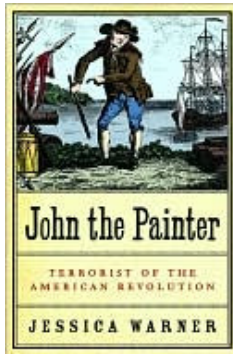


[Return to home page](#)



“Jessica Warner's *John the Painter* shows you just how good history can get: a tour de force of original thinking; deep immersion in a lost world (or in this case, underworld); prodigious empathy with its hapless anti-hero and exhilarating, knife-sharp writing that concedes nothing to fiction writers at the top of their game. Don't be fooled by its modest size and ostensibly eccentric subject; this is rich, ambitious history, executed in literary fireworks: a small glory and a joy to read.” —**SIMON SCHAMA**, author of *Citizens* and *A History of Britain*

Warner “has told his story quite magically, with a flair both for research and literary narrative . . . well-nigh perfect . . . what she is so good at is simply telling a story, getting it right, and seducing us all to enjoy it right along with her.” —**SIMON WINCHESTER**, the *GLOBE AND MAIL*

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“As an historian Jessica Warner has rare gifts—she makes the past come alive without the condescension of hindsight, and she writes beautifully. Her excavation of John the Painter from eighteenth-century documents shows that she also has an eye for a good story.” —**BRENDA MADDOX, author of *Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of***

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**NOEL MALCOLM, lead review,
*SUNDAY TELEGRAPH***

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WASHINGTON POST

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A “lively and intriguing history . . .” —
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Warner “has personality to spare, and
with wit and insight she's able to weave a
fascinating story . . . a strangely powerful
and entertaining book . . .” —
MONTREAL MIRROR

“This is a wonderful story, one that
delivers on all the ripe possibilities its
author recognized.” —***TORONTO
STAR***

Warner “skillfully builds his story and
gives a strong sense of the times in which
he lived . . . [*John the Painter*] is history
straight from the front page, well
researched and well told.” —
VANCOUVER SUN

“This is a fascinating tale of a bizarre
incident of the American Revolution--an
anti-British terrorist at large and
spreading fire and destruction in the
British homeland. George the Third's
England, it seems, was as susceptible to
terror panic as George Bush's twenty-first
century America. Jessica Warner writes
history carefully and well.” —**RUSSELL
BAKER, author of *Growing Up***

“. . . Warner writes with delicacy and
restraint . . . [she] has deftly located John
the Painter in his 18th-century
milieu . . .” —***TELEGRAPH***

Warner's “book is a golden nugget of
history, awash with contemporary
parallels, and Warner tells the story with

charm and wit.” —**ABERDEEN
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“. . . Warner’s empathy for her subject is clear. She deftly stresses both the cruelty and normalcy of Aitken’s life, and has a talent for contextualizing and making the strange familiar. The book is also a rich social history, wallowing in the decrepit conditions of the times: filthy slums, and cruel justice . . . Beyond her expert storytelling, the restrained commentary offers rich period detail . . . [*John the Painter*] is an accomplished balance between research and storytelling, fact-finding and original thought . . .” —**QUILL & QUIRE**

“Highly readable, *John the Painter* provides valuable insights into the way fear of an unknown, unseen enemy acts on a credulous public.” —**GEOGRAPHICAL**

“. . . an elegant and thought-provoking piece of historical recreation” —JAMES SHARPE, *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*

[Return to home page](#)