Aphra Behn was England's first professional woman writer, but her status as a major author has only recently become clear. Between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Behn's work was overshadowed by more prominent male authors. However, in recent years, scholars have rediscovered her contributions to literature and culture.

Aphra Behn was born in 1640 and died in 1689. She was a prolific writer, producing several plays, novels, and poems. Her most famous work is "The Rover," which was first published in 1677. This play explores themes of love, gender, and power, and it is considered a masterpiece of Restoration drama.

Behn was also known for her translations of French and Italian works, including Racine's "Disparate" and Molière's "The Imaginary Invalid." Her translations were highly influential and helped to popularize foreign literature in England.

In addition to her literary work, Behn was also involved in politics and international affairs. She was a supporter of the Dutch war effort and was known to have had several love affairs, including one with the Duke of York.

Today, Aphra Behn is recognized as one of the most important female writers of the Restoration period. Her works continue to be studied and admired for their innovative style and exploration of complex themes.

"Aphra Behn Studies" is a collection of essays edited by Janet Todd that explores Behn's life and work. The book includes contributions from leading scholars in the field of Restoration studies and provides a comprehensive overview of Behn's contributions to literature and culture.