

Critical Approaches to *Vathek*: The European Interest in the Orient: The European interest in the Orient in the 18th century began with the translation of the *Arabian Nights* in 1713. The collection of the tales contains love stories, travel tales, tales of criminals, pious tales, anecdotes about kings, queens and princes and many entertaining and instructive fables. There are Indian, Egyptian, Arabic, Turkish and Greek elements in the tales.