

# Emily Hamilton and Other Writings



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Sukey Vickery's *Emily Hamilton* is an epistolary novel dealing with the courtship and marriages of three women. Originally published in 1803, it is one of the earliest examples of realist fiction in America and a departure from other novels at the turn of the nineteenth century. From the outset its author intended it as a realist project, never delving into the overly sentimental plotting or characterization present in much of the writing of Vickery's contemporaries. *Emily Hamilton* explores from a decidedly feminine perspective the idea of a woman's right to choose her own spouse and the importance of female friendship. Vickery's characterization of women further diverges from the typical eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century didactic of the righteous/sinful woman and depicts, instead, believable female characters exhibiting true-to-life behavior. A presentation of this novel accompanied by Vickery's poetry, letters, a diary fragment, and a few nineteenth-century responses to her work, *Emily Hamilton and Other Writings* is the first complete collection of Vickery's writings. Sukey Vickery was born in Leicester, Massachusetts on June 12, 1779. At age 22, she became a published poet when her poems appeared in the *Massachusetts Spy*. Two years later she published the epistolary novel *Emily Hamilton*. After her marriage in 1804, she ceased to publish her work, but continued writing. She died unexpectedly at the age of forty-two. Scott Slawinski (PhD, University of South Carolina, 2002) is an assistant professor of English at Western Michigan University. He is the author of *Validating Bachelorhood: Audience, Patriarchy, and Charles Brockden Brown's Editorship of the Monthly Magazine and American Review* (Routledge, 2005).

作者介绍:

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