

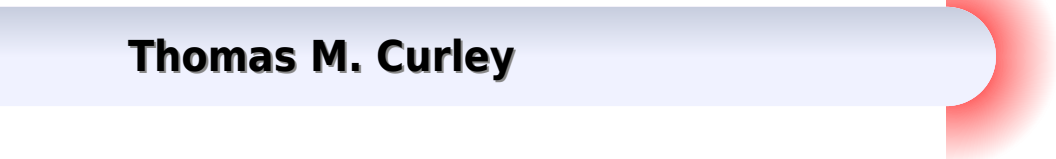
THOMAS M. CURLEY

SAMUEL JOHNSON
AND THE
AGE OF TRAVEL



Samuel Johnson And The Age Of Travel

Thomas M. Curley



Samuel Johnson And The Age Of Travel:

Samuel Johnson and the Age of Travel Thomas M. Curley, 1970
M. Curley, 2009-01-01 Although Samuel Johnson's famed ramblings never took him more than five hundred miles from his London home he was an indefatigable planner of distant voyages Sharing with his fellow Englishmen that passion for investigating the unknown which had ushered in a momentous geographical revolution Johnson became the original armchair traveler His writings proclaim a boundless curiosity about the globe and demonstrate a pervasive preoccupation with travel in every conceivable form Travel represented more for him than geographical movement it was a symbol of intellectual growth in his life his morality and his society While Johnson's biographers have all emphasized his fascination with exploration and discovery no comprehensive study of his complex relationship to the epoch making geographical advances of his century has heretofore appeared Thomas Curley's *Samuel Johnson and the Age of Travel* offers new perspectives on this crucial and surprisingly little known concern of the man and his age when English literature brilliantly mirrored the widening frontiers of the British Empire Drawing extensively on Johnson's entire canon the works of his contemporaries and a vast store of much neglected travel books Curley places Johnson's love of travel and travel literature firmly in its literary and historical contexts Johnson's career began with the translation of a travel book yielded numerous articles and essays on the subject in his middle years and culminated in the publication of his own splendid description of the Highlands in *A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland* Keenly interested in geography Johnson studied well over two centuries of travel literature to validate his own philosophy of human nature and to promote improved literary standards in what was then the second most popular genre in England His masterpiece *Rasselas* not only enshrined his recurring vision of man as perpetual explorer but also exemplified that fruitful interaction between travel books and belles lettres so prevalent throughout Johnson's age *Samuel Johnson and the Age of Travel* sheds new light on Johnson's career ambitions his talents in moral observation and literary creation and his inquisitive age Johnson emerges in Curley's study as a truly representative writer completely captivated by the romance of Georgian travel and illustrative of the cultural impact of an expanding world picture upon the minds and letters of eighteenth century Englishmen

Samuel Johnson and Biographical Thinking Catherine Neal Parke, 1991 Catherine N Parke offers new readings of Johnson's major prose writings the familiar and the not so familiar Through an inquiry into the centrality of biography in his thinking she examines Johnson's ideas about education portrays his habits of mind and explores his creative temperament

Handbook of British Travel Writing Barbara Schaff, 2020-09-07 This handbook offers a systematic exploration of current key topics in travel writing studies It addresses the history impact and unique discursive variety of British travel writing by covering some of the most celebrated and canonical authors of the genre as well as lesser known ones in more than thirty close reading chapters Combining theoretically informed astute literary criticism of single texts with the analysis of the circumstances of their production and reception these chapters offer

excellent possibilities for understanding the complexity and cultural relevance of British travel writing Samuel Johnson and the Art of Sinking 1709-1791 Freya Johnston, 2005-02-17 The traditional view of Samuel Johnson as hostile to particulars trifles and aesthetic mediocrity only half explains his authorial character Samuel Johnson and the Art of Sinking 1709 1791 argues that in a period dominated by social and literary hierarchies Johnson's works reveal a defining interest in little mean or low topics and people Freya Johnston moves away from a critical emphasis on what literature of this period excludes to consider its modes of including recalcitrant material Of necessity finite any piece of writing is informed by the subject matter it omits or to which it indirectly alludes How can we identify the peripheral topics or characters purportedly excluded from a text unless it provides compelling inferences that oblige us to supply the omission In which case something subtler is at work than barefaced proscription Rehearsing the comparative merits of great and little things Johnson and his contemporaries tested the opposing claims of pagan and Christian authority Ancient criticism and its eighteenth century adherents held that each subject required an appropriate style little matters call for the low lofty ones for the high Yet Gospel writers stressed Christ's incarnation as a praiseworthy and imitable descent to the humanly little one that is compatible with the most sublime style Through a series of close readings this book examines how Johnson conceived of his relationships to and with the margins of writing and of society It proposes that his literary and critical practice is neither inclusive nor exclusive in its attitudes towards peripheral things Curiosity and the Aesthetics of Travel-Writing, 1770-1840 Nigel Leask, 2002-01-10 The decades between 1770 and 1840 are rich in exotic accounts of the ruin strewn landscapes of Ethiopia Egypt India and Mexico Yet it is a field which has been neglected by scholars and which unjustifiably remains outside the literary canon In this pioneering book Nigel Leask studies the Romantic obsession with these antique lands drawing generously on a wide range of eighteenth and nineteenth century travel books as well as on recent scholarship in literature history geography and anthropology Viewing the texts primarily as literary works rather than transparent adventure stories or documentary sources he sets out to challenge the tendency in modern academic work to overemphasize the authoritative character of colonial discourse Instead he addresses the relationship between narrative aesthetics and colonialism through the unstable discourse of antiquarianism exploring the effects of problems of creditworthiness and the nebulous epistemological claims of curiosity a leitmotif of the accounts studied here on the contemporary status of travel writing Attentive to the often divergent idioms of elite and popular exoticism Curiosity and the Aesthetics of Travel Writing plots the transformation of the travelogue through the period as the baroque particularism of curiosity was challenged by picturesque aesthetics systematic geographical narrative and the emergence of a transcendental self axiomatic to Romantic culture In so doing it offers an important reformulation of the relations between literature aesthetics and empire in the late Enlightenment and Romantic periods

English Travel Narratives in the Eighteenth Century Jean Viviers, 2017-03-02 The eighteenth century commonly described as the age of the novel is also the golden age of travel narratives In this English edition of *Le R cit de voyage en*

Angleterre au XVIIIe siècle the genre of the travel narrative receives a treatment based on its development in close relationship with fiction The book provides a survey of famous travel narratives James Boswell's journal of a tour to Corsica and account of his trip to Scotland with Samuel Johnson Laurence Sterne's enigmatic *Sentimental Journey* Tobias Smollett's *Travels through France and Italy* Negotiating between inventory and invention these texts invite a reconsideration of conventional generic distinctions They open up a literary space in which the full significance of the real and fictional journey motif can be explored

The Politics of Samuel Johnson Donald Greene, 2009-01-01 First published in 1960 *The Politics of Samuel Johnson* remains one of the most significant studies of Johnson ever written Contrary to virtually all preceding studies of Johnson's life politics and art Donald Greene declared that the popular image of Johnson one that even pervaded academic circles was a caricature an amalgam of misconceptions inaccuracies and sometimes deliberate untruths drawn from the works of his well intentioned friend Boswell and his detractor Macaulay In the Introduction to the second edition Greene reasserts in light of three decades of Johnsonian scholarship his attack on the stereotyping of Johnson as a bigoted party line Tory and a crypto Jacobite Utilizing new material such as Thomas Curley's edition of the Chambers Johnson Vinerian law lectures and the sale catalogue to Johnson's library to support his argument Greene also warns that Johnson is still misquoted and misunderstood in situations from classroom lectures to discussions of Britain's role in the 1982 Falklands War

Samuel Johnson: Selected Writings Samuel Johnson, 2009-09-30 In Johnson's own day he was best known as an essayist critic and lexicographer At the center of this collection are the periodical essays from the *Rambler* *Adventurer* and *Idler* Together these works allied in their literary social and moral concerns are the ones that continue to speak urgently to readers today

A Political Biography of Samuel Johnson Nicholas Hudson, 2015-10-06 Johnson rose from obscure origins to become a major literary figure of the eighteenth century Through a detailed survey of his major works and political journalism Hudson constructs a complex picture of Johnson as a moralist forced to accept the realistic nature of politics during an era of revolutionary transition

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