



The World as It Goes

A Comedy

By William D. Brewer

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“Brewer offers an excellent edition of a previously unpublished play by a playwright whose works helped shape Georgian England. Brewer’s insightful introduction highlights the importance of ‘failed’ plays for what they tell us about the machinations of the self-serving theater world and the challenges it posed for women playwrights especially.” —Tanya Caldwell, Professor of English, Georgia State University, US

“Brewer has thrown a spotlight on a little-known comedy by Hannah Cowley, one of the most successful writers for the eighteenth-century stage. Complete with an informative introduction detailing reactions to a play damned for offending theatergoer sensibilities, this distinctive edition proposes that we can learn as much from a playwright’s theatrical failures as we can from their triumphs.” —Terry F. Robinson, Associate Professor and Associate Chair of English and Drama, University of Toronto, Canada

Despite a recent surge of scholarly interest in Hannah Cowley’s works, her scandalous comedy *The World as It Goes* has never been published. This edition of *The World as It Goes* is supplemented with an introduction providing cultural, theatrical, historical and biographical contexts and contemporaneous reviews.

Contents

Acknowledgments; Introduction: *The World as it Goes*; Note on the Text; *The World as It Goes: A Comedy*; Reviews of *The World as It Goes*; Reviews of *Second Thoughts Are Best*, a Revised Version of *The World as It Goes*; Index.

About the Author

William D. Brewer is professor of English at Appalachian State University, USA, and the author of *Staging Romantic Chameleons and Imposters* (2015).

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