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978-0-521-03409-8 - Eighteenth-Century Satire: Essays on Text and Context from
Dryden to Peter Pindar

Howard D. Weinbrot

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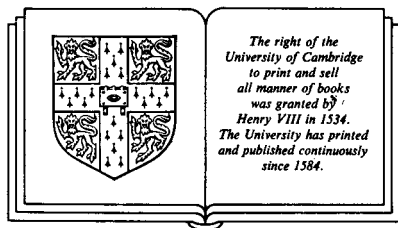
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EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY SATIRE

ESSAYS ON TEXT AND CONTEXT FROM
DRYDEN TO PETER PINDAR

HOWARD D. WEINBROT

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FOR GWIN AND RUTH KOLB

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PREFACE

I do not know whether contemporary readers will find this collection sublimely au courant or ridiculously archaic. Here are the splendors of reader response, reception criticism, intertextuality, awareness of covert political statement, “new historical” breadth of non-literary knowledge, family history, impatience with authoritarian received opinion, significant recovery of the underworld of letters, and, in the final essay, innovation that spurns the shackles of footnotes, manfully leaps the barriers of proof, and embraces the ample body of Dame Speculation. Here too, though, is a stubborn insistence on relevant historical grounding, testing of hypotheses with evidence rather than self-affirming preconceptions, the primacy of a shaping author who at his best knows reasonably well what he is doing, and who with unspoken eloquence convinces me not to impose my values upon him, but to let him and his culture speak for themselves if I am clever enough to awake the dormant past.

Given such hopeless, or perhaps hopeful, indeterminacy and binary opposition, I thought it best to correct only obvious errors in the following essays, while no doubt overlooking many of which I was not aware. I have accordingly resisted the temptation of making substantive changes and of quarreling with myself. It would have been rude to usurp a position for which so many will feel qualified. I also have left some overlapping of materials since, whatever the blow to authorial vanity, not everyone will want to read the book from cover to cover; those who prefer to read individual essays will not be deprived of knowledge. The essays themselves originally appeared between 1965 and 1988. The Introduction is new, and the essays on *Absalom and Achitopel* and *The Rape of the Lock* are so recent that they are virtually new. Two others appeared in journals with small circulation: “The Swelling Volume . . . Rochester’s *Letter from Artemisia*,” and “Such as Sir Robert Would Approve”? will seem unfamiliar to most students of eighteenth-century satire. I especially wish to see the Rochester essay enter the discussion of his best poem.

I am pleased and grateful to recall the several libraries, universities, colleagues, and research grants that helped to make lonely work both social and possible.

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PREFACE

I am even more pleased to thank Gwin and Ruth Kolb, to whom this volume is warmly dedicated. It is offered to an admired couple I met thirty years ago. For a generation they have helped others to approach the high professional, pedagogical, and personal standards they exemplify. Their retirement from the University of Chicago reminds me that the achievement of human wishes may counter the vanity of human wishes.

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“Masked Men, and Satire, and Pope: Towards an Historical Basis for the Eighteenth-Century Persona,” *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 16 (1983): 265–89.

“The Swelling Volume: The Apocalyptic Satire of Rochester’s *Letter from Artemisia in the Town to Chloe in the Country*,” *Studies in the Literary Imagination* 5 (1972): 19–37.

“The ‘Allusion to Horace’: Rochester’s Imitative Mode,” *Studies in Philology* 69 (1972): 348–68, University of North Carolina Press.

“‘Natures Holy Bands’ in *Absalom and Achitophel*: Fathers and Sons, Satire and Change,” *Modern Philology* 85 (1988), University of Chicago Press.

“*The Rape of the Lock* and the Contexts of Warfare,” in *The Enduring Legacy: Alexander Pope Tercentenary Essays*, ed. J.P.W. Rogers and G.S. Rousseau (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988).

“‘Such as Sir Robert Would Approve’?: Answers to Pope’s Answer from Horace,” *Modern Language Studies* 9, no. 3 (Fall 1979): 5–14.

“The Conventions of Classical Satire and the Practice of Pope,” *Philological Quarterly* 59 (1980): 317–37.

“Persius, the Opposition to Walpole, and Pope,” in *Greene and Centennial Studies: Essays Presented to Donald Greene*, ed. Paul J. Korshin and Robert R. Allen (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1984), pp. 93–124.

“Johnson’s *London* and Juvenal’s Third Satire: The Country as ‘Ironic’ Norm,” *Modern Philology* 73 (1976): S 56–65, University of Chicago Press.

“No ‘Mock Debate’: Questions and Answers in *The Vanity of Human Wishes*,” *Modern Language Quarterly* 41 (1980): 248–67.

“Pope, his Successors, and the Dissociation of Satiric Sensibility: An Hypothesis,” in Howard D. Weinbrot, *Alexander Pope and the Traditions of Formal Verse Satire* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982), pp. 331–64, extracts from which are reprinted with permission of Princeton University Press.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CE	The Works of John Dryden, University of California Press, Berkeley
CL	<i>Comparative Literature</i>
ECS	<i>Eighteenth-Century Studies</i>
EIC	<i>Essays in Criticism</i>
ELH	<i>English Literary History</i>
HLQ	<i>Huntington Library Quarterly</i>
MLQ	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
MP	<i>Modern Philology</i>
PMLA	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
PQ	<i>Philological Quarterly</i>
RES	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
SEL	<i>Studies in English Literature</i>
SP	<i>Studies in Philology</i>
SR	<i>Sewanee Review</i>
TE	The Twickenham Edition of the Poems of Alexander Pope
TLS	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>
YE	The Yale Edition of the Works of Samuel Johnson
YR	<i>Yale Review</i>