

21st-CENTURY OXFORD AUTHORS



Samuel Johnson



EDITED BY
DAVID WOMERSLEY

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations	xv
List of Abbreviations	xvi
Introduction	xviii
A Chronology of Samuel Johnson	xxxvi
Note on the Texts	xxxviii
EARLY POETRY AND PROSE TO 1750	I
<i>Translation of Horace, Odes, I.xxii</i> (pre-1725)	3
<i>Translation of Horace, Epodes, II</i> (prob. 1726)	3
<i>Translation of Horace, Odes, II.xiv</i> (prob. 1726)	5
<i>Translation of Horace, Odes, II.xx</i> (prob. 1726)	6
<i>Festina Lente</i> (prob. late 1726)	7
<i>The Young Author</i> (1729)	8
<i>Annals</i> (1734)	8
<i>Letter to Edward Cave, 25 November 1734</i>	14
<i>Preface to Lobo's Voyage to Abyssinia</i> (1 February 1735)	15
<i>Letter to Edward Cave, 12 July 1737</i>	17
<i>London: A Poem in Imitation of the Third Satire of Juvenal</i> (12 May 1738)	19
<i>Debates in the Senate of Magna Lilliputia</i> (June 1738)	26
<i>A Prayer on My Birth-Day</i> (7 September 1738)	32
<i>On Gay's Epitaph</i> (October 1738)	32
<i>The Life of Dr Herman Boerhaave</i> (January 1739)	35
<i>A Compleat Vindication of the Licensers of the Stage</i> (May 1739)	50
<i>Prologue to Garrick's Lethe</i> (April 1740)	61
<i>An Epitaph on Claudy Philips, a Musician</i> (September 1740)	62

<i>An Essay on Epitaphs</i> (December 1740)	62
<i>Review of the Memoirs of the Duchess of Marlborough</i> (9 March 1742)	68
<i>An Account of the Harleian Library</i> (November 1742)	71
<i>Letter to Edward Cave</i> , autumn 1743	77
<i>An Account of the Life of Mr Richard Savage</i> (11 February 1744)	79
<i>Introduction to the Harleian Miscellany</i> (April 1744)	145
<i>To Miss — on Her Playing upon the Harpsichord in a Room Hung with Some Flower-Pieces of Her Own Painting</i> (1746?)	150
<i>Prologue Spoken by Mr Garrick at the Opening of the Theatre in Drury-Lane</i> (September 1747)	151
<i>The Vision of Theodore, the Hermit of Teneriffe, found in his Cell</i> (7 April 1748)	154
<i>The Vanity of Human Wishes: The Tenth Satire of Juvenal Imitated</i> (9 January 1749)	164
<i>The Vanity of Wealth: An Ode</i> (February 1750)	173
‘DICTIONARY’ JOHNSON	175
<i>The Rambler</i> (1750–2)	177
No.1 (20 March 1750)	177
No.2 (24 March 1750)	180
No.4 (31 March 1750)	184
No.6 (7 April 1750)	187
No.7 (10 April 1750)	190
No.8 (14 April 1750)	194
No.9 (17 April 1750)	198
No.13 (1 May 1750)	200
No.14 (5 May 1750)	204
No.16 (12 May 1750)	207
No.17 (15 May 1750)	211
No.18 (19 May 1750)	214
No.22 (2 June 1750)	218

No.23 (5 June 1750)	221
No.24 (9 June 1750)	224
No.25 (12 June 1750)	227
No.28 (23 June 1750)	230
No.29 (26 June 1750)	233
No.31 (3 July 1750)	237
No.32 (7 July 1750)	240
No.33 (10 July 1750)	244
No.36 (21 July 1750)	247
No.37 (24 July 1750)	250
No.39 (31 July 1750)	253
No.41 (7 August 1750)	256
No.45 (21 August 1750)	260
No.47 (28 August 1750)	263
No.49 (4 September 1750)	266
No.60 (13 October 1750)	269
No.63 (23 October 1750)	272
No.64 (27 October 1750)	275
No.70 (17 November 1750)	278
No.71 (20 November 1750)	281
No.72 (24 November 1750)	284
No.73 (27 November 1750)	287
No.76 (8 December 1750)	290
No.77 (11 December 1750)	292
No.79 (18 December 1750)	296
No.85 (8 January 1751)	299
No.87 (15 January 1751)	302
No.90 (26 January 1751)	305
No.93 (5 February 1751)	309
No.101 (5 March 1751)	312
No.106 (23 March 1751)	315
No.108 (30 March 1751)	318
No.113 (16 April 1751)	321
No.114 (20 April 1751)	325

No.115 (23 April 1751)	328
No.121 (14 May 1751)	332
No.129 (11 June 1751)	335
No.134 (29 June 1751)	338
No.135 (2 July 1751)	340
No.137 (9 July 1751)	343
No.142 (27 July 1751)	346
No.145 (6 August 1751)	350
No.146 (10 August 1751)	353
No.148 (17 August 1751)	356
No.151 (27 August 1751)	359
No.156 (14 September 1751)	362
No.158 (21 September 1751)	365
No.159 (24 September 1751)	368
No.161 (1 October 1751)	370
No.165 (15 October 1751)	373
No.167 (22 October 1751)	377
No.168 (26 October 1751)	380
No.170 (2 November 1751)	383
No.171 (5 November 1751)	386
No.176 (23 November 1751)	389
No.181 (10 December 1751)	392
No.183 (17 December 1751)	395
No.184 (21 December 1751)	397
No.188 (4 January 1752)	400
No.191 (14 January 1752)	403
No.196 (1 February 1752)	406
No.207 (10 March 1752)	408
No.208 (14 March 1752)	411
<i>The Life of Dr Francis Cheynel</i> (July 1751)	414
<i>Sermon for the Funeral of his Wife</i> (prob. March 1752)	424
<i>Prayers composed by me on the Death of My Wife</i> (24 April – 6 May 1752)	431

<i>Prayer on Easter Day, 22 April 1753</i>	433
<i>Diary entry, 22 April 1753</i>	433
<i>Diary entry, 23 April 1753</i>	433
<i>Diary entry, 29 April 1753</i>	434
<i>The Adventurer (1752–4)</i>	434
No.39 (20 March 1753)	434
No.45 (10 April 1753)	438
No.50 (28 April 1753)	441
No.67 (26 June 1753)	444
No.69 (3 July 1753)	448
No.84 (25 August 1753)	452
No.85 (28 August 1753)	455
No.95 (2 October 1753)	459
No.99 (16 October 1753)	462
No.102 (27 October 1753)	466
No.107 (13 November 1753)	469
No.111 (27 November 1753)	472
No.119 (25 December 1753)	476
No.126 (19 January 1754)	479
No.137 (26 February 1754)	482
No.138 (2 March 1754)	486
<i>Letter to Thomas Warton (16 July 1754)</i>	489
<i>A Dictionary of the English Language: Preface (15 April 1755)</i>	491
<i>Letter to the Earl of Chesterfield, 7 February 1755</i>	509
<i>Letter to Bennet Langton, 6 May 1755</i>	510
<i>Letter to Miss Hill Boothby, 31 December 1755</i>	511
<i>Letter to Miss Hill Boothby, 8 January 1756</i>	512
<i>Letter to Samuel Richardson, 16 March 1756</i>	512
<i>An Introduction to the Political State of Great-Britain (15 May 1756)</i>	513

<i>Review of An Essay on the Writings and Genius of Pope</i> (15 May 1756)	525
<i>Review of Thomas Blackwell, Memoirs of the Court of</i> <i>Augustus</i> (15 May 1756)	531
<i>Observations on the Present State of Affairs</i> (15 July – 15 August 1756)	535
<i>Review of Jonas Hanway, An Essay on Tea</i> (15 May 1757)	542
<i>Review of Soame Jenyns, A Free Inquiry</i> (15 May 1757)	549
<i>Of the Duty of a Journalist</i> (8 April 1758)	568
<i>The Idler</i> (1758–60)	570
No.1 (15 April 1758)	570
No.5 (13 May 1758)	572
No.10 (17 June 1758)	574
No.17 (5 August 1758)	576
No.[22] (9 September 1758)	578
No.22 (16 September 1758)	580
No.23 (23 September 1758)	582
No.27 (21 October 1758)	583
No.30 (11 November 1758)	585
No.31 (18 November 1758)	587
No.32 (25 November 1758)	589
No.36 (23 December 1758)	591
No.38 (6 January 1759)	593
No.40 (20 January 1759)	595
No.41 (27 January 1759)	597
No.44 (17 February 1759)	599
No.48 (17 March 1759)	601
No.49 (24 March 1759)	602
No.50 (31 March 1759)	604
No.51 (7 April 1759)	606
No.57 (19 May 1759)	608
No.58 (26 May 1759)	610
No.59 (2 June 1759)	611

No.60 (9 June 1759)	612
No.61 (16 June 1759)	615
No.65 (14 July 1759)	617
No.66 (21 July 1759)	619
No.72 (1 September 1759)	620
No.81 (3 November 1759)	622
No.84 (24 November 1759)	624
No.88 (22 December 1759)	625
No.94 (2 February 1760)	627
No.100 (15 March 1760)	628
No.103 (5 April 1760)	631
<i>Letter to Sarah Johnson, 20 January 1759</i>	632
<i>Letter to William Strahan, 20 January 1759</i>	632
<i>Letter to Lucy Porter, 23 January 1759</i>	633
<i>Diary entry and prayer, 23 January 1759</i>	633
<i>Rasselas (26 June 1759)</i>	636
<i>The Bravery of the English Common Soldiers</i> (January 1760)	711
<i>Review of William Tytler, Mary Queen of Scots</i> (October 1760)	713
THE GREAT CHAM OF LITERATURE	719
<i>Letter to Giuseppe Baretti, 10 June 1761</i>	721
<i>Letter to James Boswell, 8 December 1763</i>	723
<i>Diary entry, 21 April 1764</i>	725
<i>A Reply to Impromptu Verses by Baretti (1765?)</i>	726
<i>The Plays of Shakespeare: Preface (10 October 1765)</i>	726
<i>Diary entry, 1 January 1766</i>	759
<i>The Fountains: A Fairy Tale (1 April 1766)</i>	760
<i>Letter to James Boswell, 9 September 1769</i>	769
<i>The False Alarm (16 January 1770)</i>	771

<i>Prayer on Easter Day, 31 March 1771</i>	790
<i>Parodies of Bishop Percy's Hermit of Warkworth (prob. summer 1771)</i>	790
<i>Γνωθι σεαυτον (12 December 1772)</i>	791
<i>Letter to James Boswell, 24 February 1773</i>	792
<i>Diary entry, 22 July 1773</i>	793
<i>Diary entries, 25 and 26 July 1774</i>	794
<i>The Patriot (12 October 1774)</i>	795
<i>A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland (18 January 1775)</i>	802
St. Andrews	803
Aberbrothick	805
Aberdeen	807
Elgin	810
Inverness	811
Lough Ness	813
Anoch	816
The Highlands	820
Glenelg	823
Sky. Armidel	824
Coriatachan in Sky	826
Raasay	830
Ostig in Sky	835
Inch Kenneth	864
<i>Letter to James Macpherson, 20 January 1775</i>	878
<i>Taxation No Tyranny (8 March 1775)</i>	879
<i>Diary entry, 14 April 1775</i>	906
<i>To Mrs Thrale on her Thirty-Fifth Birthday (presented 24 January 1776)</i>	907
<i>Diary entry for Easter Day, 7 April 1776</i>	907
<i>Lines on Thomas Warton's Poems (early 1777?)</i>	909
<i>Diary entry, 28 March 1777</i>	909

<i>Prologue to Hugh Kelly's A Word to the Wise</i> (29 May 1777)	910
<i>Letter to William Dodd, 26 June 1777</i>	910
<i>Letter to Richard Farmer, 22 July 1777</i>	911
<i>An Extempore Elegy (1778?)</i>	911
<i>A Short Song of Congratulation (August 1780)</i>	912
<i>Lives of the Poets (1781)</i>	915
Cowley	915
Milton [extract]	958
Dryden [extract]	974
Addison	1009
Prior	1045
Blackmore	1060
Swift	1072
Pope [extract]	1096
Thomson	1120
Watts	1128
Collins	1133
Gray	1136
<i>Letter to Thomas Lawrence, 17 January 1782</i>	1144
<i>Diary entry, 20 January 1782</i>	1144
<i>Letter to Thomas Lawrence, 1 May 1782</i>	1144
<i>Letter to James Boswell, 7 September 1782</i>	1145
<i>On the Death of Dr Robert Levet (August 1783)</i>	1146
<i>Letter to Hester Thrale, 2 July 1784</i>	1147
<i>Letter to Hester Maria Thrale, 3 July 1784</i>	1147
<i>Letter to Hester Maria Thrale, 6 July 1784</i>	1148
<i>Letter to Hester Thrale, 8 July 1784</i>	1148
<i>Letter to Lord Thurlow, 9 September 1784</i>	1149
<i>Translation of Horace, Odes, IV.vii (November 1784)</i>	1150
<i>Prayer, 5 December 1784</i>	1150

Appendix A: Johnson's prayer on beginning <i>The Rambler</i>	1153
Appendix B: Johnson's revisions to <i>The Rambler</i> , no. 1	1154
Appendix C: Bonnell Thornton's parody of <i>The Rambler</i>	1161
Notes	1163
Contents by Genre	1267
Index of First Lines	1271
Index of Proper Names	1273