CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS ix
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS xi

INTRODUCTION

Print and Letters in Eighteenth-Century England 3
Technology and Culture 3
Literature and Letters 7
THE DUNCIAD *and Print's Destruction of Courtly Letters* 8
Boswell's LIFE OF JOHNSON: *Letters in Print Culture* 16

CHAPTER I

The King of England Meets the Great Cham of Literature 24
The King's Library and the Meeting with Johnson 24
Courtly Letters and the Old Regime 28
Johnson Refuses to Write at the King's Command 35
The "Caldwell Minute" 44

CHAPTER II

Printing, Bookselling, Readers, and Writers in Eighteenth-Century London 48
Print Logic 48
The Printing Business 55
Bookselling, Readers, and the Marketplace 62
Writers in a Print Culture 71

CHAPTER III

Making the Writer's Role in a Print Culture 91

Print Makes Johnson a Writer 91

The Writer's Work Patterns 94

Copyright and the Writer's Identity 97

Patronage and the Independent Writer 102

Social Identities and Cultural Roles 107

The Hero as Man-of-Letters 114

CHAPTER IV

The Writer as Culture Hero: Boswell's Johnson 118

Boswell's Writing and the LIFE OF JOHNSON 118

Boswell's Johnson 130

CHAPTER V

Creating an Aura for Literary Texts in Print Culture 152

Literary Aura 152

Canon-Making 158

Print Fixity and the Edition of Shakespeare 164

Style and the Printed Text 172

Language and the Literary Text: Johnson's DICTIONARY 181

CHAPTER VI

Reading and Readers: The Literacy Crisis of the Eighteenth-Century 204

Johnson as Speaker, Talker, and Reader 204

The Writer's Audience in a Print Culture 219

Johnson's Criticism and the Common Reader 226

CHAPTER VII

The Place and Purpose of Letters in Print Society 241
The Actual and the Imaginary Library 241
Catalogues, Encyclopedias, and Knowledge Trees: Organizing the Library 249
The Place of Letters in the Scheme of Knowledge: Poetry, the Arts, and Literature 258
A History of Letters: THE LIVES OF THE POETS 264

CHAPTER VIII

The Social Construction of Romantic Literature 283
The History of Literary Systems 283
Wordsworth's PRELUDE *and High Romanticism* 287
Balzac's LOST ILLUSIONS: *Social Romanticism* 297
Conclusion: Cultural Poetics and Johnson's Three-Legged Chair 311

APPENDIX

Letters as a Socially Constructed Reality: A Schematic View 317

BIBLIOGRAPHY 323
INDEX 343