

Contents

Preface	vii
A Note on the Texts	x

The Texts of the Plays

William Wycherley · <i>The Country Wife</i>	3
George Etherege · <i>The Man of Mode</i>	79
William Congreve · <i>The Way of the World</i>	153
Richard Steele · <i>The Conscious Lovers</i>	219
Richard Brinsley Sheridan · <i>The School for Scandal</i>	277

Backgrounds

ON WIT, HUMOUR, AND LAUGHTER: 1650–1775

Thomas Hobbes · [On Laughter]	343
Thomas Hobbes · [On Wit]	344
Thomas Hobbes · [On Power]	347
John Dryden · Preface to <i>An Evening's Love: or, The Mock Astrologer</i>	352
William Congreve · Concerning Humour in Comedy	360
Richard Steele · Epilogue to <i>The Lying Lover</i>	367
Richard Steele · <i>The Tatler</i> , No. 219	368
Joseph Addison · <i>The Spectator</i> , No. 47	370
Joseph Addison · <i>The Spectator</i> , No. 62	373
Joseph Addison · <i>The Spectator</i> , No. 249	378
Francis Hutcheson · Reflections Upon Laughter, III	381
Anonymous · [On Wit]	385
Oliver Goldsmith · An Essay on the Theater	387

THE COLLIER CONTROVERSY: 1698

Jeremy Collier · A Short View of the Immorality and Profaneness of the English Stage	391
Anonymous · A Vindication of the Stage	404
John Dennis · The Usefulness of the Stage	408

William Congreve • Amendments of Mr. Collier's False and Imperfect Citations	415
STEELE and DENNIS: On <i>The Man of Mode</i> and <i>The Conscious Lovers</i>	
Richard Steele • <i>The Spectator</i> , No. 65	420
Richard Steele • <i>The Theatre</i> , No. 1	422
Richard Steele • <i>The Theatre</i> , No. 3	424
John Dennis • A Defense of <i>Sir Fopling Flutter</i>	429
John Dennis • Remarks on <i>The Conscious Lovers</i>	433
STAGES, ACTORS, AND AUDIENCES	
Emmet L. Avery and Arthur H. Scouten • The Theatrical World, 1660–1700	439
Hugh Hunt • Restoration Acting	445
Emmet L. Avery and Arthur H. Scouten • The Audience	455
Allardyce Nicoll • [The Eighteenth-Century Stage]	464
Charles Beecher Hogan • [Scenery and Lighting]	467
Illustration: The "Screen Scene" in <i>The School for Scandal</i>	473
Illustration: Model Reconstruction of Wren's Design for a Playhouse	474
Illustration: The Interior of Drury Lane in 1775	475
Criticism: From Lamb to the Present	
Charles Lamb • On the Artificial Comedy of the Last Century	479
John Palmer • [The Comedy of Manners]	484
Bonamy Dobrée • [Restoration Comedy]	490
L. C. Knights • Restoration Comedy: The Reality and the Myth	494
Thomas H. Fujimura • [<i>The Man of Mode</i> as a Comedy of Wit]	504
Jocelyn Powell • George Etherege and the Form of a Comedy	513
Rose A. Zimbardo • [<i>The Country Wife</i> as Satire]	520
Norman N. Holland • [<i>The Way of the World</i>]	528
Martin Price • [Form and Wit in <i>The Way of the World</i>]	543
Paul E. Parnell • The Sentimental Mask	547
Raymond Williams • [Sentimentalism and Social History]	554
Louis Kronenberger • [<i>The School for Scandal</i>]	558
Selected Bibliography	564