

Form and Purpose
in
Boswell's Biographical Works



William R. Siebenschuh

Form And Purpose In Boswell Biographical Works

Jean Viviers



Form And Purpose In Boswell Biographical Works:

Form and Purpose in Boswell's Biographical Works William R Siebenschuh,2021-01-08 This title is part of UC Press s Voices Revived program which commemorates University of California Press s mission to seek out and cultivate the brightest minds and give them voice reach and impact Drawing on a backlist dating to 1893 Voices Revived makes high quality peer reviewed scholarship accessible once again using print on demand technology This title was originally published in 1972

Form and Purpose in Boswell's Biographical Works William R Siebenschuh,2023-04-28 Form and Purpose in Boswell s Biographical Works provides a detailed comparative analysis of James Boswell s three major biographical works The Life of Johnson The Tour to the Hebrides and the Account of Corsica Through this examination the book challenges the traditional view that Boswell s biographical method developed in a simple linear progression from one work to the next It argues that each of these works represents a distinct artistic achievement with Boswell consciously shaping and organizing his factual materials in ways that go beyond mere documentation The book demonstrates that Boswell s talent as a biographer was not limited to presenting facts but involved a sophisticated process of interpretation and organization especially evident in The Life of Johnson where his portrayal of Johnson s character is built around a cohesive narrative structure The study also highlights how Boswell s approach to biography evolved depending on the subject and context of each work In The Account of Corsica Boswell uses a propagandistic approach to portray Paoli employing different dramatic techniques than those he used in later works In contrast The Tour to the Hebrides presents a more static image of Johnson focusing on his public persona in unusual and often humorous contexts but without delving into his complex character as Boswell did in The Life of Johnson By comparing these works the book offers a fresh perspective on Boswell s artistic abilities demonstrating that he was a far more deliberate and interpretive biographer than previously acknowledged capable of creating unified and compelling portraits of his subjects This title is part of UC Press s Voices Revived program which commemorates University of California Press s mission to seek out and cultivate the brightest minds and give them voice reach and impact Drawing on a backlist dating to 1893 Voices Revived makes high quality peer reviewed scholarship accessible once again using print on demand technology This title was originally published in 1972 [Form and purpose in Boswell' biographical works](#) William R. Siebenschuh,1972

Form and Purpose in Boswell's Biographical Works Willam Robert Siebenschuh,1970 **Boswell's Life of Johnson** John A. Vance,2009-01-01 When it first appeared in 1985 Boswell s Life of Johnson brought together the most recent and most lively assessments of the literary merit and historical accuracy of Boswell s biography In an invigorating exchange placed at the center of the collection Donald Greene s description of the Life as a fictionalized biography that screens the real complex Johnson from view is challenged by Frederick Pottle s defense of Boswell s biographical method of his sturdy compilation of detail that presents the factual rather than the fictional Johnson Other essays explore the effect of Johnson s humor on the shaping of his image in the Life the recent developments in literary

criticism and the effect they have had on eighteenth century studies and the continuing interest of Boswell's *Life* as a showcase for members of Johnson's famous circle. The volume concludes with an assessment of the Boswellian problem of the difficulties the *Life* presents to readers, scholars and teachers.

Biography Carl Rollyson, 2016-06-28 This is the only comprehensive annotated bibliography of writing about biography. Rollyson, a biographer and scholar of biography, includes chapters on the history of biography beginning in the Greco-Roman period and concluding with biographers such as Leon Edel and Richard Ellmann. Ample sections on psychobiography, the new feminist biography and on biographers who appear in works of fiction are also included. Cited in many recent books on the genre of biography.

Biography: An Annotated Bibliography is an essential research tool as well as a clearly written work for those wishing to browse through the commentary on this important genre.

Recognizing Biography William H. Epstein, 2017-11-15 Epstein's narrative interweaves interpretive and theoretical chapters as it emplots the discourse of English biography from Walton to Strachey. In this way, familiar generic relationships between biographer, subject, life, text, falsehood and readership are analyzed in specific, if constantly shifting, historical, literary, cultural and economic texts.

The Boswellian Hero William C. Dowling, 2008-07-01 Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, *Tour of the Hebrides* and *Tour to Corsica* are controlled, argues William Dowling, by a single conception of the heroic character, one that reaches beyond the particular narrative situation to a final vision of man's dilemma in the modern world. Samuel Johnson and Pascal Paoli, the great protagonists of the three major narratives Boswell published during his lifetime, are heroic spirits who manage to survive in an age of spiritual disintegration only by dwelling within imperiled private worlds of coherence and belief.

The Boswellian Hero, the first comprehensive thematic study of Boswellian narrative, is also a work with strong theoretical implications for students of biography as a genre. Biography exists as literature, according to Dowling, only in relation to formal or objective interpretations of its meaning. To read the *Life of Johnson* as a literary work is to dissociate its biographical hero from any real or historical Samuel Johnson. In the same way, one dissociates Shakespeare's Richard III from Richard III of England. Although *The Boswellian Hero* promises to establish its importance in Boswell studies immediately, it will also be of significant interest to readers concerned with the hero in literature with biography as a narrative form and with the complex theoretical problem of factual or historical literature.

The Interpretation of Samuel Johnson J. Clark, H. Erskine-Hill, 2012-06-12 A major academic controversy has raged in recent years over the analysis of the political and religious commitments of Samuel Johnson, the most commanding of the commanding heights of eighteenth-century English letters. This book, one of a trilogy from Palgrave, brings that debate to a decisive conclusion, retrieving the historic Johnson.

Encyclopedia of Life Writing Margaretta Jolly, 2013-12-04 First published in 2001, Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informal company.

Prose in the Age of Poets Annette Wheeler Cafarelli, 2015-09-30 In *Prose in the Age of Poets*, Annette Wheeler Cafarelli demonstrates that nonfictional narrative of the time was a central expression of British Romanticism. The rise of interest in the individual, traditionally associated with

Romantic autobiography was actually part of a wider cultural interest in biography especially literary biography Following Johnson's lead in the *Lives of the Poets* virtually every major writer of the period experimented with sequences of short anecdotal lives that became a characteristic Romantic vehicle for discussing theories of creativity canon and the place of the poet in society The Romantics took in new directions the examination of the relation of artists' lives and works biographers and their subjects and texts and their readers Romantic biography Cafarelli contends offers a perspective from which to reconsider conventional boundaries of genre periodization and the movement from Neoclassicism to Romanticism In examining the Romantics as prose writers and biographers Cafarelli explores the affiliations between Romantic theories of reading and writing and twentieth century critical methodologies She situates the biographical writings of the major poets including Wordsworth Coleridge and Byron in the context of detailed analyses of biographies by Johnson Hazlitt De Quincey Scott Southey and other lesser known contemporaries *Prose in the Age of Poets* will interest scholars and students of Romanticism Johnson biography and autobiography and narrative theory *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* ,1973-03-02

Common Courtesy in Eighteenth-century English Literature William Bowman Piper,1997 Arbuthnot as essays in common courtesy has the author been able to explain the individual sense of each one in turn and to show how its creator made this sense widely available and widely agreeable Reconsidering Biography Martine Watson Brownley,2012 Although Sir John Hawkins's *Life of Johnson* has long been an essential source for readers interested in Samuel Johnson for over two hundred years now Hawkins's biography has been systematically misread misinterpreted and misunderstood *Reconsidering Biography* opens a long needed critical debate on Hawkins's achievement as a biographer and in the process argues for important changes in prevailing scholarly views of Hawkins Johnson and English biography itself Domestick Privacies David Wheeler,2021-11-21 Biography was Samuel Johnson's favorite among literary genres and his *Lives of the Poets* is often regarded as the capstone of his career The central place of biography in his oeuvre is explored in this collection of nine original essays by leading Johnson scholars Varied in their focus and approach the essays range from a philosophical overview of Johnson's notion of the relation between life and art to a detailed reading of the *Life of Milton* to a speculation on the value of the *Lives* in the classroom Emerging clearly in the essays are the dual concerns artistic and intellectual that can be pursued in Johnson's biographical writings On the one hand they are complex creative works that reward literary analysis traditional and modern On the other with their wide range they offer a special insight into Johnson's eighteenth century world the state of biography at the time the tradition of English poetry literary criticism and its philosophical values and of course Johnson himself with his powers and failings *Domestick Privacies* thus offers important new perspectives not only to professed Johnsonians but to all who study biography criticism and the eighteenth century

Mapping the Self Frédéric Regard,2003 **Style** ,1975 **English Travel Narratives in the Eighteenth Century** Jean Viviès,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 si cle* 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 Studies in the American Renaissance ,1982 **Domestick Privacies: Samuel Johnson and the Art of Biography** David Wheeler,1987 Biography was Samuel Johnson s favorite among literary genres and his *Lives of the Poets* is often regarded as the capstone of his career The central place of biography in his oeuvre is explored in this collection of nine original essays by leading Johnson scholars Varied in their focus and approach the essays range from a philosophical overview of Johnson s notion of the relation between life and art to a detailed reading of the *Life of Milton* to a speculation on the value of the *Lives* in the classroom Emerging clearly in the essays are the dual concerns artistic and intellectual

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