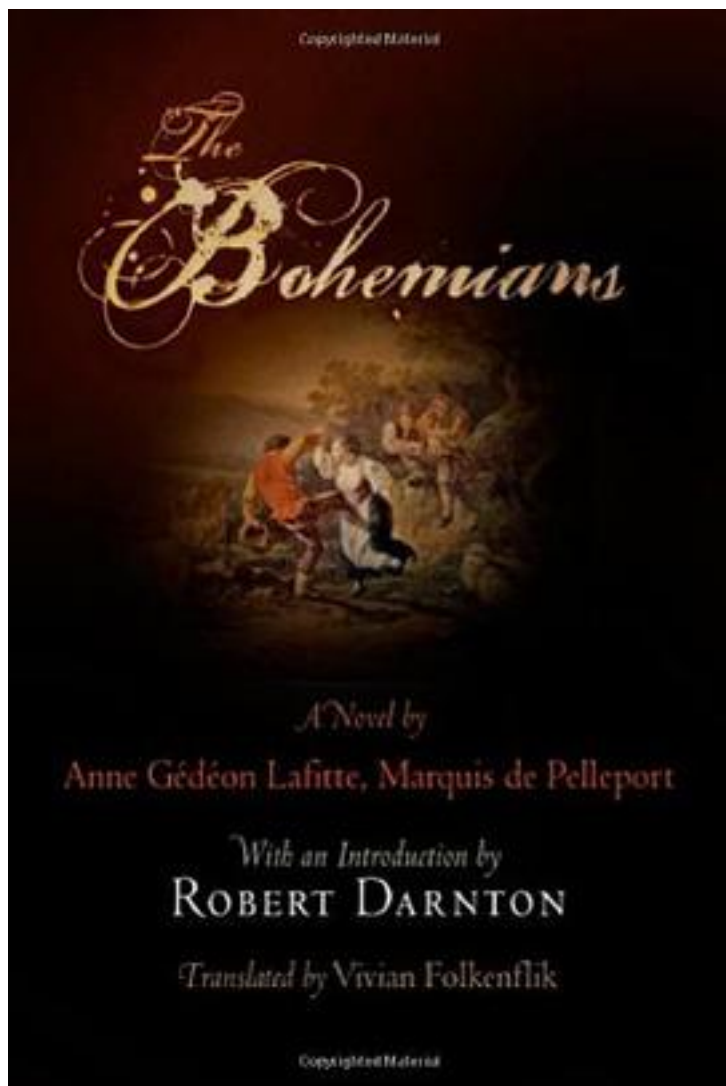


# The Bohemians



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The Bohemians Anne Gedeon Lafitte, Marquis de Pelleport. Translated by Vivian Folkenflik. Introduction by Robert Darnton "Who could resist the pleasure of discovering not only an unknown eighteenth-century writer (scoundrel, adventurer, charmer, reprobate) but also his long-lost masterpiece--a picaresque novel that is at once bildungsroman, autobiography, libertine treatise, and roman a clef? ...Witty and outrageous, the novel was lost as soon as it was published in 1790. Today, beautifully translated into English by Folkenflik, it seems remarkably modern...Essential."--Choice While the marquis de Sade was drafting The 120 Days of Sodom in the Bastille, another libertine marquis in a nearby cell was also writing a novel--one equally outrageous, full of sex and slander, and more revealing for what it had to say about the conditions of writers and writing itself. Yet Sade's neighbor, the marquis de Pelleport, is almost completely unknown today, and his novel, Les Bohemiens, has nearly vanished. Only a half dozen copies are available in libraries throughout the world. This edition, the first in English, opens a window into the world of garret poets, literary adventurers, down-and-out philosophers, and Grub Street hacks writing in the waning days of the Ancien Regime. The Bohemians tells the tale of a troupe of vagabond writer-philosophers and their sexual partners, wandering through the countryside of Champagne accompanied by a donkey loaded with their many unpublished manuscripts. They live off the land--for the most part by stealing chickens from peasants. They deliver endless philosophic harangues, one more absurd than the other, bawl and brawl like schoolchildren, copulate with each other, and pause only to gobble up whatever they can poach from the barnyards along their route. Full of lively prose, parody, dialogue, double entendre, humor, outrageous incidents, social commentary, and obscenity, The Bohemians is a tour de force. As Robert Darnton writes in his introduction to the book, it spans several genres and can be read simultaneously as a picaresque novel, a roman a clef, a collection of essays, a libertine tract, and an autobiography. Rediscovered by Darnton and brought gloriously back to life in Vivian Folkenflik's translation, The Bohemians at last takes its place as a major work of eighteenth-century libertinism. Vivian Folkenflik is Lecturer in the Humanities at the University of California, Irvine, and editor and translator of An Extraordinary Woman: Selected Writings of Germaine de Stael. Robert Darnton is Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the Harvard University Library and the author of The Devil in the Holy Water, also available from the University of Pennsylvania Press. 2009 | 272 pages | 6 x 9 ISBN 978-0-8122-4194-5 | Cloth | \$34.95s | GBP23.00 World Rights | Literature Short copy: Rediscovered by Robert Darnton and brought gloriously back to life in Vivian Folkenflik's translation, The Bohemians at last takes its place as a major work of eighteenth century libertinism.

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