

As his death tercentenary approaches, Jonathan Swift remains a fascinating figure. This eminent eighteenth-century author gave the world biting satires, imbued with irony and humour. In order to do so with impunity, Swift had to be a masked writer and to create several *personae*. Everyone became Swift's targets. In his major works, women were not spared. Their bodies and flaws were meticulously depicted. However, Swift had many female friends, and constantly wrote to them. He inspired many women, and still does. The representation of femininity and women in his works is fascinating for the time. Our study will aim to analyse why women were thus represented in Swift's writing. He was nonetheless surrounded by a "seraglio" suggesting that his satirical reflections on women may not have been an end per se, but, for instance, a means to achieving more universal forms of satire.