## CONTENTS

Acknowledgements		vi
Preface		ix
I.	Swift: The Metamorphosis of Irony	I
2.	Fielding: Satiric and Comic Irony	14
3.	Sterne: The Novelist as Jester	33
4.	Gibbon: Dismissive Irony	49
5.	Peacock: The Wand of Enchantment	57
6.	Thackeray: An Irony against Heroes	72
7.	Mark Twain: Huckleberry Finn and the Whole Truth	96
8.	Samuel Butler: The Honest Sceptic	112
9.	Oscar Wilde: Irony of a Socialist Aesthete	138
10.	Lytton Strachey: The Technique of Debunking	151
II.	Aldous Huxley: and the Two Nothings	166
12.	Evelyn Waugh: and the Mysteriously Disappearing	
	Hero	187
13.	Orwell: Irony as Prophecy	197
Epilogue		220
Select Bibliography		225
Index		220