

FAKING LITERATURE

Literary forgeries are usually regarded as spurious versions of genuine literature. *Faking Literature* argues that the production of a literary forgery is an act that reveals the spurious nature of literature itself. Literature has long been under attack because of its alliance with rhetoric (the art of persuasion) rather than with logic and ethics. One way of deflecting such attacks is to demonise literary forgery: literature acquires the illusion of authenticity by being dissociated from what are represented as ersatz approximations to the real thing. Ruthven argues that literary forgery is the creative manifestation of cultural critique. As a powerful indictment of dubious practices in such activities as literary criticism, book-reviewing and the awarding of literary prizes, literary forgery merits serious attention from cultural analysts, and should be a key component of literary studies. This intriguing book will be of interest to all teachers, students and readers of English literature.

K. K. RUTHVEN has been a professor of English at the universities of Canterbury, Adelaide and Melbourne, and is a fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He has published books on Ezra Pound and on myth, feminist literary studies, and nuclear criticism. After editing *Southern Review* from 1981 to 1985 he became general editor of *Interpretations*, a series of monographs on recent theories and critical practices in the humanities and social sciences.

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*To
Marion Campbell*

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K.K.R.
August 2000

Abbreviations

<i>ASch</i>	<i>The American Scholar</i>
<i>AusFS</i>	<i>Australian Feminist Studies</i>
<i>BB</i>	<i>Bulletin of Bibliography</i>
<i>BrLR</i>	<i>Brooklyn Law Review</i>
<i>ECent</i>	<i>The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation</i>
<i>ELH</i>	<i>English Literary History</i>
<i>ELN</i>	<i>English Language Notes</i>
<i>ESC</i>	<i>English Studies in Canada</i>
<i>HisT</i>	<i>History Today</i>
<i>LRB</i>	<i>London Review of Books</i>
<i>NEQ</i>	<i>New England Quarterly</i>
<i>NLH</i>	<i>New Literary History</i>
<i>NY</i>	<i>New Yorker</i>
<i>NYRB</i>	<i>The New York Review of Books</i>
<i>NYTBR</i>	<i>New York Times Book Review</i>
<i>OED</i>	<i>The Oxford English Dictionary</i> (Oxford, 1989), 20 vols.
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
<i>PBSA</i>	<i>Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America</i>
<i>PQ</i>	<i>Philological Quarterly</i>
<i>RES</i>	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
<i>SSL</i>	<i>Studies in Scottish Literature</i>
<i>SVEC</i>	<i>Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century</i>
<i>TLS</i>	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>
<i>TSWL</i>	<i>Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature</i>