Contents

List of Tables	xi
List of Illustrations	xii
Abbreviations	xiii
Introduction: A New Sensibility for Classics	1
1. Our Native Classics, Complete and Uniform	7
After the Greek and Roman Classics	9
A Classical Apollo for Britannia	19
Diff'rent Sorts of Fare from a Miscellany	24
Copyright and Canon	30
A Reputable Trade—or Pitiful, Beggarly, Precarious?	34
2. The Elzevirs of Glasgow: Robert and Andrew Foulis	39
Gilt by Association	41
The Character of a University-Printer	46
Enterprising Scotsmen and the Impartial Briton	51
An Elzevir for English Poetry	55
Readers Glad to have them	62
3. William Creech and John Boyle: The Classics Spread Across Scotland	68
The Most Celebrated British Poets	70
As Great a Pirate as the Worst	75
Beattie's Place among that Fraternity	81
All that is Valuable of the Whole English Poets	87
The Best Schemes the Most Ruinous	90
4. John Bell's Little Trifling Edition Revisited	97
In the Elzeverian Stile	98
Pictures of the Highest Authority	106
The Progress of Piracy	116
The Brilliancy of its Reception	124
Booksellers Printing upon One Another	130
5. Johnson's <i>Prefaces</i> and Bell's Connected System of Biography	134
The Magnum Nomen	135
An Apology to the Partners	140
That Part which you might Call Piracy	144
Bell's Use of Johnson's <i>Prefaces</i> Additional Materials Interwoven	153
AUGITIONAL IVIALENAIS INICI WOVEN	158

x Contents

6.	The Best Judges of Vendible Poetry: William Strahan, Joseph	
	Wenman, et al.	169
	All the English Poets of Reputation	170
	A Considerable Degree of Demand	175
	The Parnassian Library of Wenman	180
	Every Syllable Written by the Respective Authors	186
	Rendering the Collection More Complete	189
7.	Robert Anderson's Comprehensive View of English Poetry	199
,	Active and Liberal Cooperation between Publisher and Editor	200
	Appearing as Editor	207
	Scatter'd Gems that Round Parnassus Shine	211
	The Cheapest and Most Perfect Edition of British Poets	216
	Wanting to Complete the Arrangement	223
8.	Charles Cooke's Pocket Library	227
	The Important Object of Easy Purchase	228
	Stamped with Universal Approbation	239
	Ardour and the British Bard	248
	Attracting the Notice of the Artist	253
	Ornamental for the Book-Case	261
9.	John Sharpe and Alexander Chalmers: A Body of Standard	
	English Poetry	266
	The Truly Eminent English Poets	268
	Deviation from Preceding Systems	273
	To the Curious in Prints	282
	The Minnow Tribe Swims on	289
	Perpetuating Editions in this Manner	297
10.	Splinter Canons, Fugitives, and Empire	309
	The 'Old Canon': How Sudden and How Rigid?	310
	Classically Fugitive	316
	Rejecting the Female's Rightful Part	321
	English Canons and Scottish (and Irish) Bards	326
	Circulation of the British Classics	336
Epil	ogue: A Library to Every House	344
Sele	ct Bibliography	353
Index of Booksellers, Printers, Publishers		
	eral Index	375

List of Tables

1.1.	Multi-volume collections of English poetry, 1765–1810	10
2.1.	The English Poets of Foulis	58
3.1.	Poets in the Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen series	91
4.1.	Bell's Edition. The Poets of Great Britain: printing and publication	100
4.2.	Portraits in The Poets of Great Britain	112
4.3.	Early reprints of The Poets of Great Britain	129
5.1.	Bell's use of Johnson's Prefaces	154
5.2.	Kinds of sources for Bell's lives	160
6.1.	Bell's 'classics' and the London trade's 'poets of reputation'	172
6.2.	Wenman's Poetical Magazine and 'Cheap Editions'	184
6.3.	Proprietors of the successive editions of The Works of the English Poets	190
6.4.	Later reprints of The Poets of Great Britain	195
7.1.	Trade orders, with prices, for Bell & Bradfute's The Works of the British Poets	218
8.1.	Portraits in Cooke's Select British Poets	234
8.2.	Roster of Cooke's 'Arrangement of the Poets preparing for the Press'	240
8.3.	Cooke's Select British Poets: record of production	242
8.4.	Delivery of the engravings in nos. 1-21 of Cooke's Select British Poets	254
9.1.	Sharpe's <i>The Works of the British Poets</i> , as published 1805–8 and reissued 1818	276
9.2.	Sharpe's Supplement to the British Poets, as published 1808–9 and reissued 1809, 1818	281
9.3.	Sharpe's Translations, as published 1809–1812 and reissued 1818	283
	Cawthorn's reprints of The Poets of Great Britain	294
9.5.	Bagster's Edition: The Poets of Great Britain packaged in two forms	295
9.6.	The 'standard English poets': a fifty-year overview	299

List of Illustrations

1.1.	Pocket editions of the English poetical classics.	14
1.2.	Handbill for Bell's edition listing authors, dates, prices, and bindings.	18
1.3.	Frontispiece and dedication to Cooke's Select British Poets.	24
2.1.	Cooke's edition of Pope as a prize awarded at Classical School.	42
2.2.	A set of the Foulis Poets in the traveling library of Sir Robert Chambers.	63
3.1.	John French's title-page on Boyle's edition of Dryden.	95
4.1.	Bell's letterpress title-pages for Thomson.	105
4.2.	Portrait of Butler from the library of Lord Chesterfield.	109
4.3.	Bell's first portrait of Butler and its replacement.	110
4.4.	Replacement portrait of Pope, as distributed with Cowley's poems.	115
5.1.	Manuscript index to 'Johnson's Poets'.	143
6.1.	Wenman's title-page for Thomson.	182
7.1.	Prospectus and specimen sheet for Anderson's edition.	203
7.2.	Handbill summing up the contents of Anderson's edition.	215
8.1.	Cooke's 'stipple style' engraving on a plate for Tickell's poems.	233
8.2.	Wrappers, front and back, to No. 74 of Cooke's edition.	238
8.3.	The elimination of 'British Bards' from Cooke's title.	251
8.4.	Erotic and horrific elements in plates for Thomson's Summer and Winter.	258
9.1.	Wrappers, with prospectus, to 'Sharpe's Edition of the British Poets'.	274
9.2.	Title-page, recto, and verso, of Nicholson's edition of Lyttelton.	291
9.3.	Anti-slavery excerpt on Nicholson's cards, with child's writing on verso.	292
9.4.	One of Bell's vignettes for Cowley, later reassigned to Dryden's Juvenal.	297
0.1.	Engraved title-page to Morison's edition of Colville.	334
10.2.	Engraved title-pages to Ossian's Poems, 1799 and 1803.	335
E.1.	Armorial bookplates in copies of Bell's edition.	346
E.2.	Fingerpost and index in a copy of Night-Thoughts (Bell's edition).	348