Swift and Pope were lifelong friends and fellow satirists with shared literary sensibilities. But there were significant differences – demographic, psychological, and literary – between them: an Anglican and a Roman Catholic, an Irishman and an Englishman, one deeply committed to politically engaged poetry, and the other reluctant to engage in partisanship and inclined to distinguish poetry from politics. Dustin Griffin argues that we need to pay more attention to those differences, which both authors recognized and discussed. Their letters, poems, and satires can be read as stages in an ongoing conversation or satiric dialogue: each often wrote for the other, sometimes addressing him directly, sometimes emulating or imitating. In some sense, each was constantly replying to the other. From their lifelong dialogue emerges not only the extraordinary affection and admiration they felt for each other, but also the occasional irritation and resentment that kept them both together and apart.

SWIFT AND POPE: SATIRISTS IN DIALOGUE

DUSTIN GRIFFIN
To Matthew and Michèle
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My research was made substantially more convenient through the resources of Eighteenth Century Collections Online, as well as JSTOR and ProQuest. But every scholar wants to be able not only to see but also to touch the books. For supplying me with whatever I needed, I thank the staffs of Bobst Library, New York University, and of Sawyer Library, Williams College, especially Alison O’Grady of the Interlibrary Loan staff. Publication of this book was supported by a subsidy from the Stein Fund of New York University.

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Because eighteenth-century poems and prose are now readily available from Eighteenth Century Collections Online, I cite wherever possible from eighteenth-century editions, and unless otherwise indicated texts are taken from first editions. But for the writings of Swift and Pope I wanted to take advantage of the work of authoritative modern editors who print from texts that Swift and Pope themselves might have seen. Swift’s poems are cited from the edition of Harold Williams (The Poems of Jonathan Swift, 2nd edn., 3 vols., 1958), who prints without modernization from manuscripts, first editions, or authoritative early texts. Swift’s prose is cited, with one exception, from the edition of Herbert Davis et al. (The Prose Works of Jonathan Swift, 14 vols., 1939–68), who prints from Faulkner’s 1735 edition. The Davis edition will be superseded by the new Cambridge Edition of the Works of Jonathan Swift: I cite from the one volume that has appeared as this book goes to press, volume viii, English Political Writings, 1711–1714, ed. Bertrand Goldgar and Ian Gadd, 2008.

Note on texts cited


Rather than citing the Pope-to-Swift letters from the long-standard Sherburn edition, *The Correspondence of Alexander Pope*, ed. George Sherburn, 5 vols. (1956), and the Swift-to-Pope letters from the long-standard *The Correspondence of Jonathan Swift*, 5 vols., ed. Harold Williams, rev. David Woolley (1963–72), I have cited both series from the newly completed edition of *The Correspondence of Jonathan Swift*, D. D., ed. David Woolley, 4 vols. (1999–2007). Woolley has updated the work of both Williams and Sherburn, following different editorial procedures, revising some dates, and printing a total of ninety-five separate letters, rather than Sherburn’s ninety-two. Woolley’s no. 721, the rhyming recipe for veal stew, is regarded by Sherburn as a manuscript poem rather than a letter. His no. 728, printed as a letter from Pope and Gay to Swift, is printed by Sherburn as from Gay to Swift. His no. 1198 (Pope to Swift, early October, 1735) is printed by Sherburn as part of a November 1735 letter (Woolley’s no. 1230, and dated December 1735). To clarify chronology for the modern reader, I have altered Woolley’s dates from old style (e.g., January 1727/28) to new (e.g., January 1728). For Pope’s letters to and from other people I have cited from Sherburn, conveniently searchable through “Electronic Enlightenment.”

To attempt to keep my extensive footnotes within a reasonable compass, I have where appropriate provided author and year of publication for citations of articles and books, referring the reader to the Bibliography for complete details. The *Oxford English Dictionary* is cited as *OED*, the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2004) as *ODNB*. 
A Swift–Pope chronology

1667  November 30: Swift born in Dublin.
1688  May 21: Pope born in London.
1709  May 2: Pope, *Pastorals* (in Tonson’s *Poetical Miscellanies: The Sixth Part*).
1711  February 27: Swift, *Miscellanies in Prose and Verse*.
1712  May 15: Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*.
1716  August 1: Swift drafts early version of *Cadenus and Vanessa*.
1717  March 7: Pope, *Windsor-Forest*.
1718  April 25: Swift named Dean of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin. September: first meeting of the “Scriblerus Club” probably takes place.
1719  September 9: Swift returns from Dublin.
1720  June 12: last documented meeting of Scriblerus Club.
1721  July 4–11: Swift, Pope, and Gay meet in Letcombe, Berkshire.
1722  August 16: Swift departs for Ireland.
1723  June 6: Pope’s translation of the *Iliad* begins appearing.
1724  June 3: Pope, *Works*.
1725  August: South Sea Bubble bursts.
1726  August 24: Francis Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, arrested and charged with treason.
1727  May: Atterbury trial (at which Pope testifies).
1728  March: first of Swift’s *Drapier’s Letters*.
1729  October 21: Swift, fourth *Drapier’s Letter*. 

October 28: *Gulliver’s Travels*.


1728 March 8: Pope–Swift *Miscellanies*, “the Last Volume.”


1729 April 10: Pope, *Dunciad Variorum*, dedicated to Swift.

1730 February 9: Swift, *Libel on Dr. Delany*, with praise of Pope.

December: Swift writing *Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift*.

1731 June: Swift, *The Lady’s Dressing Room*.

October 4: Pope–Swift *Miscellanies*, vol. iii.

December 4: John Gay dies.


May 1: Swift, *Life and Genuine Character of Dr. Swift*.


1734 January 2: Pope, *Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot*.


February 8: Pope, *Epistle to a Lady*.

February 27: John Arbuthnot dies.


May 12: Curll’s edition of Pope’s *Letters*.


May 19: Pope’s own edition of his *Letters*.


A Swift–Pope chronology

1739
February/March: Swift’s own edition of *Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift*.

1740
May 3–5: Swift’s last will.

1741
June 20: Swift, *Letters to and from Dr. J. Swift*.

1742

1743
August: Swift declared “of unsound mind and memory.”
October 29: Pope, *Dunciad in Four Books*.
December 12: Pope’s last will.

1744
May 30: Pope dies.

1745
October 19: Swift dies.