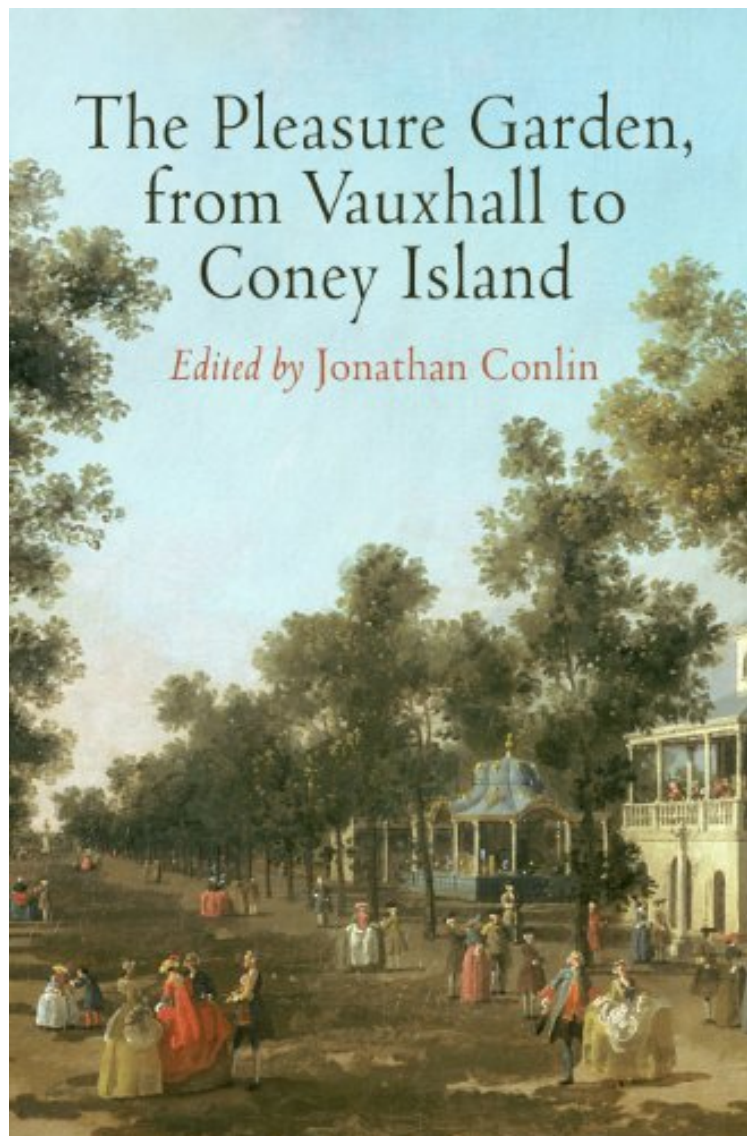


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The Pleasure Garden, from Vauxhall to Coney Island (Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture)

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about ...By Svetlana Ryabova This is a really good piece of writing with lots of fascinating stories about British and American pleasure gardens. I am very grateful to the authors for this published collection of essays as I do research on the pleasure gardens in Russia and this book was extremely helpful for me, especially in terms of authors' different approaches to the topic. Thank you for inspiration.

Summers at the Vauxhall pleasure garden in London brought diverse entertainments to a diverse public. Picturesque walks and arbors offered a pastoral retreat from the city, while at the same time the garden's attractions indulged distinctly urban tastes for fashion, novelty, and sociability. High- and low-born alike were free to walk the paths; the proximity to strangers and the danger of dark walks were as thrilling to visitors as the fountains and fireworks. Vauxhall was the venue that made the careers of composers, inspired novelists, and showcased the work of artists. Scoundrels, sudden downpours, and extortionate ham prices notwithstanding, Vauxhall became a must-see destination for both Londoners and tourists. Before long, there were Vauxhalls across Britain and America, from York to New York, Norwich to New Orleans. This edited volume provides the first book-length study of the attractions and interactions of the pleasure garden, from the opening of Vauxhall in the seventeenth century to the amusement parks of the early twentieth. Nine essays explore the mutual influences of human behavior and design: landscape, painting, sculpture, and even transient elements such as lighting and music tacitly informed visitors how to move within the space, what to wear, how to behave, and where they might transgress. *The Pleasure Garden*, from Vauxhall to Coney Island draws together the work of musicologists, art historians, and scholars of urban studies and landscape design to unfold a cultural history of pleasure gardens, from the entertainments they offered to the anxieties of social difference they provoked.

"This volume will be a welcome addition to our knowledge of the cultural history of gardens as entertainment centers, not least in terms of the significant shift in the perception of gardens from private, exclusive spaces to public spaces shadowed with anxieties about class, ethnicity, and gender." Richard Allen Cave, Royal Holloway, University of London
About the Author Jonathan Conlin is Senior Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Southampton and author of *Civilisation* and *The Nation's Mantelpiece: A History of the National Gallery*.