Contents

A Note on Texts — VII

A The Age of Criticism

1 Introduction — 3

2	Contemporary Discussions of Criticism and the Critic — 12
2.1	Definitions and Evaluations: The State of Criticism — 12
2.2	Imagining Criticism — 22

B The Authority of Criticism

Critical Authority — 49
Aristocratic Authority — 54
Court-Wits and Gentleman Critics 55
Changes in the System of Patronage 71
The Authority of Seniority: Ancient and Modern Criticism — 94
The Authority of Poetic Genius 115
The Poet as Critic — 117
Poets and Editors — 136
Learning: Knowledge between Authority and Pedantry — 150
The Pedant as Exemplary — 151
Polite Learning against Erudition 157
Specialized Knowledge — 164
Rules and the Critic — 177
Power Structures — 180
Rules and Reason — 193



VI —	Contents
------	----------

7	Taste and the Critic 201
7.1	Debating Taste — 203
7.2	The Taste of the Audience — 213
7.3	The Standard of Taste — 216
8	Name-Authority: The Critic as Institution — 229
8.1	The Anachronistic Critic: John Dennis — 233
8.2	The Institutional Critic: Samuel Johnson —— 254
9	Authority and the Marketplace — 269
9.1	Overproduction — 275
9.2	"This process of chymical criticism":
	The Critic as Gate-Keeper — 285
10	Institutionalizing Authority: Academies and Reviews 301
10.1	Courts of Criticism I: The Academy 301
10.2	Courts of Criticism II: The Reviews — 312
10.3	"The Theatre of War": Attacks on the Reviews 341

C Conclusion

Distance and Democracy — 359

Works Cited — 373

Index — 405