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ATTRIBUTING AUTHORSHIP

An Introduction

Recent literary scholarship has seen a shift of interest away from questions of attribution. Yet these questions remain urgent and important for any historical study of writing, and have been given a powerful new impetus by advances in statistical studies of language and the coming on line of large databases of texts in machine-searchable form. The present book is the first comprehensive survey of the field from a literary perspective to appear for forty years. It covers both traditional and computer based approaches to attribution, and evaluates each in respect of their potentialities and limitations. It revisits a number of famous controversies, including those concerning the authorship of the Homeric poems, books from the Old and New Testaments, and the plays of Shakespeare. Written with wit as well as erudition, *Attributing Authorship: An Introduction* will make this intriguing field accessible for students and scholars alike.

HAROLD LOVE is Professor of English at Monash University. He has written extensively on early modern English literature and the history of the performing arts in Australia. He has edited the works of Thomas Southerne with R. J. Jordan and recently published a complete scholarly edition of the works of John Wilmot, second earl of Rochester.

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Cambridge University Press
 0521783399 - Attributing Authorship: an Introduction
 Harold Love
 Frontmatter
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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
 Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa
<http://www.cambridge.org>

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First published 2002

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeface Baskerville Monotype 11 / 12.5 pt. *System* L^AT_EX 2_ε [T_E]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Love, Harold, 1937–

Authorship and attribution: an introduction / Harold Love.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 78339 9 – ISBN 0 521 78948 6 (pb.)

1. Authorship, Disputed. 2. Style, Literary. 3. Language and languages –
 Style. I. Title.

PN171.F6 L68 2002 809 – dc21 2001052854

ISBN 0 521 78339 9 hardback

ISBN 0 521 78948 6 paperback

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Acknowledgements

To list all the individuals who have contributed over the years to the preparation of this book is unfortunately impossible, but I must particularly mention Felicity Henderson for her assistance with the assembling of sources and Meredith Sherlock whose long-standing knowledge of my bad habits as a writer allowed her to suggest many improvements in matters of style and exposition. John Burrows, Hugh Craig, Robert D. Hume and Keith Walker all generously agreed to read the book in draft and A. R. Braunmuller did the same on behalf of Cambridge University Press: their comments were of great value for the preparation of the final version. Peter Groves gave much appreciated assistance with the discussion of metre and Ada Cheung, Wallace Kirsop and Constant Mews with other specialised questions. However, my greatest debt is, as always, to my wife Rosaleen, who, having abandoned academia for a successful career as a full-time writer, has been my expert and unfailing guide to the realities of the profession of letters.

Work on this book was encouraged by a three-year Australian Research Council large grant awarded to myself, John Burrows and Christopher Wortham to investigate the authorship of seventeenth-century scribally circulated satires.

Abbreviations

<i>BSANZ Bulletin</i>	<i>Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand Bulletin</i>
<i>CHum</i>	<i>Computers and the Humanities</i>
E&F	David V. Erdman and Ephim G. Fogel, eds., <i>Evidence for Authorship: Essays on Problems of Attribution</i> (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1966)
<i>IE</i>	Schoenbaum, Samuel, <i>Internal Evidence and Elizabethan Dramatic Authorship: An Essay in Literary History and Method</i> (London: Edward Arnold, 1966)
<i>LLC</i>	<i>Literary and Linguistic Computing</i>
<i>MLR</i>	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
<i>N&Q</i>	<i>Notes and Queries</i>
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Papers of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
<i>SB</i>	<i>Studies in Bibliography</i>
<i>TLS</i>	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>