

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	9
HISTORICAL ORIENTATIONS	11
I. Research Topic: The Rising Bourgeoisie and Enlightenment Comedy ..	11
II. Research Tools: The "Autonomy of Art" and "Rezeptionsästhetik"	21
EXTRATEXTUAL RECEPTION	33
The Media and the Critics	33
The Horizon of Expectations: 1740-54	45
Uncomfortable Criticism:	
Three Scandalous Comedies	81
Polemical Essays and "Theory Plays"	111
I. "Brod und Freiheit!"	111
II. "Die Comödie, als ein junges Frauenzimmer, sehr prächtig gekleidet, mit einem Spiegel in der Hand."	123
INTRATEXTUAL RECEPTION	135
Textual History as Reception: <u>Die Betschwester</u>	137
The Audience in Tow: Lessing, L.A.V. Gottsched, J.C. Krüger	147
CONCLUDING REMARKS	165
NOTES	169
EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY PERIODICALS CONSULTED	191
BIBLIOGRAPHY	197