

**THE THREAT OF 'VICE AND FOLLY' IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BRITISH SATIRE:
THE EFFEMINATE MACARONI
AND THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW MASCULINE IDEAL**

Abstract: Modern scholars have long noted the connection between the macaroni's threat as a manifestation of Britain and France's enmity in the late-eighteenth century. However, until recently the underlying contextual motivations and larger implications of "vice and folly" that the macaroni represented to Britain have been largely ignored. Even in recent analyses by historians and art historians, the multi-faceted and, at times, contradictory figure of the macaroni has been oversimplified. In contemporary literary and visual satire, accusations of the macaroni's effeminacy are ubiquitous. When one unpacks this term as a placeholder for perceived excessive consumption, gender convergence, and ungoverned sexuality (including heterosexual lechery and homosexual sodomy) one begins to understand the role the macaroni played in growing British nationalism, the emergence of a new British masculine ideal, and the embodiment of the fear of Continental Europe's effeminacy.