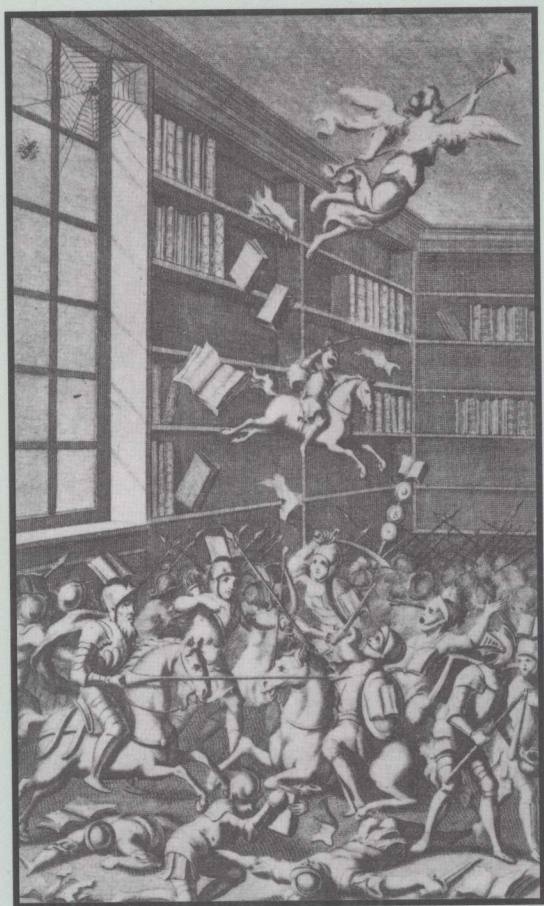


THE WRITINGS OF JONATHAN SWIFT



EDITED BY ROBERT A. GREENBERG
AND WILLIAM B. PIPER

A NORTON CRITICAL EDITION

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THE WRITINGS OF JONATHAN SWIFT

AUTHORITATIVE TEXTS
BACKGROUNDS
CRITICISM



Edited by
ROBERT A. GREENBERG

LATE OF QUEENS COLLEGE

WILLIAM BOWMAN PIPER
RICE UNIVERSITY

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Preface

The purpose of this volume is to make as accessible as possible to the modern reader the best and most characteristic writings of Jonathan Swift. It contains his essential masterpieces, *Gulliver's Travels* and *A Tale of a Tub*, and a wide selection of his other work in prose and poetry. By including a number of the impressive if unpleasant poems Swift wrote after 1729, poems traditionally excluded from collections of his writings, it offers the reader a more substantial and, we believe, more accurate representation of Swift's achievement from virtually the beginning of his career to the end. Except for the *Travels*, which we have placed first, the writings are separated into prose and poetry; and in each category they have been arranged in generally chronological sequence. Our policy has been to avoid excerpts and wherever possible to give Swift complete; the *Journal to Stella*, an unavoidable exception to this policy, is, we hope, sufficiently represented to convey the quality of the whole of that remarkable record. We have also brought together in a supplementary section a variety of contemporary materials—correspondence, anecdotes, literary texts—which throw light on Swift and on the literary and social context within which he worked. And we have included, finally, a selection of modern critical essays in the hope, not of exhausting the issues they raise about Swift and his work, but of bringing these issues into prominence through the medium of spirited commentary and analysis. A further sense of the wealth and diversity of modern discussions of Swift can be found in the annotated bibliography that closes this volume.

Editorial notes have been provided to clarify verbal complexities, topical references, and other details that may prove elusive to the modern reader. In a few of them we have referred the reader on to standard editions of Swift: to the *Prose Works*, edited by Herbert Davis; to the *Poems*, edited by Harold Williams; and to the *Tale*, edited by A. C. Guthkelch and D. Nichol Smith. These editorial notes are signaled throughout the book by arabic numbers and appear at the feet of the appropriate pages—except in the case of three works: the *Tale*, the *Battel*, and the *Fragment*. Swift added many footnotes and marginal notes of his own to these works; and since all of his additions have been exactly rendered, it seemed best to place our notes in a body immediately following the *Fragment* (pp. 415–420). Swift's own notes, here and elsewhere, are indicated, as they were commonly indicated in the editions he oversaw, by asterisks, swords, parallel bars, and other such symbols.

The texts for the *Travels* and other works we have derived primarily from the Faulkner edition of the works, first published in Dublin with Swift's knowledge in 1735. However, our text for the *Tale* and its two companions, the *Battel* and the *Fragment*, which was not incorporated into any formal edition of Swift's works until after 1750, comes primarily from Swift's augmented edition of 1710. Establishing texts of certain of the poems was a difficult task; and in three instances—"Baucis and Philemon," "The Progress of Beauty," and "Verses on the Death"—we have relied heavily on the great modern edition by Harold Williams. This was made possible by permission of the Clarendon Press, which we herewith acknowledge. In general, we have arrived at our texts with the idea of presenting, in the case of each work, a reading as close as possible to Swift's own freshest and fullest creative intention. We have indicated our textual decisions in the notes whenever that seemed useful or advisable.

In composing this book, we have benefited from the facilities and holdings of the Paul Klapper Library of Queens College; and we have enjoyed the help of a number of people: Mrs. Monika Orr and Mr. Richard Perrine of the Rice University Library; Mrs. Catherine Veninga and Miss Eileen Coumont, graduate assistants in the Rice University English Department; and Professors Paul Hunter, Ronald Paulson, and Monroe K. Spears. Particular thanks are due Emily Garlin of W. W. Norton & Co., Inc., for her response to the complexities of eighteenth-century typography.

The Text of
Gulliver's Travels



CAPT. LEMUEL GULLIVER

Splendide Mendax. Hor.

VOLUME III.

Of the AUTHOR'S

WORKS.

CONTAINING,

TRAVELS

INTO SEVERAL

Remote Nations of the WORLD.

In FOUR PARTS, *viz.*

I. A Voyage to LIL-
LIPUT.

II. A Voyage to BROB-
DINGNAG.

III. A Voyage to LA-

PUTA, BALNIBARNY,
LUGGNAGG, GLUBB-
DUBDRIB and JAPAN.

IV. A Voyage to the
COUNTRY of the
HOUGHNMS.

By *LEMUEL GULLIVER*, first a Surgeon,
and then a CAPTAIN of several SHIPS.

*Retroq;
Vulgus abhorret ab his.*

In this Impression several Errors in the *London* and *Dublin*
Editions are corrected.

DUBLIN:

Printed by and for *GEORGE FAULKNER*, Printer
and Bookfeller, in *Essex-Street*, opposite to the
Bridge. MDCCLXXXV.

A Letter

from Capt. Gulliver, to his Cousin Sympson

I hope you will be ready to own publicly, whenever you shall be called to it, that by your great and frequent Urgency you prevailed on me to publish a very loose and uncorrect Account of my Travels; with Direction to hire some young Gentlemen of either University to put them in Order, and correct the Style, as my Cousin *Dampier*¹ did by my Advice, in his Book called, *A Voyage round the World*. But I do not remember I gave you Power to consent, that any thing should be omitted, and much less that any thing should be inserted: Therefore, as to the latter, I do here renounce every thing of that Kind; particularly a Paragraph about her Majesty the late *Queen Anne*, of most pious and glorious Memory; although I did reverence and esteem her more than any of human Species. But you, or your Interpolator, ought to have considered, that as it was not my Inclination, so was it not decent to praise any Animal of our Composition before my Master *Houyhnhnm*: And besides, the Fact was altogether false; for to my Knowledge, being in *England* during some Part of her Majesty's Reign, she did govern by a chief Minister; nay, even by two successively; the first whereof was the Lord of *Godolphin*, and the second the Lord of *Oxford*; so that you have made me *say the thing that was not*. Likewise, in the Account of the Academy of Projectors, and several Passages of my Discourse to my Master *Houyhnhnm*, you have either omitted some material Circumstances, or minced or changed them in such a Manner, that I do hardly know mine own Work. When I formerly hinted to you something of this in a Letter, you were pleased to answer, that you were afraid of giving Offence; that People in Power were very watchful over the Press; and apt not only to interpret, but to punish every thing

¹ William Dampier (1652-1715), a noted explorer whose books on travel were widely read. Swift may have patterned some of Gulliver's traits after him.

which looked like an *Inuendo* (as I think you called it.) But pray, how could that which I spoke so many Years ago, and at above five Thousand Leagues distance, in another Reign, be applyed to any of the *Yahoos*, who now are said to govern the Herd; especially, at a time when I little thought on or feared the Unhappiness of living under them. Have not I the most Reason to complain, when I see these very *Yahoos* carried by *Houyhnhnms* in a Vehicle, as if these were Brutes, and those the rational Creatures? And, indeed, to avoid so monstrous and detestable a Sight, was one principal Motive of my Retirement hither.

Thus much I thought proper to tell you in Relation to your self, and to the Trust I reposed in you.

I do in the next Place complain of my own great Want of Judgment, in being prevailed upon by the Intreaties and false Reasonings of you and some others, very much against mine own Opinion, to suffer my Travels to be published. Pray bring to your Mind how often I desired you to consider, when you insisted on the Motive of *publick Good*; that the *Yahoos* were a species of Animals utterly incapable of Amendment by Precepts or Examples: And so it hath proved; for instead of seeing a full Stop put to all Abuses and Corruptions, at least in this little Island, as I had Reason to expect: Behold, after above six Months Warning, I cannot learn that my Book hath produced one single Effect according to mine Intentions: I desired you would let me know by a Letter, when Party and Faction were extinguished; Judges learned and upright; Pleaders honest and modest, with some Tincture of common Sense; and *Smithfield* blazing with Pyramids of Law-Books; the young Nobility's Education entirely changed; the Physicians banished; the Female *Yahoos* abounding in Virtue, Honour, Truth and good Sense; Courts and Levees of great Ministers thoroughly weeded and swept; Wit, Merit and Learning rewarded; all Disgracers of the Press in Prose and Verse, condemned to eat nothing but their own Cotten, and quench their Thirst with their own Ink. These, and a Thousand other Reformatiions, I firmly counted upon by your Encouragement; as indeed they were plainly deducible from the Precepts delivered in my Book. And, it must be owned that seven Months were a sufficient Time to correct every Vice and Folly to which *Yahoos* are subject; if their Natures had been capable of the least Disposition to Virtue or Wisdom: Yet so far have you been from answering mine Expectation in any of your

Letters; that on the contrary, you are loading our Carrier every Week with Libels, and Keys, and Reflections, and Memoirs, and Second Parts; wherein I see myself accused of reflecting upon great States-Folk; of degrading human Nature, (for so they have still the Confidence to stile it) and of abusing the Female Sex. I find likewise, that the Writers of those Bundles are not agreed among themselves; for some of them will not allow me to be Author of mine own Travels; and others make me Author of Books to which I am wholly a Stranger.²

I find likewise, that your Printer hath been so careless as to confound the Times, and mistake the Dates of my several Voyages and Returns; neither assigning the true Year, or the true Month, or Day of the Month: And I hear the original Manuscript is all destroyed, since the Publication of my Book. Neither have I any Copy left; however, I have sent you some Corrections, which you may insert, if ever there should be a second Edition: And yet I cannot stand to them, but shall leave that Matter to my judicious and candid Readers, to adjust it as they please.

I hear some of our Sea-Yahoos find Fault with my Sea-Language, as not proper in many Parts, nor now in Use. I cannot help it. In my first Voyages, while I was young, I was instructed by the oldest Mariners, and learned to speak as they did. But I have since found that the Sea-Yahoos are apt, like the Land ones, to become new fangled in their Words; which the latter change every Year; insomuch, as I remember upon each Return to mine own Country, their old Dialect was so altered, that I could hardly understand the new. And I observe, when any Yahoo comes from London out of Curiosity to visit me at mine own House, we neither of us are able to deliver our Conceptions in a Manner intelligible to the other.

If the Censure of Yahoos could any Way affect me, I should have great Reason to complain, that some of them are so bold as to think my Book of Travels a meer Fiction out of mine own Brain; and have gone so far as to drop Hints, that the *Houyhnhnms*, and Yahoos have no more Existence than the Inhabitants of *Utopia*.

Indeed I must confess, that as to the People of *Lilliput*, *Brobdinrag*, (for so the Word should have been spelt, and not

² The immediate success of the *Travels* inspired several publishers to issue keys and continuations; none came from Swift.

erroneously *Broddingnag*) and *Laputa*; I have never yet heard of any *Yahoo* so presumptuous as to dispute their Being, or the Facts I have related concerning them; because the Truth immediately strikes every Reader with Conviction. And, is there less Probability in my Account of the *Houyhnhnms* or *Yahoos*, when it is manifest as to the latter, there are so many Thousands even in this City, who only differ from their Brother Brutes in *Houyhnhnmland*, because they use a Sort of a *Jabber*, and do not go naked. I wrote for their Amendment, and not their Approbation. The united Praise of the whole Race would be of less Consequence to me, than the neighing of those two degenerate *Houyhnhnms* I keep in my Stable; because, from these, degenerate as they are, I still improve in some Virtues, without any Mixture of Vice.

Do these miserable Animals presume to think that I am so far degenerated as to defend my Veracity; *Yahoo* as I am, it is well known through all *Houyhnhnmland*, that by the Instructions and Example of my illustrious Master, I was able in the Compass of two Years (although I confess with the utmost Difficulty) to remove that infernal Habit of Lying, Shuffling, Deceiving, and Equivocating, so deeply rooted in the very Souls of all my Species; especially the *Europeans*.

I have other Complaints to make upon this vexatious Occasion; but I forbear troubling myself or you any further. I must freely confess, that since my last Return, some Corruptions of my *Yahoo* Nature have revived in me by conversing with a few of your Species, and particularly those of mine own Family, by an unavoidable Necessity; else I should never have attempted so absurd a Project as that of reforming the *Yahoo* Race in this Kingdom; but, I have now done with all such visionary Schemes for ever.

April 2, 1727.³

3. Though dated some five months after the *Travels*' initial appearance, Gulliver's letter was first published in the Dublin edition of 1735.

The Publisher to the Reader

The author of these Travels, *Mr. Lemuel Gulliver*,¹ is my antient and intimate Friend; there is likewise some Relation between us by the Mother's Side. About three Years ago *Mr. Gulliver* growing weary of the Concourse of curious People coming to him at his House in *Redriff*, made a small Purchase of Land, with a convenient House, near *Newark*, in *Nottinghamshire*, his native Country; where he now lives retired, yet in good Esteem among his Neighbours.

Although *Mr. Gulliver* were born in *Nottinghamshire*, where his Father dwelt, yet I have heard him say, his Family came from *Oxfordshire*; to confirm which, I have observed in the Church-Yard at *Banbury*, in that County, several Tombs and Monuments of the *Gullivers*.

Before he quitted *Redriff*, he left the Custody of the following Papers in my Hands, with the Liberty to dispose of them as I should think fit. I have carefully perused them three Times; The Style is very plain and simple; and the only Fault I find is, that the Author, after the Manner of Travellers, is a little too circumstantial. There is an Air of Truth apparent through the whole; and indeed the Author was so distinguished for his Veracity, that it became a Sort of Proverb among his Neighbors at *Redriff*, when any one affirmed a Thing, to say, it was as true as if *Mr. Gulliver* had spoke it.

By the Advice of several worthy Persons, to whom, with the Author's Permission, I communicated these Papers, I now venture to send them into the World; hoping they may be, at least for some time, a better Entertainment to our young Noblemen, than the common Scribbles of Politicks and Party.

¹ *Gulliver's* initial name carries perhaps a Biblical resonance: see Proverbs 31 for the wise counsel of King Lemuel.

This Volume would have been at least twice as large, if I had not made bold to strike out innumerable Passages relating to the Winds and Tides, as well as to the Variations and Bearings in the several Voyages; together with the minute Descriptions of the Management of the Ship in Storms, in the Style of Sailors: Likewise the Account of the Longitudes and Latitudes; wherein I have Reason to apprehend that Mr. *Gulliver* may be a little dissatisfied: But I was resolved to fit the Work as much as possible to the general Capacity of Readers. However, if my own Ignorance in Sea-Affairs shall have led me to commit some Mistakes, I alone am answerable for them: And if any Traveller hath a Curiosity to see the whole Work at large, as it came from the Hand of the Author, I will be ready to gratify him.

As for any further Particulars relating to the Author, the Reader will receive Satisfaction from the first Pages of the Book.

RICHARD SYMPSON

Contents

PART I: A Voyage to Lilliput

- CHAPTER I: *The Author giveth some Account of himself and Family; his first Inducements to travel. He is shipwrecked, and swims for his Life; gets safe on shoar in the Country of Lilliput; is made a Prisoner, and carried up the Country.* 3
- CHAPTER II: *The Emperor of Lilliput, attended by several of the Nobility, comes to see the Author in his Confinement. The Emperor's Person and Habit described. Learned Men appointed to teach the Author their Language. He gains Favour by his mild Disposition. His Pockets are searched, and his Sword and Pistols taken from him.* 12
- CHAPTER III: *The Author diverts the Emperor and his Nobility of both Sexes, in a very uncommon Manner. The Diversions of the Court of Lilliput described. The Author hath his Liberty granted him upon certain Conditions.* 20
- CHAPTER IV: *Mildendo, the Metropolis of Lilliput, described, together with the Emperor's Palace. A Conversation between the Author and a principal Secretary, concerning the Affairs of that Empire: the Author's Offers to serve the Emperor in his Wars.* 27
- CHAPTER V: *The Author, by an extraordinary Stratagem prevents an Invasion. A high Title of Honour is conferred upon him. Ambassadors arrive from the Emperor Blefuscu, and sue for Peace. The Empress's Apartment on fire by an Accident; the Author instrumental in saving the rest of the Palace.* 32
- CHAPTER VI: *Of the Inhabitants of Lilliput; their Learning, Laws, and Customs. The Manner of Educating their Children. The Author's Way of living in that Country. His Vindication of a great Lady.* 38

- CHAPTER VII: *The Author, being informed of a Design to accuse him of High Treason, makes his Escape to Blefuscu. His Reception there.* 47
- CHAPTER VIII: *The Author, by a lucky Accident, finds Means to leave Blefuscu; and, after some Difficulties, returns safe to his Native Country.* 54

PART II: A Voyage to Brobdingnag

- CHAPTER I: *A great Storm described. The long Boat sent to fetch Water; the Author goes with it to discover the Country. He is left on shoar, is seized by one of the Natives, and carried to a Farmer's House. His Reception there, with several Accidents that happened there. A Description of the Inhabitants.* 63
- CHAPTER II: *A Description of the Farmer's Daughter. The Author carried to a Market-Town, and then to the Metropolis. The Particulars of his Journey.* 74
- CHAPTER III: *The Author sent for to Court. The Queen buys him of his Master the Farmer, and presents him to the King. He disputes with his Majesty's great Scholars. An Apartment at Court provided for the Author. He is in high Favour with the Queen. He stands up for the Honour of his own Country. His Quarrels with the Queen's Dwarf.* 79
- CHAPTER IV: *The Country described. A Proposal for correcting modern Maps. The King's Palace, and some Account of the Metropolis. The Author's Way of travelling. The chief Temple described.* 88
- CHAPTER V: *Several Adventures that happened to the Author. The Execution of a Criminal. The Author shows his Skill in Navigation.* 92
- CHAPTER VI: *Several Contrivances of the Author to please the King and Queen. He shows his Skill in Musick. The King inquires into the State of Europe, which the Author relates to him. The King's Observations thereon.* 101
- CHAPTER VII: *The Author's Love of his country. He makes a Proposal of much Advantage to the King; which is*

<i>rejected. The King's great Ignorance in Politicks. The Learning of that Country very imperfect and confined. Their Laws, and military Affairs, and Parties in the State.</i>	108
CHAPTER VIII: <i>The King and Queen make a Progress to the Frontiers. The Author attends them. The Manner in which he leaves the Country very particularly related. He returns to England.</i>	114
PART III: <i>A Voyage to Laputa, Balnibarbi, Glubbdubdrib, Luggnagg, and Japan</i>	
CHAPTER I: <i>The Author sets out on his Third Voyage. Is taken by Pyrates. The Malice of a Dutchman. His Arrival at an Island. He is received into Laputa.</i>	127
CHAPTER II: <i>The Humours and Dispositions of the Laputians described. An Account of their Learning. Of the King and his Court. The Author's Reception there. The Inhabitants subject to Fears and Disquietudes. An Account of the Women.</i>	132
CHAPTER III: <i>A Phenomenon solved by modern Philosophy and Astronomy. The Laputians' great Improvements in the latter. The King's Method of suppressing Insurrections.</i>	139
CHAPTER IV: <i>The Author leaves Laputa, is conveyed to Balnibarbi, arrives at the Metropolis. A Description of the Metropolis, and the Country adjoining. The Author hospitably received by a great Lord. His Conversation with that Lord.</i>	147
CHAPTER V: <i>The Author permitted to see the grand Academy of Lagado. The Academy largely described. The Arts wherein the Professors employ themselves.</i>	152
CHAPTER VI: <i>A further Account of the Academy. The Author proposeth some Improvements, which are honourably received.</i>	159
CHAPTER VII: <i>The Author leaves Lagado, arrives at Maldonada. No Ship ready. He takes a short Voyage to Glubbdubdrib. His Reception by the Governor.</i>	164
CHAPTER VIII: <i>A further Account of Glubbdubdrib. Antient and Modern History corrected.</i>	168