
Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
Introduction The English fable	1
1 Aesopian examples: the English fable collection and its authors, 1651–1740	14
2 “The first pieces of wit”: Augustan fable theory and the birth of the book	48
3 Common and uncommon characters: the lives of Aesop	71
4 Brutal transactions, “mysterious writ”: Aesop’s fables and Dryden’s later poetry	99
5 In her “transparent Laberynth”: obstructions of poetic justice in Anne Finch’s fables	128
6 Risking contradiction: John Gay’s <i>Fables</i> and the matter of reading	156
7 The moral	185
<i>Notes</i>	190
<i>Bibliography</i>	223
<i>Index</i>	230