THE CAMBRIDGE EDITION OF THE WORKS OF
JONATHAN SWIFT

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JONATHAN SWIFT

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2. Parodies, Hoaxes, Mock Treatises: Polite Conversation, Directions to Servants and Other Works
3.–6. Poems
7. English Political Writings 1701–1711: The Examiner and Other Works
8. English Political Writings 1711–1714: The Conduct of the Allies and Other Works
9. Journal to Stella: Letters to Esther Johnson and Rebecca Dingley 1710–1713
10. The History of the Four Last Years and Other Works
11. Writings on Religion and the Church to 1714: An Argument against Abolishing Christianity and Other Works
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GENERAL EDITORS’ PREFACE

The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Jonathan Swift is the first fully annotated scholarly edition ever undertaken of Swift’s complete works in both verse and prose. The great editions of Swift by Herbert Davis and Harold Williams have remained standard for over half a century. We are all greatly indebted to them, but the time has come to replace or revise their texts and commentary in the light of subsequent historical, biographical and textual knowledge. Davis’s fourteen-volume edition of the Prose Writings offered valuable introductions but no annotation. The commentary to his separate edition of the Drapier’s Letters, and Williams’s commentaries to the Poems and Journal to Stella, though excellent in their time, must now be supplemented by a considerable body of more recent scholarship. The Cambridge Edition’s detailed introductions, notes and appendices aim to provide an informed understanding of Swift’s place in the political and cultural history of England and Ireland, and to establish the historical, literary and bibliographical contexts of his immense achievement as a prose satirist, poet and political writer. The editors of individual volumes include distinguished historians, as well as leading scholars of eighteenth-century literature.

For the Cambridge Edition, Swift’s texts will be collated and analysed afresh, with attention to new evidence of drafts, autographs, transcripts and printed editions, including revisions of Swift’s own Works. All lifetime editions will be investigated for their authority. The choice of the version to be printed will be based on an assessment of the work’s nature and of the particularities of its history. As a general rule the last authoritative version of the work will be chosen, but in the case of works that are bound in tightly to an immediate context of controversy (polemical tracts, for example), the first edition will usually be chosen instead. In all cases editors will have regard to Swift’s overall conception of his text, including issues of typography and illustration. All substantial authorial variants will be recorded in the apparatus, along with those accidental variants editors deem significant, and full introductions will provide the history of the text and the rationale for editorial decisions.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For permission to consult, and in some cases to quote from, manuscript materials in private possession, we are grateful to the Duke of Devonshire and the Trustees of the Chatsworth settlement, the Viscount Midleton, and his grace the Archbishop of Armagh. In respect of materials held by institutional repositories, we must thank the Board of Trinity College Dublin; the British Library Board; Cambridge University Library; the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies; the Comptroller of Her Majesty’s Stationery Office; the Deputy Keeper of the Records of Northern Ireland; Derbyshire Record Office; Dublin City Council; the Forster Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum; the Hardiman Library, National University of Ireland, Galway; the John Rylands Library, Manchester; the Keeper, Marsh’s Library; the Librarian, Lambeth Palace Library; the National Library of Ireland; the Registry of Deeds, Dublin; the Royal Dublin Society; and the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland. Librarians and archivists whom we have had occasion to trouble have been universally helpful and accommodating, often beyond the call of duty, but we wish to acknowledge in particular the assistance given by Mary Clarke at Dublin City Archives, Tom Desmond at the National Library of Ireland, Carol Hollier at the Hallward Library, University of Nottingham, and Michael Page at the Surrey History Centre. For scholarly advice on a range of subjects, we are indebted to Toby Barnard, John Bergin, Paddy Bullard, Brenda Collins, Sean Connolly, Louis Cullen, Louise Curran, Suzanne Forbes, Richard Holmes, Stephen Karian, Brian Kelly, James Kelly, Ian McBride, Ciarán McCabe, Gordon Rees, Ian Campbell Ross, Estelle Sheehan, Brendan Twomey, Patrick Walsh, James Ward, Tim Watt, Rachel Wilson and, in particular, James Woolley, for his generosity in sharing his knowledge of the Intelligencer papers. The General Editors – Ian Gadd, Ian Higgins, James McLaverty, Claude Rawson, Valerie Rumbold and Abigail Williams – deserve our lasting thanks for their support and advice, in matters of content, text and much else beside, as do the representatives of Cambridge University Press, Linda Bree, Maartje Scheltens, Anna Bond and Victoria Parrin, who have always been helpful and encouraging.
**CHRONOLOGY**

1664  Marriage in Dublin of Swift’s parents, Jonathan Swift the elder and Abigail Erick.


1665  Second Anglo-Dutch War (until 1667). Commencement of *Philosophical Transactions* by Royal Society. Plague in London.


1667  March or April: Swift’s father dies; 30 November: birth of Swift in Dublin.


1673–82  Swift at school at Kilkenny.

1673  Second Declaration of Indulgence withdrawn, and Test Act signed. End of Cabal.

### Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1677</td>
<td>Aphra Behn, <em>The Rover,</em> Part I (Pt II, 1681); Wycherley, <em>Plain Dealer.</em></td>
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<td>1683</td>
<td>Rye House Plot. Death of Oldham.</td>
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<td>1685</td>
<td>February: Death of Charles II and accession of James II. June to July: Monmouth Rebellion; October: Edict of Nantes revoked. Birth of John Gay; birth of George Berkeley. <em>Sylva</em> (including contributions by Dryden); Dryden, ‘To the Pious Memory of Mrs Anne Killigrew,’ and <em>Threnodia Augustalis.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1686</td>
<td>Swift takes his bachelor's degree speciali gratia from TCD. Behn, <em>The Lucky Chance.</em></td>
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**Chronology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1688</td>
<td>Civil war breaks out in Ireland.</td>
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<td>1689</td>
<td>January: Swift leaves for England; employed in Sir William Temple’s household at Moor Park, near Farnham, Surrey; meets Esther Johnson (Stella), then eight years old.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1690</td>
<td>May: Swift returns to Ireland, on doctors’ advice, after first appearance of Ménière’s disease.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1691</td>
<td>Swift, <em>Ode. To the King</em>. Returns to Moor Park by end of year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1694</td>
<td>Swift returns to Ireland, takes deacon’s orders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1695</td>
<td>January: Swift ordained priest, and becomes prebendary of Kilroot, near Belfast.</td>
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1696–9 Swift at Moor Park, at work on *A Tale of a Tub* and related writings.


1700 Death of James II; his son, James Francis Edward (b. 1688), ‘Pretender’ to the throne, recognised by Louis XIV; Act of Settlement; general election (Tory landslide); Impeachment of Somers; general election (Whig recovery); Joseph Addison, ‘Letter to Halifax’ (written); Charles Davenant, *Essay on the Balance of Power*; John Dennis, *Advancement of Modern Poetry*; Richard Steele, *Christian Hero*.


**1704** May: publication of *Tale of a Tub*, containing also 'Battle of the Books', and 'Mechanical Operation of the Spirit'. Second and third edns follow this year. 1 June: arrives back in Dublin; there or in Laracor until November 1707.

Battle of Blenheim; Queen Anne's bounty; Nottingham ministry resigns; Harley Secretary of State; Bolingbroke Secretary at War; death of Locke. Defoe, *Review* (1704–12); Dennis, *Grounds of Criticism in Poetry and Liberty Asserted*; Wycherley, *Miscellany Poems*.

**1705** *Tale of a Tub*, fourth edn.


**1707** April: Swift writes 'Story of the Injured Lady'. August: writes 'Tritical Essay'. November: Swift in London on Church of Ireland business; meets Addison, Steele and other authors; writes tracts on political and ecclesiastical issues; begins friendship with Esther Vanhomrigh (Vanessa).

xvi  chronology

1708 January: Swift, Predictions for 1708; March: Elegy on Partridge, Account of Partridge’s Death; December: Letter concerning the Sacramental Test; writes Sentiments of a Church of England Man (published 1711); writes Argument against Abolishing Christianity.

Battle of Oudenarde; Harley and St John resign; Catalonia Campaign; Somers returns to office; Naturalization Act; Addison Keeper of Records, Dublin Castle. Joseph Bingham, Origines Ecclesiasticæ; Jeremy Collier, Ecclesiastical History of Great Britain (1708–14); Fontenelle, Dialogues of the Dead; Hughes; Locke, Letters; John Philips, Cyder; Shaftesbury, Letter Concerning Enthusiasm; Lewis Theobald, Persian Princess.


Charles XII defeated at Pultawa; Sacheverell’s sermon, The Perils of False Brethren; births of Samuel Johnson and George Lyttelton; Copyright Act (first, fourteen-year term, renewable for another fourteen if author is alive); Steele dismissed from the Gazette. Berkeley, New Theory of Vision; Manley, The New Atalantis; Ambrose Philips, ‘Pastorals’ and Pope, ‘Pastorals’, published in the Tonson Poetical Miscellanies VI; Prior, Poems on Several Occasions; Nicholas Rowe’s Shakespeare (1709–10); Shaftesbury, The Moralists.

1710 Tale of a Tub, fifth edn, with ‘Apology’ and notes. Swift arrives in London on 1 September, travelling on behalf of the Church of Ireland soliciting for a remission of some financial impose on the clergy of the Church of Ireland; begins epistolary diary known as Journal to Stella, 1710–13; Swift’s letter on corruptions of style published as Tatler 230. October: meets Harley, leader of the new Tory government; still dining regularly with Addison and Steele; ‘A Description of a City Shower’ appears in Tatler 238; November: takes over pro-government paper, The Examiner.


1714 February: Swift, Public Spirit of the Whigs declared ‘seditious and scandalous libel’ by Lords; Swift Governor of Bethlehem Hospital (‘Bedlam’). March: Swift helps draft Queen’s speech. June: Swift leaves London for Letcombe Basset, Berkshire; Swift writes Some Free Thoughts. August: sails for Dublin, beginning of six-year break from publication.

1715 June: Pope, Iliad, books I–IV.


1718 Death of Parnell.


1720 Swift, Proposal for the Universal Use of Irish Manufacture; at subsequent trial of its printer, Edward Waters, Chief Justice Whitshed refuses to accept ‘not guilty’ verdict from jury.

1721 April: earliest references to writing of Gulliver’s Travels, in a letter to Charles Ford. Swift travels over 400 miles on his ‘Summer Rambles’ in Ireland.


Emergence of Robert Walpole as de facto Prime Minister. September: death of Prior. December: Parnell, Poems on Several Occasions, with Pope’s ‘Epistle to Oxford’ as preface.
1723 June: Death of Vanessa; Swift begins four-month tour of southern Ireland.


1725 April: Swift created freeman of City of Dublin. April–October: Swift and Stella at Quilca with Sheridan family; completion of *Gulliver's Travels*.


1730 February: Swift tells Pope of his friendship with a 'triumfeminate' of Dublin literary Bluestockings (Mary Barber, Constantia Grierson, Mrs Sican).


April: Pope, *Dunciad Variorum*.

Townshend resigns as Secretary of State. Trial of Francis Charteris. Colley Cibber made Poet Laureate.
1731 Swift works on "Verses on the Death of Dr Swift" (published 1739) and the scatological poems published in 1734.

1732 April: Swift, "Life and Character of Dr Swift." June: Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room." October: Pope/Swift Miscellanies, 'third' vol.; Swift has met his future biographer, the Earl of Orrery.

1734 A letter of commendation from Swift appears as preface to Mary Barber's "Poems on Several Occasions." November: George Faulkner begins to publish Swift's "Works" in Dublin. December: Swift, 'A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed' published with 'Strephon and Chloe' and 'Cassinus and Peter'.

1735 Death of Swift's faithful housekeeper, Mrs Brent.

1736 December: Swift tells Pope that 'I now neither read, nor write; nor remember, nor converse. All I have left is to walk, and ride.' June: A Character of the Legion Club.

1737 August: Swift created freeman of the City of Cork.

1738 Spring: Swift, "Genteel and Ingenious Conversation," fifth and sixth volumes of the Faulkner Works.

1739 January: Swift, "Verses on the Death of Dr Swift," followed by Dublin edn in February.

1740 May: Swift makes his last will, on the brink of his final decline; bequests to Rebecca Dingley (Stella's companion), Martha Whiteway (guardian during his final years) and others; land purchased for St Patrick's Hospital.

1742 November: Swift's understanding 'quite gone'.

1745 19 October: death of Swift.


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1742 November: Swift’s understanding ‘quite gone’.

1745 19 October: death of Swift.


May: Pope's edn of his letters. Prince of Wales expelled from court; death of Queen Caroline.


October: War of Jenkins' Ear.

War of Austrian Succession.

March: Pope, The New Dunciad (i.e. book IV).

1744 May: death of Pope.

ABBREVIATIONS

Add.MS(S)  Additional Manuscript(s)
BL  British Library
Bodl.  Bodleian Library
Boulter Letters  Letters Written by his Excellency Hugh Boulter..., 2 vols.,
C.J.Ire.  The Journals of the House of Commons of the Kingdom of Ireland,
Dublin, 1770
Cal. Anc. Recs  Calendar of the Ancient Records of Dublin, ed. J. T. Gilbert and
Dublin  R. M. Gilbert, 17 vols., Dublin: Joseph Dollard, 1889–1921
Coghill Letters  Letters of Marmaduke Coghill, 1722–1738, ed. D. W. Hayton,
Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2005
CUL  Cambridge University Library
Claude Rawson, Ian Higgins, James McLaverty, et al.,
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008–
Davis  The Prose Writings of Jonathan Swift, ed. Herbert Davis et al.,
del. deleted
DIB  Dictionary of Irish Biography, ed. James McGuire and James
Quinn, 9 vols., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009
Dobbs, Essay  Arthur Dobbs, An Essay on the Trade and Improvement of
Ireland, Dublin, 1729
Ireland. Part II, Dublin, 1731
ECI  Eighteenth-Century Ireland
ECS  Eighteenth-Century Studies
Econ. Hist. Ire.  George O’Brien, The Economic History of Ireland in the
Eighteenth Century, Dublin, 1918
Ehrenpreis  Irvin Ehrenpreis, Swift: The Man, His Works, and the Age,
Ferguson  Oliver W. Ferguson, Jonathan Swift and Ireland, Urbana:
University of Illinois Press, 1962
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HLQ</strong></td>
<td><em>Huntington Library Quarterly</em></td>
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<td><strong>HMC</strong></td>
<td>Historical Manuscripts Commission (printed reports)</td>
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<td><strong>ins.</strong></td>
<td>inserted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MLQ</strong></td>
<td><em>Modern Language Quarterly</em></td>
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<td><strong>NLI</strong></td>
<td>National Library of Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OED</strong></td>
<td><em>Oxford English Dictionary Online</em></td>
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<td><strong>PRA</strong></td>
<td><em>Proceedings of the British Academy</em></td>
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<td><strong>Prior, Absentees</strong></td>
<td>Thomas Prior, <em>A List of the Absentees of Ireland, and the Yearly Value of their Estates and Incomes Spent Abroad</em>, Dublin, 1729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRONI</strong></td>
<td>Public Record Office of Northern Ireland</td>
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<td><strong>RIA</strong></td>
<td>Royal Irish Academy, Dublin</td>
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<td><strong>SStud</strong></td>
<td><em>Swift Studies</em></td>
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xxii  LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Steele, Tracts  The Tracts and Pamphlets of Richard Steele, ed. Rae Blanchard, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1944


TCC  Trinity College, Cambridge

TCD  Trinity College Dublin

TNA  The National Archives [of the UK], Public Record Office


V & A  Victoria and Albert Museum
