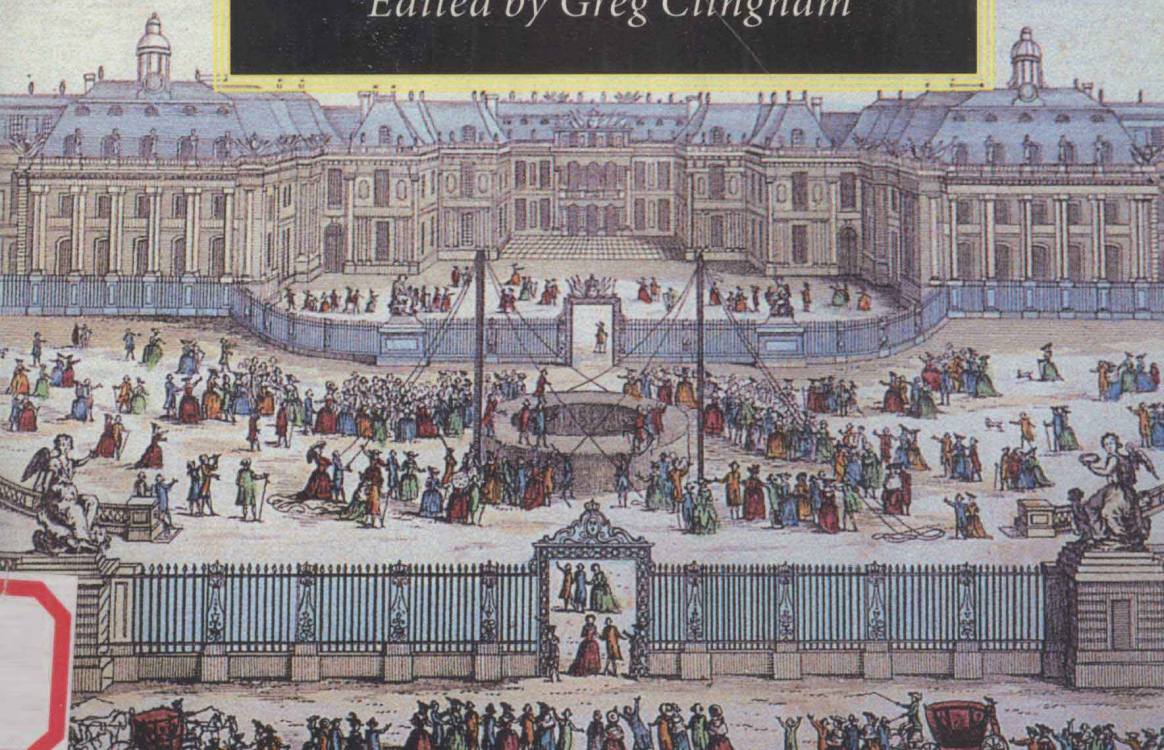


THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO



# SAMUEL JOHNSON

*Edited by Greg Clingham*



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COMPANION TO  
SAMUEL JOHNSON

EDITED BY

GREG CLINGHAM

*National Endowment for the Humanities Chair in the Humanities  
Bucknell University*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom  
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA  
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

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First published 1997

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeset in 10/13 Monotype Sabon by SE

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data*

The Cambridge companion to Samuel Johnson / edited by Greg Clingham.

p. cm. — (Cambridge companions to literature)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 55411 X (hardback). — ISBN 0 521 55625 2 (paperback)

1. Johnson, Samuel, 1709-84 — Criticism and interpretation.

I. Clingham, Greg. II. Series.

PR3534.C34 1997

828'.609-dc21 95-51162 CIP

ISBN 0 521 55411 X hardback

ISBN 0 521 55625 2 paperback

*The Cambridge Companion to Samuel Johnson* provides a unique introduction to the works and intellectual life of one of the most challenging and wide-ranging writers in English literary history. Compiler of the first great English dictionary, editor of Shakespeare, biographer and critic of the English poets, author both of the influential journal *The Rambler* and the popular fiction *Rasselas*, and one of the most engaging conversationalists in literary culture, Johnson is here illuminatingly discussed from different points of view. Essays on his main works are complemented by thematic discussion of his views on the experience of women in the eighteenth century, politics, imperialism, religion, and travel, as well as by chapters covering his life, conversation, letters, and critical reception. Useful reference features include a chronology and guide to further reading. The keynote to the volume is the seamlessness of Johnson's life and writing, and the extraordinary humane intelligence he brought to all his activities. Accessibly written by a distinguished group of international scholars, this volume supplies a stimulating range of approaches, making Johnson newly relevant for our time.

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## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

PHILIP DAVIS, Reader in the English Department, University of Liverpool, is the author of *In Mind of Johnson: Study of Johnson the Rambler* (1989), as well as four other books: *Memory and Writing*, *Experience of Reading*, *Malamud's People*, and *Sudden Shakespeare*.

CATHERINE N. PARKE is Professor of English and Women's Studies at the University of Missouri–Columbia. She writes on British and American literature, on biography and autobiography, and is a poet. Her recent books are *Samuel Johnson and Biographical Thinking* (1991), *In the Shadow of Parnassus: Zoé Atkins's Essays on American Poetry*, and a collection of her own poems, *Other People's Lives*. Forthcoming is a historical–critical study of life writing, *Biography: Writing Lives*.

HOWARD D. WEINBROT is Vilas and Quintana Research Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He has written widely on Samuel Johnson, eighteenth-century intellectual and literary history, and on Anglo-classical and Anglo-French relations. His latest book is *Britannia's Issue: the Rise of British Literature from Dryden to Ossian* (1994).

PAUL J. KORSHIN, Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania, is editor of *The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual*, and author of scores of essays on Johnson. His contribution is taken from his forthcoming book, *Samuel Johnson at Mid Century: A Study of "The Rambler."*

EITHNE HENSON teaches English part-time at Durham University. Her publications include *"The Fictions of Romantic Chivalry": Samuel Johnson and Romance* (1992), and critical and biographical studies on women writers of the Romantic period in *The Feminist Companion to Literature in English*. She has continuing research interests in gender and landscape in nineteenth-century novels.

ROBERT DEMARIA, JR. is the Henry Noble Macracken Professor of English Literature at Vassar College. He is the author of *Johnson's Dictionary and the Language of Learning* (1986), *The Life of Samuel Johnson* (1993), and the forthcoming *Samuel Johnson and the Life of Reading*. With Gwin Kolb, Mr. DeMaria is editing Johnson's writings on language for *The Yale Edition of the Works of Samuel Johnson*.

ROBERT FOLKENFLIK, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine, is the author of *Samuel Johnson, Biographer* (1978) and other books. One of his numerous articles on Johnson will appear in the next edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

CLEMENT HAWES is Associate Professor of English at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He is the author of *Mania and Literary Style: The Rhetoric of Enthusiasm from the Ranters to Christopher Smart* (1996), as well as articles on Jonathan Swift, Laurence Sterne, Christopher Smart, and "Ranter" Abiezer Coppe.

FRED PARKER lectures on English literature at Cambridge University and is a Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge. He is the author of *Johnson's Shakespeare* (1989) and is currently working on a study of skepticism in eighteenth-century literature.

PHILIP SMALLWOOD is Head of the School of English and Professor of English Literature at the University of Central England in Birmingham. His publications include a commentary on Johnson's *Preface to Shakespeare* (1985), and a study of modern criticism, *Modern Critics in Practice: Critical Portraits of British Literary Critics* (1990). He is currently working on aspects of the relations between literary criticism and philosophy.

GREG CLINGHAM holds the National Endowment for the Humanities Chair in the Humanities at Bucknell University, where he is also director of the University Press. His publications include *James Boswell: The Life of Johnson* (1992), the edited *New Light on Boswell* (1991), and the co-authored *Literary Transmission and Authority: Dryden and Other Writers* (1993). His *Writing Memory: Textuality, Authority, and Johnson's "Lives of the Poets"* is forthcoming.

MICHAEL SUAREZ, SJ has been a Marshall Scholar and winner of the Matthew Arnold Prize for literary criticism at Oxford. Suarez is the first person in the history of Oxford University to win both the Newdigate Poetry Prize and the Chancellor's Essay Prize in the same year. He has published scholarly articles and reviews in *The Age of Johnson* and other journals, and is a Junior Research Fellow at St. John's College, Oxford.

JOHN WILTSHIRE is a Reader in the School of English, La Trobe University, Australia, where he specializes in "literature and medicine." His *Samuel Johnson in the Medical World: The Doctor and the Patient* was published in 1991. His most recent book, with Paul A. Komesaroff, is *Drugs in the Health Marketplace: Experiments in Knowledge, Culture and Communication* (1995).

TOM KEYMER is a Fellow and Tutor in English at St. Anne's College, Oxford, and a Lecturer of the university. His publications include *Clarissa and the Eighteenth-Century Reader* (1992), an edition of Fielding's *Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon* (1996), and articles on Pope, Smart, and Sterne.

STEVEN LYNN is a Professor in the English Department at the University of South Carolina. He is the author of *Samuel Johnson after Deconstruction: Rhetoric and*



#### NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

"*The Rambler*" (1992) and *Texts and Contexts: Writing about Literature with Critical Theory* (1994). In addition to Johnson and eighteenth-century literature, his interests include critical theory, the history of rhetoric, the teaching of writing, and science fiction. He has two projects forthcoming, *The Briefest Guide to Writing* and *Introduction to Reading, Writing, and Literature*. Mr. Lynn is currently completing a history of eighteenth-century rhetoric.

## CHRONOLOGY

- 1709 Samuel Johnson born 7 September 1709 (18 September, “new style,” after the introduction of the Georgian calendar in 1752), Lichfield, Staffordshire.
- 1712 Taken to London by Michael Johnson (father) to be touched by Queen Anne for scrofula, a disease of the lymph glands known as the “King’s evil” because it could supposedly be cured by the royal touch.
- 1717 Enters Lichfield Grammar School.
- 1726 Visits his cousin, Rev. Cornelius Ford, at Stourbridge and attends school there.
- 1728 Goes up to Pembroke College, Oxford in October; leaves in December 1729 without a degree.
- 1731 Michael Johnson dies.
- 1732 Teaches at Market Bosworth.
- 1733 In Birmingham; translates Father Jerome Lobo’s *Voyage to Abyssinia* (1735).
- 1735 Marries Elizabeth Jervis (the widow of Harry Porter).
- 1736 Opens a school at Edial, near Lichfield. Begins writing *Irene*.
- 1737 Nathaniel Johnson (brother) dies. Moves to London with David Garrick in March.

- 1738 Begins writing for the *Gentleman's Magazine*. Publishes *London* and the "Life of Sarpi"; begins translation of Sarpi's *History of the Council of Trent* (later abandoned).
- 1739 *Marmor Norfolciense, Vindication of the Licensers of the Stage* (anti-government pamphlets); "Life of Boerhaave"; translation of Crousaz's *Commentary on Pope's Essay on Man*.
- 1740 Lives of Admiral Robert Blake, Sir Francis Drake, and Jean-Philippe Barretier.
- 1741 For the next four years contributes biographies to Robert James's *Medicinal Dictionary*; "Life of Sydenham"; contributions to the *Harleian Miscellany* and the catalogue of the Harleian Library (with Thomas Birch); *Parliamentary Debates* and many articles for the *Gentleman's Magazine*.
- 1745 Proposals for an edition of Shakespeare (later abandoned); *Miscellaneous Observations on Macbeth*.
- 1746 Contract for the *Dictionary*; drafts *Plan for an English Dictionary*, dedicated to Lord Chesterfield (published 1747).
- 1749 *Vanity of Human Wishes*; *Irene* performed and published.
- 1750 Begins *The Rambler* (to 1752).
- 1752 Elizabeth Johnson (wife) dies.
- 1753 Contributes to *The Adventurer* (to 1754), edited by John Hawksworth.
- 1755 *Dictionary of the English Language*; awarded honorary Master's degree by Oxford University.
- 1756 Edits the *Literary Magazine*; proposals for an edition of Shakespeare.
- 1758 Begins *The Idler* (to 1760).
- 1759 Sarah Johnson (mother) dies; *Rasselas*.

## CHRONOLOGY

- 1762      Awarded annual pension of £300 by the prime minister, Lord Bute.
- 1763      Meets Boswell in Tom Davies's bookshop.
- 1764      The Literary Club formed – Johnson, Reynolds, Burke, Nugent, Beauclerk, Langton, Goldsmith, Chamier, and Hawkins meet weekly for conversation at the Turk's Head, Soho.
- 1765      Publishes edition of Shakespeare; meets Henry Thrale and Hester Lynch Thrale; awarded an honorary LL D by Trinity College, Dublin.
- 1766      Assists Robert Chambers with Vinerian lectures on the law at Oxford; severe depression.
- 1770      *The False Alarm*.
- 1771      *Thoughts on Falkland's Islands*.
- 1773      4th, revised edition of the *Dictionary* and revised edition of Shakespeare; tours Scotland with Boswell (August to November).
- 1774      Tours Wales with the Thrales; *The Patriot*.
- 1775      *Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland*; *Taxation No Tyranny*; awarded honorary DCL by Oxford; visits France with the Thrales.
- 1777      Agreement to write prefaces to the lives and works of the English poets (*The Lives of the Poets*); unsuccessful campaign to reprieve Rev. William Dodd, condemned to death for forgery.
- 1779      First four volumes of *Prefaces, Biographical and Critical to the Works of the English Poets*.
- 1781      Henry Thrale dies; last six volumes of *Prefaces, Biographical and Critical*.
- 1782      "On the Death of Dr. Robert Levet."
- 1783      Suffers a stroke and loss of speech; recovers; suffers illness and depression during winter 1783–84.

#### CHRONOLOGY

- 1784 Undergoes religious “conversion”; Dedication to Charles Burney’s *Account of Commemoration of Handel*; dies 13 December; buried in Westminster Abbey, 20 December.
- 1785 James Boswell’s *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides with Samuel Johnson, LL.D.*
- 1786 Hester Thrale Piozzi’s *Anecdotes of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.*
- 1787 Sir John Hawkins’s *The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.*
- 1791 James Boswell’s *Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.*
- 1793 2nd edition of Boswell’s *Life of Johnson*.

## SHORT TITLES AND ABBREVIATIONS

### THE YALE EDITION OF THE WORKS OF SAMUEL JOHNSON

General Editor: John H. Middendorf

(New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1958—).

<i>Diaries</i>	<i>Diaries, Prayers, and Annals</i> , ed. E. L. McAdam, with Donald and Mary Hyde (1958).
<i>Idler</i>	<i>The Idler</i> and <i>The Adventurer</i> , ed. W. J. Bate, John M. Bullitt, and L. F. Powell (1963).
<i>Adventurer</i>	<i>The Idler</i> and <i>The Adventurer</i> , ed. W. J. Bate, John M. Bullitt, and L. F. Powell (1963).
<i>Poems</i>	<i>Poems</i> , ed. E. L. McAdam, Jr., with George Milne (1964).
<i>Rambler</i> III—V	<i>The Rambler</i> , ed. W. J. Bate and Albrecht B. Strauss, 3 vols. (1969).
<i>Shakespeare</i>	<i>Johnson on Shakespeare</i> , ed. Arthur Sherbo, introduction by Bertrand H. Bronson, 2 vols. (1969).
<i>Journey</i>	<i>A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland</i> , ed. Mary Lascelles (1971).
<i>Politics</i>	<i>Political Writings</i> , ed. Donald J. Greene (1977).
<i>Sermons</i>	<i>Sermons</i> , ed. Jean Hagstrum and James Gray (1978).
<i>Abyssinia</i>	<i>A Voyage to Abyssinia</i> , ed. Joel J. Gold (1985).
<i>Rasselas</i>	<i>Rasselas and Other Tales</i> , ed. Gwin J. Kolb (1990).
<i>Works</i>	<i>The Works of Samuel Johnson</i> , ed. Arthur Murphy, 15 vols. (Edinburgh, 1806).
<i>Lives</i>	<i>Lives of the English Poets</i> , ed. G. B. Hill, 3 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1905).

<i>Letters</i>	<i>The Letters of Samuel Johnson</i> . The Hyde Edition, ed. Bruce Redford, 5 vols. (Princeton University Press and Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992–94).
<i>JM</i>	<i>Johnsonian Miscellanies</i> , ed. G. B. Hill, 2 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1897).
<i>Life</i>	James Boswell, <i>The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D., with a Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides</i> , ed. G. B. Hill, rev. L.F. Powell, 6 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1934–64).
Hawkins	Sir John Hawkins, <i>The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.</i> (London, 1787).
<i>CH</i>	<i>Johnson: The Critical Heritage</i> , ed. James T. Boulton (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1971).
<i>Savage</i>	<i>Life of Savage</i> , ed. Clarence Tracy (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971).
<i>Early Lives</i>	<i>Early Biographical Writings of Dr. Johnson</i> , ed. J. D. Fleeman (Farnborough: Gregg International, 1973).
<i>Early Biographies</i>	<i>The Early Biographies of Samuel Johnson</i> , ed. O M Brack, Jr. and Robert E. Kelley (University of Iowa Press, 1974).
Greene	<i>Samuel Johnson</i> . The Oxford Authors. ed. Donald Greene (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1984).
<i>AJ</i>	<i>The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual</i>
<i>CQ</i>	<i>The Cambridge Quarterly</i>
<i>ECL</i>	<i>Eighteenth-Century Life</i>
<i>ECS</i>	<i>Eighteenth-Century Studies</i>
<i>ELH</i>	<i>English Literary History</i>
<i>JHI</i>	<i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>
<i>LRB</i>	<i>London Review of Books</i>
<i>MLQ</i>	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
<i>MLR</i>	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
<i>MLS</i>	<i>Modern Language Studies</i>
<i>MP</i>	<i>Modern Philology</i>

SHORT TITLES AND ABBREVIATIONS

NQ	<i>Notes and Queries</i>
PMLA	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
PQ	<i>Philological Quarterly</i>
RES	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
TLS	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>



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