This is the first unified history of the large, prestigious dictionaries of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, compiled in academies, which set out to glorify living European languages. The tradition began with the Vocabolario degli Accademici della Crusca (1612) in Florence and the Dictionnaire de l’Académie française (1694) in Paris, and spread across Europe – to Germany, Spain, England, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Russia – in the eighteenth century, engaging students of language as diverse as Leibniz, Samuel Johnson, and Catherine the Great. All the major academy and academy-style dictionaries of the period up to 1800, published and unpublished, are discussed in a single narrative, bridging national and linguistic boundaries, to offer a history of lexicography on a European scale. Like John Considine’s Dictionaries in Early Modern Europe (Cambridge, 2008), this study treats dictionaries both as physical books and as ambitious works of the human imagination.

JOHN CONSIDINE is Professor of English at the University of Alberta, Canada. He is author of Dictionaries in Early Modern Europe: Lexicography and the Making of Heritage (Cambridge, 2008) and is co-editor, with Sylvia Brown, of The Ladies Dictionary (1694) (2010).
ACADEMY DICTIONARIES
1600–1800

JOHN CONSIDINE
For my mother
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In order to use early books day after day, I have depended heavily on the online availability of full texts in digital facsimile. I would like to acknowledge my considerable debt to Google Books, and particularly to the cooperation between Google and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek which has made a great many pre-1800 dictionaries from Continental Europe freely available during the period in which I have been writing. I am also indebted to the Internet Archive, to the Gallica service of the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris, and to many other providers of images.

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Conventions

Transcriptions from pre-modern texts, including the titles of books, are as far as possible in unmodernized spelling: hence, for instance, my consistent reference to the *Dictionnaire de l’Académie française* (the form *française* has only appeared on the title page of this dictionary since 1835). Diacritics are reproduced as in the original texts, with the exception of those in Latin. Superscript e in German and Swedish is normalized to umlaut; æ and œ in Latin to ae and oe; & in Latin and French to et. Square brackets in originals have been normalized to round brackets. Ellipses in quotations are my own unless otherwise indicated; italics in quotations are always in the original. Translations are my own unless otherwise indicated.

A number of quotations are from the unpaginated preliminaries of early printed books. These are given by signature, a system with which some but not all readers of this book will be familiar. If, for instance, the first gathering of four leaves in a book is unpaginated, but the second leaf has the letter A and the number 2 (or ii, or ij) printed at its foot, a quotation from the recto of that leaf will be identified as from sig. A2r, and a quotation from the verso of the last unpaginated leaf will be identified as from sig. A4v. Preliminary gatherings are sometimes identified by a typographical symbol rather than a letter, and so I give some references in forms like sig. *3r or sig. *)2v. Where preliminary gatherings are unsigned, it is sometimes possible to supply a signature: an unsigned gathering before gathering B is gathering [A]. Otherwise, the first gathering is conventionally assigned the signature π. So, when a footnote identifies a passage as, for instance, from sigs. )(3r–4v of a given book, this is not a typesetting error: the second gathering of the book is not paginated, but its leaves are marked with a signature of two back-to-back pairs of parentheses, and the footnote refers to a passage which begins on the recto of the third leaf of this gathering and ends on the verso of the fourth leaf.

Spellings of British proper names generally follow the forms given in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*; spellings of others generally
follow those in E. F. K. Koerner’s *Universal Index of Biographical Names in the Language Sciences*. Consistency in the spelling of proper names is notoriously unattainable, and I have tried to avoid pedantry: so, for instance, at one point in my text Catherine the Great (whom I was unwilling to call Ekaterina Velikaya) and Princess Ekaterina Dashkova (whom I had no intention of calling Catherine Dashkova) come into contact.

I have regularly consulted the standard biographical dictionaries and the online British Book Trade Index for personal information; the *Oxford English Dictionary* and the other standard dictionaries of European languages for lexical information; and the standard bibliographies and online library catalogues (especially the English Short Title Catalogue, COPAC, WorldCat, and the catalogues available through the Karlsruhe Virtueller Katalog) for bibliographical information. I have only indicated my use of such sources where it seemed strictly necessary.

In the bibliography, the alternative availability of printed sources online or in printed facsimile form has been indicated only occasionally, in the case of a few texts of which originals are particularly hard to find. I have inevitably consulted reproductions of many early books, and multiple reproductions of some, as well as handling many originals, and I have seen no value in pointing this out case by case, particularly since the availability of online reproductions changes from year to year (and even from day to day). Alphabetization in the bibliography ignores diacritics.