JOHNSON, WRITING, AND MEMORY

Johnson, Writing, and Memory demonstrates the importance of memory in Samuel Johnson’s œuvre. Greg Clingham argues that this is a notion of memory that is derived from the process of historical and creative writing, and is found to be embodied in works of literature and other cultural forms. He examines Johnson’s writing, including his biographical writing, as it intersects with eighteenth-century thought on literature, history, fiction, and law, and in its subsequent compatibility with, and resistance to, modern theory. Clingham’s widely researched study provides an account of Johnson’s intellectual positions that incorporates the challenges they pose to recent critical theory, and argues for Johnson’s inclusion in a new theorization of terms such as “authority,” “nature,” and “memory.” Clingham does this work of intellectual abstraction while remaining focused in the concrete realities of Johnson’s writing itself, offering a theoretically nuanced and original account of Johnson’s work.

Greg Clingham is Professor of English and Director of the University Press at Bucknell University. He has written and co-written several books, including Questioning History: The Postmodern Turn to the Eighteenth Century (1998), Making History: Textuality and the Forms of Eighteenth-Century Culture (1998), The Cambridge Companion to Samuel Johnson (Cambridge, 1997), and Literary Transmission and Authority: Dryden and Other Writers (Cambridge, 1993).
JOHNSON, WRITING, AND MEMORY

GREG CLINGHAM

Bucknell University
For my mother, Aileen Zimmermann;
my wife, Merrill David;
and my daughters —

Eden Jaia Clingham-David and Brontë Francesca Clingham-David
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Abbreviations

JOHNSON


DPA Diaries, Prayers, and Annals, ed. E. L. McAdam, Jr. with Donald and Mary Hyde (1958).


Journey A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland, ed. Mary Lascelles (1971).

Political Writings Political Writings, ed. Donald J. Greene (1977).


List of abbreviations

**Letters**

**Lives**

**JM**

**Poems**

**P&D**

**SJ**

**Boswell**

**Life**

**Journal**

**Hawkins**

**Dryden**

**Dryden: Poems**

**Watson**

**Pope**

**TE 1–10**
List of abbreviations

GENERAL

AJ The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual
BJECS British Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies
CQ The Cambridge Quarterly
ECL Eighteenth-Century Life
ECS Eighteenth-Century Studies
ECTI Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation
ELH English Literary History
JEGP Journal of English and Germanic Philology
JHI Journal of the History of Ideas
MLR Modern Language Review
MP Modern Philology
NQ Notes and Queries
PAHLA Publications of the Modern Language Association of America
PQ Philological Quarterly
RES Review of English Studies
SECC Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture
SLI Studies in the Literary Imagination
TLS Times Literary Supplement