

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-19010-7 - Samuel Johnson in Context
Edited by Jack Lynch
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

SAMUEL JOHNSON IN CONTEXT

Few authors benefit from being set in their contemporary context more than Samuel Johnson. *Samuel Johnson in Context* is a guide to his world, offering readers a comprehensive account of eighteenth-century life and culture as it relates to his work. Short, lively, and eminently readable chapters illuminate not only Johnson's own life, writings, and career, but the literary, critical, journalistic, social, political, scientific, artistic, medical, and financial contexts in which his works came into being. Written by leading experts in Johnson and in eighteenth-century studies, these chapters offer both depth and range of information and suggestions for further study and research. Richly illustrated, with a chronology of Johnson's life and works and an extensive further reading list, this book is a major new work of reference on eighteenth-century culture and the age of Johnson.

JACK LYNCH is Professor of English at Rutgers University. His publications include *The Age of Elizabeth in the Age of Johnson* (Cambridge, 2003) and, as editor, *Anniversary Essays on Johnson's "Dictionary"* (Cambridge, 2005).

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-19010-7 - Samuel Johnson in Context
Edited by Jack Lynch
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-19010-7 - Samuel Johnson in Context
Edited by Jack Lynch
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

SAMUEL JOHNSON IN CONTEXT

EDITED BY
JACK LYNCH



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-19010-7 - Samuel Johnson in Context
 Edited by Jack Lynch
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
 Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521190107

© Cambridge University Press 2012

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
 no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
 permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2012

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

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

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
 Samuel Johnson in context / Jack Lynch.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-19010-7 (hardback)

1. Johnson, Samuel, 1709–1784—Criticism and interpretation. 2. English literature—18th
 century—History and criticism. 3. Great Britain—Intellectual life—18th century.

I. Lynch, Jack (John T.)

PR3534.S26 2011

828'.609—dc23

2011029845

ISBN 978-0-521-19010-7 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or
 accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in
 this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is,
 or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>List of illustrations</i> | <i>page</i> ix |
| <i>Notes on contributors</i> | xii |
| <i>Preface</i> | xxi |
| <i>Chronology</i> | xxiii |
| <i>List of abbreviations</i> | xxxii |

PART I LIFE AND WORKS

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 1 Life | 3 |
| <i>Lisa Berglund</i> | |
| 2 Publication history | 13 |
| <i>O M Brack, Jr.</i> | |
| 3 Correspondence | 21 |
| <i>Freya Johnston</i> | |

PART II CRITICAL FORTUNES

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| 4 Editions | 31 |
| <i>Adam Rounce</i> | |
| 5 Translations | 38 |
| <i>John Stone</i> | |
| 6 Critical reception to 1900 | 45 |
| <i>Katherine Turner</i> | |
| 7 Critical reception since 1900 | 54 |
| <i>Greg Clingham</i> | |
| 8 Representations | 62 |
| <i>Robert Folkenflik</i> | |

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-----|
| 9 | Reputation <i>Helen Deutsch</i> | 83 |
| PART III CONTEXTS | | |
| 10 | America <i>Thomas M. Curley</i> | 93 |
| 11 | Anglicanism <i>Melvyn New</i> | 101 |
| 12 | Anthropology <i>Jonathan Lamb</i> | 109 |
| 13 | Authorship <i>Dustin Griffin</i> | 118 |
| 14 | Biography <i>H. J. Jackson</i> | 127 |
| 15 | Book trade <i>Michael F. Suarez, S.J.</i> | 134 |
| 16 | Clubs <i>Peter Clark</i> | 143 |
| 17 | Conversation <i>Pat Rogers</i> | 151 |
| 18 | Dictionaries <i>Lynda Mugglestone</i> | 157 |
| 19 | Domestic life <i>Jaclyn Geller</i> | 166 |
| 20 | Education <i>Catherine Dille</i> | 174 |
| 21 | Empire <i>Sharon Harrow</i> | 182 |
| 22 | Essays <i>Paul Tankard</i> | 191 |
| 23 | Fiction <i>John Richetti</i> | 200 |

| | <i>Contents</i> | vii |
|----|--|-----|
| 24 | History <i>Robert DeMaria, Jr.</i> | 208 |
| 25 | Journalism <i>Lee Morrissey</i> | 216 |
| 26 | Law <i>J. T. Scanlan</i> | 225 |
| 27 | Literary criticism <i>Philip Smallwood</i> | 234 |
| 28 | London <i>Cynthia Wall</i> | 243 |
| 29 | Medicine <i>T. Jock Murray</i> | 251 |
| 30 | Mental health <i>Allan Ingram</i> | 260 |
| 31 | Money <i>D'Maris Coffman</i> | 268 |
| 32 | Nationalism <i>Clement Hawes</i> | 278 |
| 33 | Philosophy <i>Fred Parker</i> | 286 |
| 34 | Poetry <i>David F. Ventura</i> | 294 |
| 35 | Politics <i>Steven Scherwatzky</i> | 303 |
| 36 | Scholarship <i>Barry Baldwin</i> | 312 |
| 37 | Science and technology <i>Dahlia Porter</i> | 320 |
| 38 | Scotland <i>Murray Pittock</i> | 329 |
| 39 | Sermons <i>Jennifer Ellis Snead</i> | 337 |

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 40 | Shakespeare <i>Fiona Ritchie</i> | 343 |
| 41 | Slavery and abolition <i>Brycchan Carey</i> | 352 |
| 42 | Social hierarchy <i>Nicholas Hudson</i> | 360 |
| 43 | Theatre <i>Nora Nachumi</i> | 367 |
| 44 | Travel <i>Paula McDowell</i> | 375 |
| 45 | Visual arts <i>Martin Postle</i> | 385 |
| 46 | War <i>John Richardson</i> | 393 |
| 47 | Women writers <i>John Wiltshire</i> | 400 |
| | <i>Further reading</i> | 407 |
| | <i>Index</i> | 432 |

Illustrations

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 1 | Boswell, manuscript of <i>The Life of Johnson</i> , “Papers Apart.” Courtesy of the General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University | <i>page</i> 10 |
| 2 | Hester Lynch Piozzi, from <i>Johnsoniana</i> , ed. Robina Napier (1884). Collection of Lisa Berglund | 11 |
| 3 | Samuel Johnson to Hill Boothby, December 30, 1755. MS Hyde 1, Series 1, Folders 1–30, sequence 39. Courtesy of the Hyde Collection, Harvard University | 25 |
| 4 | Frontispiece to the <i>Gentleman’s Magazine</i> (1747). Courtesy of the University of Michigan Libraries | 63 |
| 5 | Sir Joshua Reynolds, <i>Dictionary Johnson</i> (1756–7). NPG 1597. © National Portrait Gallery, London | 64 |
| 6 | Sir Joshua Reynolds, <i>Samuel Johnson</i> (1769); the Knole portrait. Copy owned by Johnson’s stepdaughter, Lucy Porter. Courtesy of Houghton Library, Harvard University, Hyde MS Eng 1411 | 65 |
| 7 | Johnson copper halfpenny (1785). Courtesy Helvetica Coin Shop | 66 |
| 8 | John Flaxman, <i>Samuel Johnson</i> , Wedgwood medallion (1785). Image courtesy of the Wedgwood Museum, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire (England) | 67 |
| 9 | Sir Joshua Reynolds, <i>Samuel Johnson</i> (1772? 1778?); the Streatham portrait. © Tate, London 2011 | 68 |
| 10 | Sir Joshua Reynolds, <i>Blinking Sam</i> (1775). Huntington Library | 69 |
| 11 | John Bacon, <i>Samuel Johnson</i> (1796). St. Paul’s Cathedral, London. © The Courtauld Institute of Art, London | 71 |
| 12 | James Barry, <i>Samuel Johnson</i> (1778–80). NPG 1185. © National Portrait Gallery, London | 72 |
| 13 | John Opie, <i>Samuel Johnson</i> (1783). Courtesy of Houghton Library, Harvard University, *82M-20 | 72 |

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 14 | James Roberts, <i>Samuel Johnson</i> (1784). This image, owned by Pembroke College, forms part of a Research Programme coordinated by the University of Oxford and has been supplied under Licence by Isis Innovation Ltd. © University of Oxford 2006 | 73 |
| 15 | Frances Reynolds?, <i>Samuel Johnson</i> (1783?). Haverford College | 74 |
| 16 | <i>The Hungry Mob of Scriblers and Etchers</i> (1762). British Museum number 1868,0808.4185. © Trustees of the British Museum | 74 |
| 17 | <i>The Irish Stubble Alias Bubble Goose</i> (1763). British Museum number 1855,1208.296. © Trustees of the British Museum | 75 |
| 18 | Anonymous, <i>The Combat</i> (1763). © Trustees of the British Museum | 75 |
| 19 | Thomas Trotter, <i>Dr. Johnson in His Travelling Dress</i> (1786). NPG D34874. © National Portrait Gallery, London | 77 |
| 20 | Anonymous, <i>A Tom Tit Twittering on an Eagle's Back-side</i> (1786). British Museum number 1868,0808.5517. © Trustees of the British Museum | 77 |
| 21 | Anonymous, <i>A Tour to the Hebrides: Bossy Bounce Preparing for the Scotch Professors to Kiss</i> (1786). British Museum number J,3.67. © Trustees of the British Museum | 78 |
| 22 | Thomas Rowlandson after Samuel Collings, "The Embrace," in <i>The Picturesque Beauties of Boswell</i> (1786). From the collection of Robert and Vivian Folkenflik | 78 |
| 23 | James Gillray, <i>Old Wisdom Blinking at the Stars</i> (1782). NPG D12300. © National Portrait Gallery, London | 79 |
| 24 | James Gillray, <i>Apollo and the Muses; Inflicting Penance on Dr. Pomposo, round Parnassus</i> (1783). NPG D12342. © National Portrait Gallery, London | 79 |
| 25 | Charles Bestland?, <i>Dr. Johnson's Ghost: "Thou Art a Retailer of Phrases"</i> (1803). NPG D34872. © National Portrait Gallery, London | 80 |
| 26 | James Sayers, <i>Frontispiece to the 2nd Edition of Dr J____n's Letters</i> (1788). NPG D9898. © National Portrait Gallery, London | 81 |
| 27 | A late eighteenth-century engraving of four Tahitian natives. British Museum number Oc2006,Prt.31. © Trustees of the British Museum | 111 |
| 28 | Thomas Rowlandson (?), <i>Bookseller & Author</i> . British Museum number 1868,0822.7112. © Trustees of the British Museum | 123 |

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-19010-7 - Samuel Johnson in Context
 Edited by Jack Lynch
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

| <i>List of illustrations</i> | | xi |
|------------------------------|---|-----|
| 29 | Samuel Johnson, <i>An Account of the Life of Mr. Richard Savage</i> . Courtesy of the General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University | 131 |
| 30 | Sutton Nicholls, <i>The Compleat Auctioneer</i> , c. 1700, depicting a bookseller. British Museum number 1851,0308.20. © Trustees of the British Museum | 135 |
| 31 | Samuel Johnson, <i>Rambler</i> 34, July 14, 1750. Collection of Paul Tankard | 193 |
| 32 | Joseph Addison and Richard Steele, <i>The Spectator</i> , no. 1. Courtesy of Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Pennsylvania | 219 |
| 33 | South view of St. John's Gate, in Clerkenwell, 1720, where Edward Cave would begin publishing the <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> in 1731. British Museum number 1880,1113.4815. © Trustees of the British Museum | 245 |
| 34 | Woodcut after William Hogarth, <i>The Four Stages of Cruelty</i> , no. 4, <i>The Reward of Cruelty</i> , 1751. British Museum number Cc,2.171. © Trustees of the British Museum | 254 |
| 35 | Thomas Rowlandson, <i>The Hypochondriac</i> . British Museum number 1866,1114.623. © Trustees of the British Museum | 263 |
| 36 | Hogarth, <i>John Wilkes Esqr</i> . British Museum number Cc,2.206. © Trustees of the British Museum | 309 |
| 37 | Peter van Bleeck, <i>Mrs. Cibber in the Character of Cordelia</i> , 1755. British Museum number 1902,1011.5988. © Trustees of the British Museum | 347 |
| 38 | J. Bicknell and T. Day, <i>The Dying Negro, a Poem</i> , 3rd edn. British Museum number 1895,1031.222. © Trustees of the British Museum | 357 |
| 39 | Admission ticket for the benefit performance of Eva Marie Veigel at Drury Lane, 1747. British Museum number 1850,0223.717. © Trustees of the British Museum | 373 |
| 40 | Edward Fisher after Sir Joshua Reynolds, <i>Strive Not Tragedy nor Comedy to Engross a Garrick</i> , 1762. British Museum number 1902,1011.2134. © Trustees of the British Museum | 389 |

Contributors

BARRY BALDWIN is Emeritus Professor of Classics, University of Calgary, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He has published *The Latin and Greek Poems of Samuel Johnson* (1995) as well as articles on Johnson and other eighteenth-century topics. He is editing Johnson's school and college Latin prose for Yale University Press.

LISA BERGLUND is Associate Professor of English at Buffalo State College and the executive secretary of the Dictionary Society of North America. She has published numerous articles on Johnson, Piozzi, Boswell, teaching eighteenth-century literature, and book history.

OM BRACK, JR. is Emeritus Professor of English at Arizona State University. He is the editor of two forthcoming volumes of *The Yale Edition of the Works of Samuel Johnson: Biographical and Related Writings* and *Miscellaneous Writings*, and the textual editor of *The Parliamentary Debates* and *A Commentary on Mr. Pope's Principles of Morality, or Essay on Man*. He has written and edited Sir John Hawkins's *Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.* (2009), *The Early Biographies of Samuel Johnson* (1974), and *Samuel Johnson's Early Biographers* (1971), with Robert E. Kelley. He is also founding editor and textual editor for *The Works of Tobias Smollett*.

BRYCCHAN CAREY is Reader in English Literature at Kingston University, London. He is the author of *British Abolitionism and the Rhetoric of Sensibility: Writing, Sentiment, and Slavery, 1760–1807* (2005) and the editor (with Peter Kitson) of *Slavery and the Cultures of Abolition: Essays Marking the British Abolition Act of 1807* (2007) and (with Markman Ellis and Sara Salih) of *Discourses of Slavery and Abolition: Britain and its Colonies, 1760–1838* (2004). He is completing a book on the origins and development of Quaker antislavery rhetoric in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Notes on contributors

xiii

PETER CLARK is Professor of European Urban History at the University of Helsinki. Previously, he was a professor at the University of Leicester. He has published or edited nearly twenty books on urban and social history, including *British Clubs and Societies, 1580–1800* (2000) and *European Cities and Towns, 400–2000* (2009). He is currently editing the *Oxford Handbook on Cities in History*.

GREG CLINGHAM is the John P. Crozer Chair of English Literature and Director of the University Press at Bucknell University, author of *Johnson, Writing, and Memory* (Cambridge University Press, 2002), and editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Samuel Johnson* (Cambridge University Press, 1997).

D’MARIS COFFMAN received her MA and PhD in history from the University of Pennsylvania and her BSc in Economics from the Wharton School. She is the Mary Bateson Research Fellow at Newnham College, Cambridge, and the director of the Winton Centre for Financial History there. She co-manages the European State Finance Database.

THOMAS M. CURLEY, Professor of English at Bridgewater State University, is the author of *Sir Robert Chambers: Law, Literature, and Empire in the Age of Johnson* (1998), which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won the Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award. His most recent study is *Samuel Johnson, the “Ossian” Fraud, and the Celtic Revival in Great Britain and Ireland* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

ROBERT DEMARIA, JR. is the Henry Noble MacCracken Professor of English at Vassar College, where he has taught all of his career. He is the author of three books and many articles on Johnson and general editor of *The Yale Edition of the Works of Samuel Johnson*. In that series, with Gwin Kolb, he edited *Johnson on the English Language* (2005) and he is editing, with O M Brack, Jr., the final volume in the series, *Miscellaneous Prose*. He is now at work on *British Literature 1640–1789: Keywords*.

HELEN DEUTSCH, Professor of English at UCLA, is the author of *Resemblance and Disgrace: Alexander Pope and the Deformation of Culture* (1996) and *Loving Dr. Johnson* (2005). She is working on a book on the literary afterlife of Jonathan Swift.

CATHERINE DILLE has written on various aspects of early modern literature and culture, including eighteenth-century educational practice and

the literary legacy of Samuel Johnson. She has most recently published an edition of Hester Thrale Piozzi's *Observations and Reflections Made in the Course of a Journey through France, Italy and Germany* (2009).

ROBERT FOLKENFLIK, Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professor of English at the University of California, Irvine, is the author of *Samuel Johnson, Biographer*, has coauthored *Samuel Johnson: Pictures and Words* with Paul Alkon, and has published numerous essays on Johnson and eighteenth-century literature. For his work on Johnson portraiture he received a grant from the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, and he has given lectures on the topic at the National Portrait Gallery (London), Harvard University, Haverford College, and Bryn Mawr College (The Center for Visual Studies).

JACLYN GELLER is Associate Professor of English, Central Connecticut State University. She is the author of *Here Comes the Bride: Women, Weddings, and the Marriage Mystique* (2001) and essays on Samuel Johnson, Samuel Butler, and Jonathan Swift.

DUSTIN GRIFFIN, Professor of English Emeritus at New York University, retired in 2009 after forty years of full-time teaching. He is the author of a number of books on the long eighteenth century, including *Literary Patronage in England, 1650–1800* (Cambridge University Press, 1996). His most recent book is *Swift and Pope: Satirists in Dialogue* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

SHARON HARROW is Professor of English at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Adventures in Domesticity: Gender and Colonial Adulteration in Eighteenth-Century British Literature* (2004) and of articles and reviews on eighteenth-century women writers. She is at work on a book about the literature and culture of eighteenth-century British sport.

CLEMENT HAWES is Professor of English and History at the University of Michigan. His publications include *Mania and Literary Style: The Rhetoric of Enthusiasm from the Ranters to Christopher Smart* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), *Christopher Smart and the Enlightenment* (1999), and *The British Eighteenth Century and Global Critique* (2005).

NICHOLAS HUDSON, Professor of English at the University of British Columbia, is the author of two monographs on Johnson, *Samuel Johnson and Eighteenth-Century Thought* (1988) and *Samuel Johnson and the Making of Modern England* (Cambridge University Press, 2003).

He is also the author of *Writing and European Thought, 1600–1830* (Cambridge University Press, 1994) and of many essays on eighteenth-century British literature, culture, and thought. He most recently coedited, with Aaron Santesso, *Swift's Travels: Eighteenth-Century British Satire and Its Legacy* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), and has completed a new monograph, *A Long Revolution: Social Hierarchy and Literary Change in Britain, 1660–1832*.

ALLAN INGRAM is Professor of English at the University of Northumbria. His works include monographs on Boswell, on Swift and Pope, and on madness and writing (*The Madhouse of Language*, 1991), as well as two collections of source material, *Voices of Madness* (1997) and *Patterns of Madness in the Eighteenth Century* (1998). His most recent book is *Cultural Constructions of Madness in Eighteenth-Century Writing* (2005, with Michelle Faubert). He is coeditor (with Stuart Sim) of *Melancholy Experience in Literature of the Long Eighteenth Century: Before Depression, 1660–1800* (2011), and co-general editor (with Leigh Wetherall-Dickson) for *Depression and Melancholy 1660–1800*, 4 vols. (2012).

H. J. JACKSON, who teaches English and Book History at the University of Toronto, writes mainly on eighteenth-century and Romantic literature. She served as editor or coeditor of six volumes in the *Collected Works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge* and is the author of two recent books about readers' notes in books, *Marginalia* (2001) and *Romantic Readers* (2005).

FREYA JOHNSTON is University Lecturer and Tutorial Fellow in English at St. Anne's College, Oxford. She is the author of *Samuel Johnson and the Art of Sinking* (2005) and of various chapters and essays on Johnson, Austen, and their contemporaries. She is coediting, with Matthew Bevis, *The Cambridge Edition of the Novels of Thomas Love Peacock*.

JONATHAN LAMB is Mellon Professor of the Humanities at Vanderbilt University. Most recently he is author of *The Evolution of Sympathy* (2009) and coeditor, with Vanessa Agnew, of *Settler and Creole Reenactment* (2009). *The Things Things Say* is in press with Princeton University Press.

JACK LYNCH is Professor of English at Rutgers University–Newark. He is the author of *The Age of Elizabeth in the Age of Johnson* (Cambridge University Press, 2003) and *Deception and Detection in*

Eighteenth-Century Britain (2008). He is also the coeditor, with Anne McDermott, of *Anniversary Essays on Johnson's "Dictionary"* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) and editor of *The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual*.

PAULA MCDOWELL is Associate Professor of English at New York University. She is the author of *The Women of Grub Street: Press, Politics and Gender in the London Literary Marketplace, 1678–1730* (1998) and *Elinor James: Printed Writings* (2005). She is completing a book titled *Fugitive Voices: Print Commerce and the Invention of the Oral in Eighteenth-Century Britain*.

LEE MORRISSEY is Alumni Distinguished Professor of English at Clemson University, and author, most recently, of *The Constitution of Literature: Literacy, Democracy, and Early English Literary Criticism* (2008).

LYNDA MUGGLESTONE is Professor of History of English at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford. She has published widely on language in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and has written a number of books on dictionaries including *Lexicography and the OED: Pioneers in the Untrodden Forest* (2003), *Lost for Words: The Hidden History of the Oxford English Dictionary* (2005), and *Dictionaries: A Very Short Introduction* (2011). She edited *The Oxford History of English* (2006, 2007) and is now working on a book on Johnson.

T. JOCK MURRAY is Professor Emeritus, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. A neurologist recently retired from research and practice with multiple sclerosis patients, he has had a parallel career as an educator, Dean of Medicine, and as Professor of Medical Humanities. Over the last thirty years he has published on Johnson's illness, his knowledge of science and medicine, and the physician circle around Johnson.

NORA NACHUMI is Associate Professor of English at Yeshiva University and author of *Acting like a Lady: British Women Novelists and the Eighteenth-Century Theater* (2008) and several articles on eighteenth-century theatre and fiction.

MELVYN NEW, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, has been writing about eighteenth-century literature for more than forty years. He is General Editor of the *Florida Edition of the Works of Laurence Sterne*, volumes 7 and 8 of which, *Sterne's Letters*, appeared in 2009. Recent

Notes on contributors

xvii

essays on Sterne include contributions to the *Cambridge Companion to Laurence Sterne* (2009) and the *Cambridge Companion to English Novelists* (2009).

FRED PARKER is a Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, and author of *Johnson's Shakespeare* (1989), *Scepticism and Literature: An Essay on Pope, Hume, Sterne, and Johnson* (2003), and *The Devil as Muse: Blake, Byron and the Adversary* (2011).

MURRAY PITTOCK is Bradley Professor of English Literature, Head of College, and Vice-Principal (Arts) of the University of Glasgow. His work on Jacobitism and Romanticism has redefined aspects of our understanding of the eighteenth century in books, including *The Myth of the Jacobite Clans* (1995, 1999, 2009), *Poetry and Jacobite Politics in Eighteenth-Century Britain and Ireland* (Cambridge University Press, 1994, 2006), and *Scottish and Irish Romanticism* (2008). His current projects include an edition of the *Scots Musical Museum* for the Oxford Collected Burns and the Yale edition of the *Political Correspondence of James Boswell*.

DAHLIA PORTER is Assistant Professor of English at Vanderbilt University; her research focuses on the intersection of science and literature in the eighteenth century and Romantic period. She has published articles on Robert Southey, Charlotte Smith, Erasmus Darwin, and the theory of the novel, and coedited *Lyrical Ballads 1798 and 1800* (2008, with Michael Gamer). She is completing a book, *Composite Orders*, on empiricism and formal innovation in the Romantic period, and beginning a project on inventory and the classification of knowledge.

MARTIN POSTLE is Assistant Director of the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, Yale University. He has published extensively on aspects of eighteenth-century British art, and is an authority on Sir Joshua Reynolds.

JOHN RICHARDSON is Professor of English Literature at the National University of Singapore. Since the publication of *Slavery and Augustan Literature: Swift, Pope, Gay* (2004), he has been working principally on the representation of war in the eighteenth century.

JOHN RICHETTI is A. M. Rosenthal Professor of English (emeritus) at the University of Pennsylvania. His most recent book is *The Life of Daniel Defoe: A Critical Biography* (2005). He has also edited *The Cambridge Companion to Daniel Defoe* (2008). He is at work on a

history of English eighteenth-century literature, part of the Blackwell History of English Literature.

FIONA RITCHIE is Assistant Professor of Drama and Theatre in the Department of English at McGill University. She is the author of several articles on women and Shakespeare in the long eighteenth century and is currently writing a monograph on that topic. She is also the coeditor, with Peter Sabor, of an essay collection entitled *Shakespeare in the Eighteenth Century*.

PAT ROGERS is Distinguished University Professor and DeBartolo Chair in the Liberal Arts at the University of South Florida. His recent work includes *The Cambridge Companion to Alexander Pope* (2007); *Edmund Curll, Bookseller*, with Paul Baines (2007); *Producing the Eighteenth-Century Book: Writers and Publishers in England, 1650–1800* (2009); and *A Political Biography of Alexander Pope* (2010).

ADAM ROUNCE is Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University. He has written on Dryden, Johnson, Churchill, Cowper, Akenside, Warburton, Joseph Warton, and Godwin. His main ongoing research is with the *Cambridge Edition of the Complete Works of Jonathan Swift*, for which he is coediting one volume, as well as contributing a chronology. He has also recently written a book about literary failure, concerning the unsuccessful careers of writers that were known to Samuel Johnson.

J. T. SCANLAN teaches eighteenth-century literature at Providence College, where he is also the Pre-Law Advisor.

STEVEN SCHERWATZKY is Professor of English at Merrimack College and author of numerous articles on eighteenth-century literature and culture.

PHILIP SMALLWOOD was for many years Professor of English at Birmingham City University and is now Visiting Fellow in the English Department at the University of Bristol. He has written widely on Samuel Johnson and eighteenth-century literary criticism.

JENNIFER ELLIS SNEAD is Assistant Professor of English at Texas Tech University. She has published articles on Johnson, Pope, book history, and the eighteenth-century evangelical revival. She is at work on a book about early Methodism and popular literacy.

JOHN STONE is a Canadian-born lecturer in English at the University of Barcelona, with a keen interest in the use of English as a language

of culture in eighteenth-century Spain. He has published a scholarly edition of Samuel Johnson's *Preface to Shakespeare* in Catalan (2002), as well as articles on Johnson in the collections *Anniversary Essays on Johnson's "Dictionary"* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) and *Cultural Transfer through Translation: The Circulation of Enlightened Thought in Europe by Means of Translation* (2010).

MICHAEL F. SUAREZ, S.J. is Director of Rare Book School, Professor of English, and University Professor at the University of Virginia. He coedited (with Michael Turner) *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain*, vol. 5, 1695–1830 (2009) and is co-general editor (with H. R. Woudhuysen) of *The Oxford Companion to the Book* (2010).

PAUL TANKARD is Senior Lecturer in English at the world's southernmost university, the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. He has published dozens of scholarly articles and reviews about Johnson, and edits the Papers of the Johnson Society of Australia. His other work concerns marginal genres, the future of literacy, and the Inklings. He has prepared the first edited selection of Boswell's journalistic writings, forthcoming.

KATHERINE TURNER is Associate Professor of English at Mary Baldwin College, in Staunton, Virginia. She has published on eighteenth-century travel writing and poetry, and has coedited (with Francis O'Gorman) *The Victorians and the Eighteenth Century: Reassessing the Tradition* (2004), to which she also contributed an essay on Johnson's Victorian reputation. She has recently edited Sterne's *Sentimental Journey* for Broadview Press, and several volumes of Women's Court and Society Memoirs for Pickering & Chatto.

DAVID F. VENTURO, Professor of English at The College of New Jersey, author of *Johnson the Poet: The Poetic Career of Samuel Johnson* (1999), and editor of *The School of the Eucharist* (2006), has written extensively on British literature and culture, 1640–1830. He helps edit several journals and is working on projects on ambiguity and indirection in Milton, Dryden, and Swift, and on baseball and American culture. He teaches courses on Shakespeare, the eighteenth century, modern poetry, baseball and American culture, and The Beatles.

CYNTHIA WALL is Professor of English at the University of Virginia. She is author of *The Prose of Things: Transformations of Description in the Eighteenth Century* (2006, Honorable Mention for the James Russell

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-19010-7 - Samuel Johnson in Context
Edited by Jack Lynch
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xx

Notes on contributors

Lowell Prize) and *The Literary and Cultural Spaces of Restoration London* (Cambridge University Press, 1998). She is an editor of Defoe, Pope, and Bunyan.

JOHN WILTSHIRE's most recent books are *The Cinematic Jane Austen*, with David Monaghan and Ariane Hudelet (2009), and *The Making of Dr. Johnson* (2009).

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-19010-7 - Samuel Johnson in Context
 Edited by Jack Lynch
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Preface

PRE FACE. *n.s.* [*preface*, Fr. *præfatio*, Lat.] Something spoken introductory to the main design; introduction; something proemial.

This superficial tale
 Is but a *preface* to her worthy praise. *Shakesp.*

Perhaps no English author gains more from being set in context than Samuel Johnson. “The Age of Johnson” – the phrase has been used since at least 1834 – suggests that he stands at the center of “his” age in a way few writers do. Studies of Johnson, therefore, almost always turn into studies of his age: it is impossible to discuss him without also discussing his intellectual, literary, and cultural contexts. His uniquely encyclopedic mind somehow stands for his entire world. Finding one’s way through that world, though, can be daunting, because the volume of accumulated scholarship on the subject is vast. *Samuel Johnson in Context* therefore serves as a kind of *vade-mecum* to eighteenth-century British culture. The contributions from forty-seven leading experts in the field explore the state of the art in recent thinking about eighteenth-century British life.

The collection is divided into three parts. The first, “Life and works,” focuses on Johnson himself: his biography and his most important biographers, the works he wrote for publication, and the letters he wrote for private consumption. The second part, “Critical fortunes,” gives a broad overview of the way Johnson has been discussed, analyzed, studied, and mythologized during his lifetime and since: the collected editions of his works, the translations of his writings into other languages, the critical reception of his works from his death to the present, the portraits and caricatures that appeared during and shortly after his lifetime, and his transformation into the legendary character “Dr. Johnson.”

The third, and longest, part, “Contexts,” contains thirty-eight chapters, arranged in alphabetical order, not so much about Johnson himself as about the culture in which he lived. So copious was Johnson’s mind, and

so wide-ranging his interests, that he is one of the very few writers whose name can be paired with almost any noun in the language to produce a promising research subject. There are good articles waiting to be written on Johnson and agronomy, Johnson and numismatics, Johnson and navigation, Johnson and calculus. But space is necessarily limited, and I have therefore focused on the contexts that best illuminate Johnson's life and writings.

Some of those contexts will be obvious: a chapter on essays makes sense for one of England's greatest essayists; a chapter on clubs helps to illuminate the co-founder of The Club; a chapter on literary criticism is a must for the age's greatest critic. Others, though, may be less expected. When A. S. Turberville published *Johnson's England: An Account of the Life and Manners of His Age* three-quarters of a century ago, he found no room for any discussion of women authors, empire, anthropology, nationalism, or slavery. Putting that volume next to this one can be enlightening, since it shows how much the Johnson of the early twenty-first century differs from that of the early twentieth. Subjects once thought peripheral are now at the center of Johnsonian studies. It is telling that the most frequently quoted sentence in this volume is Johnson's indictment of slavery: "How is it that we hear the loudest yelps for liberty among the drivers of negroes?" (*Works*, 10:454).

A chronology lays out the major events of Johnson's lifetime and the years that followed; after that, each chapter opens with a short selection from Johnson's famous *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755): the etymology, a single definition, and a single quotation. Several dozen illustrations from eighteenth-century sources allow readers to experience something of the visual culture of the age that Johnson made his.

JACK LYNCH

Chronology

Jack Lynch

CHRONO'LOGY. *n.s.* [ΧΡΟΝΟΣ, time, and ΛΟΓΟΣ, doctrine] The science of computing and adjusting the periods of time as the revolution of the sun and moon; and of computing time past, and referring each event to the proper year.

Where I allude to the customs of the Greeks, I believe I may be justified by the strictest *chronology*; though a poet is not obliged to the rules that confine an historian. *Prior*.

1709

September 7 Samuel Johnson born in Lichfield (after Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, Johnson observed his birthday on September 18).

1710

The “Act for the Encouragement of Learning,” the world’s first copyright law, comes into effect.

1711

March Addison and Steele begin publishing *The Spectator* (through December 1712).

1712

March SJ taken to London to be touched by Queen Anne.

October

SJ’s brother Nathaniel born.

1717

January SJ starts at Lichfield Grammar School.

1720

August South Sea Company stock prices begin to fall, prompting the South Sea Bubble.

| | <i>Chronology</i> |
|------------|---|
| xxiv | |
| 1721 | |
| April 3 | Robert Walpole appointed First Lord of the Treasury. Nathan Bailey publishes <i>An Universal Etymological English Dictionary</i> . |
| 1723 | |
| July 16 | Joshua Reynolds born. |
| 1728 | |
| October 31 | SJ begins at Pembroke College, Oxford. |
| 1729 | |
| December | SJ leaves Oxford without a degree. |
| 1730 | Nathan Bailey publishes <i>Dictionarium Britannicum</i> . |
| 1731 | |
| January | Edward Cave begins publishing the <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> . |
| December 7 | Michael Johnson, SJ's father, dies. |
| 1732 | |
| March | SJ works as an usher at Market Bosworth Grammar School, leaving after a few months. |
| 1733 | SJ contributes to the <i>Birmingham Journal</i> . |
| 1734 | |
| August 5 | SJ publishes proposals for an edition of the poems of Politian. |
| 1735 | <i>A Voyage to Abyssinia</i> , SJ's first book, published. |
| July 9 | SJ marries Elizabeth ("Tetty") Jervis Porter. Thomas Dyche and William Pardon publish <i>A New General English Dictionary</i> . |
| 1737 | |
| March 2 | SJ's brother Nathaniel dies. |
| March 2 | SJ and David Garrick leave Lichfield for London. |
| July 12 | SJ writes to Edward Cave, offering to contribute to the <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> . |
| 1738 | |
| March | SJ writes "Ad Urbanum" to Edward Cave. |
| May 13 | <i>London</i> , SJ's first major poem, published. |
| June | "Debates in the Senate of <i>Magna Lilliputia</i> " begin appearing in the <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> . |

Chronology

xxv

- Summer
1739 SJ at work on *The History of the Council of Trent*.
- Spring
Marmor Norfolciense and *A Compleat Vindication of the Licensers of the Stage* published.
- July
Richard Savage leaves London.
- August
1740 SJ leaves London to return to Lichfield.
- Spring
1741 SJ once again moves to London.
- January 27
Hester Thrale born.
- June 24
SJ writes proposals for Robert James's *Medicinal Dictionary*.
- July
1742 SJ becomes the sole writer of the parliamentary debates (through March 1744).
- February 11
Robert Walpole resigns.
- Autumn
1743 Thomas Osborne hires SJ to catalogue the Harleian Library.
- August 1
1744 Richard Savage dies in debtors' prison.
- February 11
1745 *The Life of Richard Savage* published.
- May 30
Alexander Pope dies.
- April 6
1746 *Miscellaneous Observations on the Tragedy of Macbeth* published; the proposed edition comes to nothing.
- July 23
Charles Edward Stuart, descendant of the deposed James II, lands with a Jacobite invading force.
- October 19
1746 Jonathan Swift dies.
- April 16
The Jacobites are defeated at the Battle of Culloden.
- June 18
1747 SJ signs a contract to produce a dictionary in three years.
- August
The Plan of an English Dictionary published.

| | <i>Chronology</i> |
|--------------|--|
| xxvi | |
| September 15 | SJ's "Drury Lane Prologue" delivered by Garrick to mark his management of the theater. |
| 1748 | |
| April 7 | SJ contributes a preface to <i>The Preceptor</i> . |
| 1749 | |
| January 9 | <i>The Vanity of Human Wishes</i> published. |
| February 6 | <i>Irene</i> first performed at Drury Lane. |
| 1750 | |
| March 20 | The first <i>Rambler</i> essay published. Francis Barber brought from Jamaica to England by his owner, Richard Bathurst. |
| 1752 | |
| March 14 | The last <i>Rambler</i> essay published. |
| March 28 | SJ's wife, Elizabeth, dies. |
| 1753 | |
| March 3 | SJ begins contributing to the <i>Adventurer</i> (through March 2, 1754). |
| 1755 | |
| February 20 | SJ awarded an honorary Master of Arts by Oxford University. |
| April 15 | <i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i> published. |
| 1756 | |
| March | SJ arrested for debt. |
| April | SJ becomes editor of the <i>Literary Magazine</i> . |
| May 18 | England declares war on France, entering the Seven Years' War. |
| June 2 | SJ signs a contract to edit Shakespeare's plays, promising to deliver them by Christmas 1757. SJ meets Sir Joshua Reynolds. |
| 1757 | |
| January 1 | The first number of the <i>London Chronicle</i> appears with an article by SJ. |
| 1758 | |
| April 15 | The first <i>Idler</i> essay published (through April 5, 1760). |

Chronology

xxvii

- 1759
 January 20 Sarah Johnson, SJ's mother, dies.
 April 20 *Rasselas* published.
 September 13 General James Wolfe dies in the Battle of Quebec, Britain's greatest victory in the Seven Years' War.
- 1760
 May 1 SJ attends a meeting to promote the education of black Americans with Benjamin Franklin.
 October 25 George II dies; George III assumes the throne.
- 1761
 Winter SJ visits Lichfield for the first time in twenty years.
- 1762
 July SJ awarded a pension of £300 a year.
- 1763
 February 10 The Treaty of Paris ends the Seven Years' War.
 May 16 SJ meets James Boswell.
- 1764
 January SJ and Reynolds form the Literary Club with Oliver Goldsmith, Edmund Burke, John Hawkins, Topham Beauclerk, Anthony Chamier, Bennet Langton, and Christopher Nugent.
- 1765
 January 9 SJ meets Henry and Hester Thrale.
 July 23 SJ awarded an honorary doctorate by Trinity College, Dublin.
 October 10 SJ's edition of Shakespeare's plays published.
- 1766
 October SJ begins his collaboration with Sir Robert Chambers on *A Course of Lectures on the English Law*.
- 1767
 February SJ meets George III, who urges him to continue writing.
- 1768
 August 25 Captain James Cook leaves England, to arrive in Tahiti on April 13, 1769.

xxviii

Chronology

1769

January 2 Reynolds delivers the first of his *Discourses* at the Royal Academy.

SJ appointed Honorary Professor of Ancient Literature at the Royal Academy.

1770

January 17 *The False Alarm* published.

1771

March 16 *Thoughts on the Late Transactions Respecting Falkland's Islands* published.

1772

June 22 The Mansfield decision renders slavery unenforceable in Britain.

1773

March The revised fourth folio edition of the *Dictionary* published.

August SJ leaves London to join JB on a tour of the Western Islands of Scotland.

December 16 The Boston Tea Party shows the extent of American discontent with British policy.

1774

February *Donaldson v. Becket* declares copyright is not perpetual.

July 5 SJ and the Thrales travel to North Wales, returning in September.

October 12 *The Patriot* published.

1775

January 18 *A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland* published.

March 8 *Taxation No Tyranny* published.

April 1 SJ receives his honorary doctorate granted by Oxford University.

April 19 The Battle of Lexington and Concord marks the beginning of the War of American Independence.

September SJ travels to France with the Thrales and Giuseppe Baretti, returning in November.

Chronology

xxix

- 1776
 May 15 JB arranges for SJ to meet John Wilkes.
 July 4 The Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence.
- 1777
 March SJ meets Frances Burney.
 March 29 SJ agrees to contribute “little Lives, and little Prefaces, to a little edition of the English Poets.”
- 1779
 January 20 Garrick dies.
 March The first four volumes of *Lives of the Poets* published.
 June SJ witnesses the Gordon Riots.
- 1781
 April 4 Henry Thrale dies.
 May The last volume of the *Lives of the Poets* published.
- 1782
 January 17 Robert Levet dies.
- 1783
 June 17 SJ suffers a stroke and is unable to speak for two days.
 September 3 The Treaty of Paris officially ends the War of American Independence.
 September 6 Anna Williams dies.
 December 8 SJ founds the Essex Head Club.
- 1784
 June 22 SJ attends the Club for the last time.
 June 30 SJ and JB meet for the last time.
 July 23 Hester Thrale marries Gabriel Piozzi.
 December 8 SJ makes his final will.
 December 13 SJ dies in London.
 December 20 SJ buried at Westminster Abbey.
 December Thomas Tyers’s *Biographical Sketch of Dr. Samuel Johnson* published.

xxx

Chronology

1785

February 1 SJ's dedication of Charles Burney's *Account of the Musical Performance in Westminster Abbey* published posthumously.

August SJ's *Prayers and Meditations* published posthumously.

October 1 JB's *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides* published.

1786

March 26 Hester Piozzi publishes *Anecdotes of the Late Samuel Johnson, LL.D.*

1787

March 20 Sir John Hawkins publishes *The Works of Samuel Johnson*, including *The Life of Samuel Johnson*.

1791

May 16 JB publishes *The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.*

1795

May 19 JB dies.

1796

February 23 A monument to SJ erected in Westminster Abbey.