

Frank Felsenstein  
Reed D. Voran Honors Distinguished Professor in Humanities and Professor of English  
Ball State University  
Columbia University Seminar in Eighteenth-Century European Culture  
December 15, 2011

**Abstract**

**Then and Now: Editing Smollett for the Twenty-First Century**

Having first published a scholarly edition of Tobias Smollett's *Travels* as a Clarendon volume in 1979, I was recently commissioned to re-edit the text by Broadview Press (2011). The two editions span from the era of the typewriter to the age of the internet. In the last thirty years, the editing of eighteenth-century texts has been transformed by new technology. My paper will explore some of the effects of these changes, what has been gained, and what might have been lost or misplaced in scholarship as a consequence of the digital revolution. I shall also wish to consider the *Travels through France and Italy* (1766) as an important manifestation of Enlightenment thinking, in an age that only two years later and in satirical response to Smollett ("the learned Smelfungus"), was almost literally swept off its feet by the new vogue of sentimental journeying.