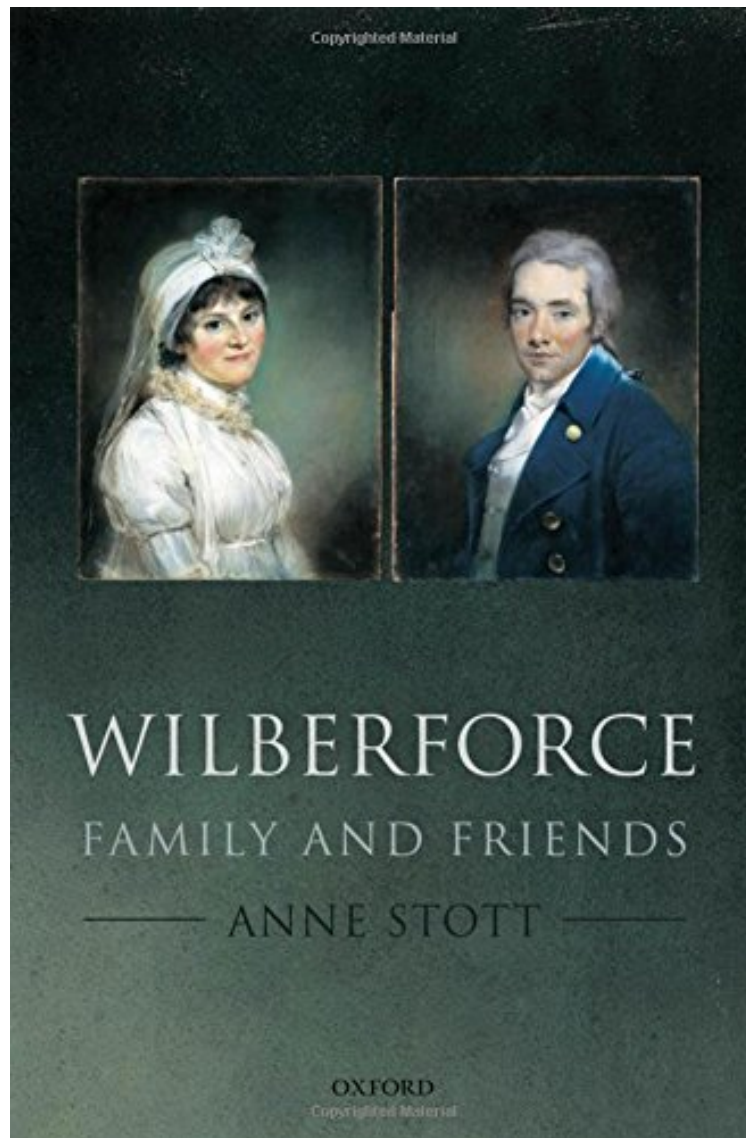


(Get free) Wilberforce: Family and Friends

Wilberforce: Family and Friends

Anne Stott

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Anne Stott : Wilberforce: Family and Friends before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wilberforce: Family and Friends:

At the age of thirty-seven, after a very short courtship, William Wilberforce married Barbara Spooner, the daughter of a Midlands industrialist, and their first child was born in the following year. His family life brought him both

happiness and anxiety. Convinced that he had been 'too long a Bachelor', he lacked confidence in his ability to be a good husband and father. A great deal has been written about Wilberforce's role in the abolition of the slave trade, but far less about his private life. Yet this is the man who exchanged his prestigious Yorkshire constituency for an undemanding pocket borough in order to devote himself to his family. In her innovative study, Anne Stott casts fresh light on the abolitionist and his friends, the group of Evangelical philanthropists retrospectively named the Clapham sect. While the men occupied important public roles they were also deeply committed to the ideal of domesticity. The ideology of the period depicted the middle-class home as a place of tranquil retreat from the cares and temptations of public life, though the family crises depicted in this study show that the reality was always more complex. With varying degrees of success, the Clapham men and women brought their Evangelical piety to their patterns of courtship and marriage, their philosophy of child-rearing, and their strategies in coping with death and bereavement. For the first time, much of this story is told from the perspective of the wives, and it is primarily through their voices that the book's themes of the family, women and gender, childhood and education, sexuality, and intimacy are explored.

"In this lively biography, Anne Stott explores the centrality of familial relationships and concerns to the lives of William Wilberforce and the Anglican evangelical circle that surrounded him....Stott has conducted truly impressive and comprehensive research: her knowledge of the Clapham circle and its social connections is exhaustive....Well-researched and enjoyably written, the book offers a wealth of insights into late eighteenth--and early nineteenth-century domestic life in England."--*Journal of Modern History* About the Author Anne Stott has taught at the Open University and Birkbeck, University of London, as well as various other adult education institutions. She has published extensively on women and Evangelicalism, and her book, *Hannah More: The First Victorian* (OUP, 2003) won the Rose Mary Crawshay Prize in 2004. She is a participant in the Dissenting Academies Project run by the Dr Williams Centre. She is the administrator of the Long Eighteenth-Century Seminar, University of London.