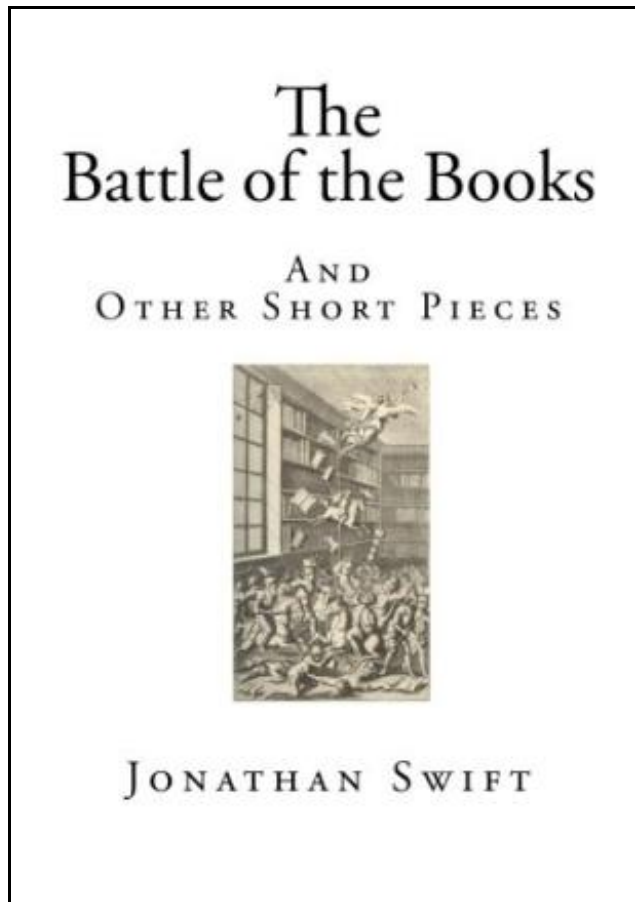


## The Battle of the Books: And Other Short Pieces



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### ***Reviews***

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***(Pasquale Larkin I)***

## THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS: AND OTHER SHORT PIECES



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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 254 x 178 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.The Battle of the Books and Other Short Pieces By Jonathan Swift. The Battle of the Books is the name of a short satire written by Jonathan Swift and published as part of the prolegomena to his *A Tale of a Tub* in 1704. It depicts a literal battle between books in the King's Library (housed in St. James's Palace at the time of the writing), as ideas and authors struggle for supremacy. Because of the satire, The Battle of the Books has become a term for the Quarrel of the Ancients and the Moderns. In France at the end of the seventeenth century, a minor furore arose over the question of whether contemporary learning had surpassed what was known by those in Classical Greece and Rome. The moderns (epitomised by Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle) took the position that the modern age of science and reason was superior to the superstitious and limited world of Greece and Rome. In his opinion, modern man saw farther than the ancients ever could. The ancients, for their part, argued that all that is necessary to be known was still to be found in Virgil, Cicero, Homer, and especially Aristotle. This literary contest was re-enacted in miniature in England when Sir William Temple published an answer to Fontenelle entitled *Of Ancient and Modern Learning* in 1690. His essay introduced two metaphors to the debate that would be reused by later authors. First, he proposed that modern man was just a dwarf standing upon the shoulders of giants (that modern man saw farther because he begins with the observations and learning of the ancients). They possessed a clear view of...



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