

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	page vi
ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
PREFACE	xv
INTRODUCTION	I
NOTE ON THE TEXT	39

PART I

CONTEMPORARY CRITICISM 1705-44

General reactions 1705-20

1 WILLIAM WYCHERLEY, April 1705	43
2 (a) JOHN GAY on Pope, May 1712	44
(b) JOSEPH ADDISON on Pope, October 1712	44
3 JOHN DENNIS, from <i>A True Character of Mr. Pope</i> , May 1716	45
4 LEONARD WELSTED, from <i>Palæmon to Cælia</i> , March 1717	53
5 THOMAS PARNELL, 'To Mr. Pope', 1717	54
6 (a) GILES JACOB, from <i>The Poetical Register</i> , December 1718	57
(b) DR ABEL EVANS, July 1719	57

Pastorals (1709)

7 Reactions 1705-9	59
(a) LORD LANSDOWNE, 1705 or 1706	59
(b) WILLIAM WALSH, April 1705	59
(c) JACOB TONSON, April 1706	60
(d) WILLIAM WALSH, September 1706	60
(e) WILLIAM WYCHERLEY, May 1709	60
8 WILLIAM WYCHERLEY's public acclamation, 1709	61
9 ALEXANDER POPE, <i>The Guardian</i> , April 1713	63

An Essay on Criticism (1711)

10 JOHN DENNIS, from <i>Reflections Critical and Satyrical</i> , June 1711	71
11 JOSEPH ADDISON, from <i>The Spectator</i> , December 1711	77
12 CHARLES GILDON's first attack, December 1711	81
13 AARON HILL, May 1738	82

CONTENTS

14	Two contrasting views	86
	(a) SIR THOMAS HANMER (?), 1736	86
	(b) LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU, January–February 1741	86
	<i>Messiah</i> (1712)	
15	SIR RICHARD STEELE, June 1712	87
	<i>Windsor Forest</i> (1713)	
16	JOHN DENNIS, December 1714	89
17	WILLIAM BOND, from <i>The Progress of Dulness</i> , June 1720	91
	<i>The Rape of the Lock</i> (1714)	
18	(a) SIR WILLIAM TRUMBULL, March 1714	93
	(b) REV. GEORGE BERKELEY, May 1714	94
19	CHARLES GILDON, from <i>A New Rehearsal</i> , April 1714	94
20	JOHN DENNIS, from <i>Remarks on the Rape of the Lock</i> , May 1714ff.	97
21	WILLIAM BOND, from <i>The Progress of Dulness</i> , June 1720	107
22	MATTHEW CONCANEN, from 'Of Modern Poetry', November 1725	109
23	P.-F. GUYOT, 'Preface du Traducteur', 1728	110
24	Two Italian assessments	111
	(a) ANDREA BONDUCCI, 1739	111
	(b) GIUSEPPE BUONDELMONTI, 1739	111
	<i>Iliad</i> (1715–20)	
25	RICHARD FIDDES, from <i>A Prefatory Epistle</i> , 1714	114
26	THOMAS BURNET and GEORGE DUCKETT, from <i>Homerides</i> , March 1715	115
27	(a) Anonymous, <i>The Weekly Journal</i> , June 1715	116
	(b) Anonymous, <i>The Weekly Journal</i> , June 1715	117
28	The public takes sides, June 1715–March 1717	118
	(a) THOMAS PARNELL, June 1715	118
	(b) JONATHAN SWIFT, June 1715	118
	(c) DR EDWARD YOUNG, June 1715	119
	(d) REV. GEORGE BERKELEY, July 1715	119
	(e) JOHN GAY, July 1715	120
	(f) THOMAS BURNET, August 1715	120
	(g) JOSEPH ADDISON, from <i>The Freeholder</i> , May 1716	120
	(h) J. D. BREVAL ('Joseph Gay'), from <i>The Confederates</i> , March 1717	121

CONTENTS

29	LEWIS THEOBALD, from <i>The Censor</i> , January 1717	122
30	JOHN DENNIS, from <i>Remarks on Mr. Pope's Homer</i> , February 1717	124
31	LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU, September 1717	128
32	ANNE DACIER, 'Reflexions sur la Preface de M. Pope', 1719	130
33	WILLIAM MELMOTH, October 1719	135
	<i>A Roman Catholick Version of the First Psalm (1716)</i>	
34	SIR RICHARD BLACKMORE, from <i>Essays upon Several Subjects</i> , 1717	139
	<i>Eloisa to Abelard (1717)</i>	
35	(a) MATTHEW PRIOR, from <i>Alma</i> , March 1719	140
	(b) JAMES DELACOUR, preface to <i>Abelard to Eloisa</i> , 1730	141
	<i>Elegy to the Memory of an Unfortunate Lady (1717)</i>	
36	THOMAS BLACKLOCK, c. 1742	143
	<i>Epitaph on John Hewet and Sarah Drew (1718)</i>	
37	(a) BISHOP ATTERBURY, September 1718	144
	(b) LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU, November 1718	146
	General Reactions 1721-9	
38	MATTHEW CONCANEN, from 'A Letter to a Critick', 1722	147
39	VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE, February 1724	148
40	DR EDWARD YOUNG, from <i>The Universal Passion</i> , Satire i, 1725	150
41	WALTER HARTE, from 'To Mr. Pope', 1727	151
42	VOLTAIRE on Pope	153
	(a) October 1726	153
	(b) from <i>Lettres philosophiques</i> , June 1726-March 1729	153
43	(a) MATHER BYLES, October 1727	154
	(b) MATHER BYLES, May 1728	154
44	JOHN DENNIS (?), from <i>The Daily Journal</i> , May 1728	156
45	MATTHEW CONCANEN, from <i>A Supplement to the Profound</i> , August 1728	158
46	Pope's superiority	163
	(a) RICHARD SAVAGE, from <i>The Wanderer</i> , 1729	163
	(b) BISHOP ATTERBURY, November 1729	163
	<i>Odyssey (1725-6)</i>	
47	'HOMERIDES', from <i>The London Journal</i> , July 1725	164
48	DANIEL DEFOE, 'On Pope's Translation of Homer', July 1725	166
49	JOSEPH SPENCE, from <i>An Essay on Pope's Odyssey</i> , part i, June 1726	168

CONTENTS

50	JOSEPH SPENCE, from <i>An Essay on Pope's Odyssey</i> , part ii, August 1727	197
51	MATTHEW CONCANEN, from Preface, <i>A Supplement to the Profound</i> , August 1728	206
	<i>The Dunciad</i> (1728)	
52	W.A., from <i>Mist's Weekly Journal</i> , May 1728	208
53	Anonymous, from <i>An Essay on the Dunciad</i> , June 1728	214
54	JONATHAN SWIFT, July 1728	217
	<i>The Dunciad Variorum</i> (1729)	
55	Anonymous, from <i>Pope Alexander's Supremacy Examined</i> , May 1729	219
56	JOHN DENNIS, from <i>Remarks upon the Dunciad</i> , July 1729	222
57	BISHOP ATTERBURY, August 1729	227
58	GILES JACOB, December 1729	228
59	WALTER HARTE, from <i>An Essay upon Satire</i> , January 1731	230
60	HENRY FIELDING, from <i>The Champion</i> , November 1739	235
	General reactions 1730-44	
61	SAMUEL RICHARDSON, conversation, c. 1730-4	236
62	LORD LYTTELTON, <i>An Epistle to Mr. Pope</i> , June 1730	237
63	'CHEVALIER' ANDREW RAMSAY, 1733	240
64	Anonymous, from <i>The Satirist</i> , June 1733	241
65	Anonymous, from <i>The Poet finish'd in Prose</i> , June 1735	242
66	Anonymous poem from <i>The Prompter</i> , November 1735	244
67	THOMAS DALE, from <i>An Epistle...from South Carolina</i> , 1737	245
68	(a) DR ISAAC WATTS, June 1738	246
	(b) COUNTESS OF HERTFORD, August 1738	247
	(c) COUNTESS OF HERTFORD, May 1739	247
69	HENRY BROOKE, November 1739	248
70	DR ISAAC WATTS, from <i>The Improvement of the Mind</i> , 1741	250
71	LORD HERVEY, from <i>A Letter to Mr. C—b—r</i> , August 1742	251
72	Anonymous, from <i>Sawney and Colley</i> , 1742	253
	'Ethick Epistles' (1729-36)	
73	(a) VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE, June-July 1734	263
	(b) JONATHAN SWIFT, December 1736	263
	<i>Moral Essays IV: Epistle to Burlington</i> (1731)	
74	DUKE OF CHANDOS, December 1731	265

CONTENTS

75	LEONARD WELSTED, from <i>Of Dulness and Scandal</i> , January 1732 <i>Moral Essays III: Epistle to Bathurst</i> (1733)	266
76	JONATHAN SWIFT, January 1733 <i>Imitations of Horace, Satires II. i</i> (1733)	268
77	LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU, <i>Verse Address'd to the Imitator</i> , March 1733	269
78	Anonymous, from <i>An Epistle to the Little Satyrist of Twickenham</i> , March 1733 <i>An Essay on Man</i> (1733)	273
79	Pope describes the poem's reception, March 1733	278
80	Initial reactions, 1733-4	279
	(a) LEONARD WELSTED, March 1733	279
	(b) DR ALURED CLARKE, April 1733	279
	(c) A.Z. from <i>The Gentleman's Magazine</i> , February 1734	280
	(d) I.C. from <i>The Gentleman's Magazine</i> , February 1734	280
	(e) ROBERT DODSLEY, from <i>An Epistle to Mr. Pope</i> , November 1734	280
	(f) JONATHAN SWIFT, November 1734	281
81	MR BRIDGES from <i>Divine Wisdom</i> , March 1736	282
82	ABBÉ DU RESNEL, 'Discours préliminaire', 1736	285
83	J. P. DE CROUSAZ, from <i>Examen de l'essai sur l'homme</i> , 1737	296
84	WILLIAM WARBURTON replies, December 1738-April 1739	307
85	LORD HERVEY, from <i>A Letter to Mr. C—b—r</i> , August 1742 <i>Epitaph on Mr. Gay</i> (1733)	316
86	JONATHAN SWIFT, March 1733 <i>Imitations of Horace: Sober Advice from Horace</i> (1734)	317
87	THOMAS BENTLEY, from <i>A Letter to Mr. Pope</i> , March 1735 <i>Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot</i> (1735)	319
88	(a) ELIZABETH ROWE, 1734-5	329
	(b) LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU, January 1735	329
	(c) COLLEY CIBBER, from <i>A Letter from Mr. Cibber</i> , 1742	330
	<i>Epilogue to the Satires: Dialogue II</i> (1738)	
89	(a) AARON HILL, July 1738	331
	(b) JONATHAN SWIFT, August 1738	332
	<i>The New Dunciad</i> (1742)	
90	(a) WILLIAM SHENSTONE, March 1742	333

CONTENTS

(b) THOMAS GRAY, April 1742	333
91 COLLEY CIBBER, from <i>A Letter from Mr. Cibber</i> , July 1742	334
92 HENRY FIELDING, from <i>The Champion</i> , August 1742	339
93 SAMUEL RICHARDSON, January 1743	340
<i>The Dunciad in Four Books (1743)</i>	
94 JOHN HENLEY, from <i>Why How now, Gossip Pope?</i> , 1743	342
95 SAMUEL RICHARDSON, January 1744	345
A final tribute	
96 Anonymous, <i>An Elegy on Mr. Pope</i> , June 1744	346
PART II	
LATER CRITICISM 1745-82	
97 WILLIAM AYRE, from <i>Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Alexander Pope, Esq.</i> , 1745	353
98 THOMAS GRAY, February 1746	357
99 SAMUEL JOHNSON, from <i>The Rambler</i> , February 1751	358
100 WILLIAM WARBURTON, from <i>The Works of Alexander Pope</i> , 1751	360
101 CATHERINE TALBOT, August 1751	366
102 WILLIAM COWPER on Pope's Homer, c. 1753-7	367
103 DE LUSTRAC on the <i>Pastorals</i> , April 1753	368
104 ROBERT SHIELS, from Cibber's <i>Lives of the Poets</i> , February 1753	369
105 JOSEPH WARTON, from <i>The Adventurer</i> , June 1753	373
106 JOSEPH WARTON, from <i>An Essay on the Writings and Genius of Pope</i> , vol. i, 1756	379
107 SAMUEL JOHNSON reviews Warton, 1756	408
108 SAMUEL JOHNSON, from 'A Dissertation upon the Epitaphs of Pope', May 1756	412
109 VOLTAIRE, passage added to <i>Lettres Philosophiques</i> , 1756	421
110 SAMUEL RICHARDSON, 1757	422
111 W. H. DILWORTH, from <i>The Life of Alexander Pope</i> , 1759	423
112 DR EDWARD YOUNG, from <i>Conjectures on Original Composition</i> , 1759	426
113 CONTE F. ALGAROTTI, October 1759	431
114 SAMUEL JOHNSON, from <i>The Idler</i> , October 1759	433
115 LORD LYTTELTON, from <i>Dialogues of the Dead</i> , 1760	435
116 DR HUGH BLAIR, from <i>Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres</i> , delivered c. 1762	438

CONTENTS

117	LORD KAMES, from <i>Elements of Criticism</i> , March 1762	440
118	ARTHUR MURPHY, from <i>The Works of Henry Fielding</i> , 1762	447
119	PALISSOT DE MONTENOY on <i>The Dunciad</i> , 1764	453
120	(a) OLIVER GOLDSMITH, from <i>An History of England</i> , 1764	455
	(b) OLIVER GOLDSMITH, from <i>The Beauties of English Poesy</i> , April 1767	455
121	OWEN RUFFHEAD, from <i>The Life of Alexander Pope</i> , 1769	457
122	SAMUEL JOHNSON reviews Ruffhead, 1769	464
123	THOMAS WARTON, from <i>A History of English Poetry</i> , 1774	465
124	GEORGE CAMPBELL, from <i>The Philosophy of Rhetoric</i> , 1776	466
125	PERCIVAL STOCKDALE, from <i>An Inquiry into the Nature, and Genuine Laws of Poetry</i> , 1778	469
126	(a) WILLIAM COWPER, from <i>Table-Talk</i> , written 1780-1	474
	(b) WILLIAM COWPER, January 1782	474
127	SAMUEL JOHNSON, from 'The Life of Pope', May 1781	475
128	JOSEPH WARTON, from <i>An Essay on the Genius and Writings of Pope</i> , vol. ii, 1782	508
129	WILLIAM HAYLEY, from <i>An Essay on Epic Poetry</i> , December 1782	522
130	SAMUEL JOHNSON, October 1782	525
131	VICESIMUS KNOX, from <i>Essays Moral and Literary</i> , 1782	527
	APPENDIX A Pope on Versification (1706?)	529
	APPENDIX B 'The Ballance of Poets' (1745)	532
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	537
	INDEX	539