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978-0-521-13421-7 - Homer's Original Genius: Eighteenth-Century Notions of the
Early Greek Epic (1688-1798)

Kirsti Simonsuuri

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Plates

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- 1 F. de Callières, *Histoire poétique de la guerre nouvellement déclarée entre les anciens et les modernes* (Paris 1688), frontispiece.
- 2 John Dryden, *Fables, ancient and modern* (London 1700, edition of 1713), frontispiece.
- 3 T. Blackwell, *An enquiry into the life and writings of Homer* (London 1735), plate xi, p. 216.
- 4 R. Wood, *An essay on the original genius and writings of Homer* (London 1775), frontispiece.

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<i>AJA</i>	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
<i>AJP</i>	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
<i>CL</i>	<i>Comparative Literature</i>
<i>CLS</i>	<i>Comparative Literature Studies</i>
<i>DNB</i>	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
<i>ELH</i>	<i>A Journal of English Literary History</i>
<i>HSCP</i>	<i>Harvard Studies in Classical Philology</i>
<i>JAAC</i>	<i>Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism</i>
<i>JHI</i>	<i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>
<i>JWCI</i>	<i>Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes</i>
<i>MLN</i>	<i>Modern Language Notes</i>
<i>MLQ</i>	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
<i>MP</i>	<i>Modern Philology</i>
<i>PCPS</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society</i>
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
<i>PQ</i>	<i>Philological Quarterly</i>
<i>RE</i>	<i>Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaften</i>
<i>SP</i>	<i>Studies in Philology</i>
<i>TAPA</i>	<i>Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Association</i>
<i>TAPS</i>	<i>Transactions of the American Philosophical Society</i>
<i>TLS</i>	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>
<i>YCS</i>	<i>Yale Classical Studies</i>
<i>YFS</i>	<i>Yale French Studies</i>

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For my mother and to the memory of my father

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Preface

This book originated in the research which I started for the PhD degree at the University of Cambridge in 1972, and it may be that the special marks of the doctoral thesis have been indelible. I was, however, fortunate in being allowed to choose a particularly unusual theme for research, and in finding scholars who showed their interest from the earliest stages of my work.

This book offers room for specialists in many fields. I am aware of the gaps that still exist. A further analysis of Italian criticism will perhaps prove useful and important, to mention one of the issues that pertain to eighteenth-century scholarship. Contemporary developments were, however, related to a larger framework offered by the classical tradition, and my main purpose in this book is to study the mechanism of gradual change in the history of the classical tradition. The complex development that characterizes eighteenth-century discussions of the Greek epic, as well as the nature and interrelation of the reasons why Homer was preferred as the model of the original genius during that period, are problems to which no single solution can be given. Hence I argue in this book merely for a new point of view and a reinterpretation of the eighteenth-century material.

I remain grateful to those with whom I have had discussions during the course of my work. Many people have contributed to it in various ways. I am grateful to the staffs of the University Library, Cambridge, of the British Museum and of the Warburg Institute, London, and to Newnham College, Cambridge. My special thanks are due to Professor Noémi Hepp, of the University of Strasbourg, and to Dr Robert Bolgar, of King's College, Cambridge, who has been my supervisor and teacher since the beginning of my work.

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