

## Preface to Temple's *Miscellanea: The Third Part*

### Textual Introduction

Temple's early renown as a literary stylist, to which Abel Boyer's *Royal Dictionary* of 1699 testified,<sup>1</sup> was chiefly owing to two collections of ten essays, which were given the title *Miscellanea* and which achieved some five editions in the author's lifetime.<sup>2</sup> Two further completed essays and a third entirely new were entrusted to Swift as literary executor for eventual publication.

There had been a covert allusion to that "Of Health and Long Life" in 1691, at the end of the Preface to Temple's anonymous *Memoirs of What Past in Christendom*.<sup>3</sup> It is now known that a copy of the second essay, "Of Popular Discontents," was in the hands of Temple's friend, Sir Robert Southwell.<sup>4</sup> This must have given Swift some anxious moments in the summer of 1701 when he was preparing *Miscellanea: The Third Part* for the press. Eight years later, he admitted: "I had too much warning by the Papers left with S<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Southwell, which fell into Booksellers Hands."<sup>5</sup> In fact, on 28 August, a collection of unpublished letters of Temple's, which was accompanied by an essay and which claimed to be the third volume of Swift's authorized edition of 1700, was advertised in *The London Gazette*: "This day is published, Select Letters to the Prince of Orange (now King of England), King Charles II. and the Earl of Arlington, upon Important Subjects. Vol. 3. To which is added, An Essay upon the State and Settlement of Ireland. All written by Sir William Temple Bar. Published from Sir

<sup>1</sup> *Le Dictionnaire royal* (London: D. Midwinter, et al., 1742), sig. A3v; see also the advertisement in *The London Gazette*, 8-11 May 1699 (no 3495).

<sup>2</sup> New Wing T646-T655.

<sup>3</sup> *Memoirs of What Past in Christendom* (London: by R. R. for Ric. Chiswell, 1692), sig. A2v. New Wing T642, sig. A2v; see *The London Gazette*, 26-30 November 1691 (no 2718); *The Term Catalogues*, ed. Arber, II, 379.

<sup>4</sup> British Library, MS Loan 29/304/1, Sir Robert Southwell to Robert Harley, n.d.

<sup>5</sup> *Correspondence*, ed. Woolley, I, 271 and n9.

William Temple's own Originals, and never before Printed."<sup>6</sup> Advance news of this would have prompted Swift to announce his own project publicly. On 28 July 1701, Timothy Goodwin and Benjamin Tooke, Jr entered Temple's *Miscellanea: The Third Part* in the Stationers' Register<sup>7</sup> to secure the copyright at a time when the practice was virtually in abeyance. The next day, Swift wrote out and signed this receipt for transferring the copyright:

July. 29. 1701

Then received of M<sup>r</sup> Benjamin Took, the sum of thirty  
Pounds ster<sup>l</sup> in full for the Originall Copyes of three Essays,  
The first, of Popular Discontents, the second, of Health and  
long Life; the Third a Defence of the Essay on the Antient and  
modern Learning; all writt by S<sup>r</sup> William Temple Bar<sup>t</sup>, and of which  
s<sup>d</sup> Copyes I am sole Proprietor;  
I say received by me Jon: Swift.

Mem<sup>rdum</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Took is to give Me twenty Copyes of the s<sup>d</sup> Essays &c: whereof  
ten are to be gilt in the Leaves, &c; and ten to be in calves Leather:  
all letterd at the Back; 3 and 4 to be in Turkey work. B Tooke.

*Endorsed twice:* M<sup>r</sup> Swifts Receipt for the Copy of S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Temples  
Miscellanea 3<sup>d</sup> p<sup>t</sup> / July 29<sup>th</sup> 1701.<sup>8</sup>

The endorsing hand is that of Tooke, Jr, and it is also found endorsing the corresponding receipt to Swift for Temple's *Letters to the King* (1703),<sup>9</sup> as

<sup>6</sup> *The London Gazette*, 25-28 August 1701 (no 3735).

<sup>7</sup> *A Transcript of the Registers of the Worshipful Company of Stationers, 1640-1708*, eds Edward Arber, *et al.*, 3 vols (New York: Peter Smith, 1950 [1913-14]), III, 494. Swift's choice of Benjamin Tooke, Jr, is explained by Michael Treadwell, "Swift's Relations with the London Book Trade to 1714," *Author/Publisher Relations during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*, eds Robin Myers and Michael Harris (Oxford: Oxford Polytechnic Press, 1983), pp. 1-36 (9-12).

<sup>8</sup> Berg Collection of the New York Public Library (*Correspondence*, ed. Woolley, I, 145 and n,n1).

well as inscribing expensively bound copies of Temple's *Memoirs: Part III* (1709) to Lord Halifax, Auditor of the Receipt of the Exchequer, and Lord Sunderland, Secretary of State.<sup>10</sup>

Two days later, *The London Gazette* carried as its first advertisement: "There is now in the Press, and will speedily be Published, Miscellanea; The Third Part ... by the late Sir William Temple, Bar. Published by Mr. Jonathan Swift." And in August, the monthly *Post-Angel* for July reported: "Mr. *Jonathan Swift* is going to publish *Miscellanea* the Third Part, written by the late Sir *William Temple*."<sup>11</sup> Another ten weeks were to elapse before the book was ready.

In his Preface, "The Publisher to the Reader," Swift declared that "Of Popular Discontents" and "Of Health and long Life" had both received the author's finishing hand (l. □). But he equivocated in his next paragraph dealing with "*A Defence of the Essay upon Antient and Modern Learning*" (on the title page), otherwise called "Some Thoughts upon Reviewing the Essay of Ancient and Modern Learning." Swift not only resided at Moor Park from May 1696 until Temple's death in 1699,<sup>12</sup> when this essay was being prepared, and not "*in another Kingdom*" (Ireland), the sixteen pages of manuscript in his hand surviving from a late draft<sup>13</sup> (with related passages in Temple's hand) are also accompanied by a discarded preface in Swift's hand. In its opening sentence, this discarded preface explains exactly "the Occasion" on which it was written during the author's lifetime. It is printed below as a pendant to the published one.

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<sup>9</sup> *Correspondence*, ed. Woolley, I, 146n.

<sup>10</sup> Now Forster Collection, The National Art Reference Library, Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington (Forster 8719) and THE ROTHSCHILD LIBRARY II, 649 (2408), respectively. See also *Correspondence*, ed. Woolley, I, 257n.

<sup>11</sup> *The London Gazette*, 28-31 July 1701 (no 3727); *The Post-Angel ... for July* appeared on 16 August (*The Post Man*, no 391).

<sup>12</sup> Ehrenpreis, *Mr Swift*, pp. 169-75, 247-64.

<sup>13</sup> THE ROTHSCHILD LIBRARY II, 609-10 (2253); LINDSAY, p. 85 (SwJ 483).

Five of the seven poems by Temple which occupy the last 32 pages of *Miscellanea: The Third Part* were reprinted from a printed volume, undated, of *Poems by Sir W. T.*,<sup>14</sup> containing only ten poems in all. To these five, two translations were added.<sup>15</sup>

Set in large size of type, *Miscellanea: The Third Part* made a solid octavo of 368 pages. It was advertised in *The London Gazette*,<sup>16</sup> and its price was four shillings.<sup>17</sup> *The History of the Works of the Learned* for October and November 1701 excerpted from the volume at length.

Two presentation copies inscribed by the Editor, "The Publisher," are known: one to Narcissus Marsh, Archbishop of Dublin until his translation to the see of Armagh in 1703, now in the Huntington Library: "To the Most Reverend / Narcissus, Lord ArchBishop of / Dublin, and One of the / Lords Justices of Ireland. / By His Grace's / most obedient and / most oblidge / humble Servant / the Publisher."<sup>18</sup> The other, in La Biblioteca Nazionale di Firenze, has this autograph inscription on the blank verso of the title page: "To / His Excellency, Count Magalotti / Councillor of State to His / Most Serene Highness the / Great Duke of Tuscany / By His Excellency's / most obedient / and / most humble Servant / Jonathan Swift."<sup>19</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Now British Library, G.11457. See *The Early Essays and Romances of Sir William Temple Bt. with The Life and Character of Sir William Temple by his Sister Lady Giffard*, ed. G. C. Moore Smith (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1930), pp. xxiii-xxvi.

<sup>15</sup> Oliver S. Pickering, "An Early Manuscript Fragment of Sir William Temple's Poetry," *Swift Studies*, 6 (1991), 119-22.

<sup>16</sup> *The London Gazette*, 13-16 October 1701 (no 3749). See also *The Term Catalogues*, ed. Arber, III, 275.

<sup>17</sup> *Bibliotheca Annua*, no 3, p. 45.

<sup>18</sup> Plate 12 in *Correspondence*, ed. Woolley, I, presents a facsimile; see also John Barrett, *An Essay on the Earlier Part of the Life of Swift* (London: J. Johnson, *et al.*, 1808), p. 37; and N. F. Lowe and W. J. Mc Cormack, "Swift as 'Publisher' of Sir William Temple's *Letters* and *Miscellanea*," *Swift Studies*, 8 (1993), 46-57 (pp. 48-50).

<sup>19</sup> Plate 13 in *Correspondence*, ed. Woolley, I, presents a facsimile; see also Carlo Pagetti, *La fortuna di Swift in Italia* (Bari: Adriatica, 1971), p. 12. For more information on Magalotti, see Textual Introduction to Temple's *Letters to the King* (p. □).

*Miscellanea: The Third Part* was reprinted in Temple's collected works of 1720, and Swift's Preface alone was added by John Nichols to the Hawkesworth edition of his own *Works* in 1775.

Like Temple's earlier writings, *Miscellanea: The Third Part* was translated into French and Dutch, both in 1704 from Utrecht, the former as *Œuvres posthumes* and the latter as *Nagelaten Schriften*.<sup>20</sup>

### Historical Introduction

*Miscellanea: The Third Part* completes the printing of Temple's long-famous essays, in three volumes, the first volume having appeared in 1680, and the second in 1690. *Miscellanea: The Second Part*, Swift claimed, had been printed from his "Copy."<sup>21</sup> Presumably, the transcript the printer used for the 1701 volume was also Swift's "Copy," but this is not certain. After all, the transcription of Temple's works, and their correction under the author's instructions, perhaps by dictation, formed part of the training Swift received at Moor Park. In the notorious quarrel with Lady Giffard, Sir William's sister, over the publication of Temple's *Memoirs: Part III* in 1709, he recalled: "Nothing of [Sir William Temple's] ever printed in my Time was from the Originall; the first Memoirs was from my Copy, so were the second Miscellanea, so was the Introduction to the English History: so was every Volume of Letters, *They were all copyed from the Originalls by S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Temples direction, and corrected all along by his Orders.*"<sup>22</sup>

*Miscellanea: The Second Part* contains Temple's four most imaginative and influential works: "An Essay upon the Ancient and Modern Learning," which was to embroil him in the controversy over the authenticity of the

<sup>20</sup> TEERINK AND SCOUTEN 473; Homer E. Woodbridge, *Sir William Temple: The Man and his Work* (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, and London: Oxford University Press, 1940), p. 336.

<sup>21</sup> *Correspondence*, ed. Woolley, I, 270, 117n5, 269n2.

<sup>22</sup> *Correspondence*, ed. Woolley, I, 270 and n7 (our italics).

Epistles of Phalaris<sup>23</sup>; “Upon the Gardens of Epicurus: or, Of Gardening in the Year 1685,” which by introducing to common notice the “*Chineses*” and their word “*Sharawadgi*” started the serious development of “romantic” notions like informality and the concealment of art in England<sup>24</sup>; “Of Heroick Virtue,” which unobtrusively commended the “runic” poetry of the northern nations as worthy of study and (moderate) admiration,<sup>25</sup> and “Of Poetry” which, like the “Essay upon the Ancient and Modern Learning,” continued the line of investigating works of literature as products of specific cultural, social, and geographical environments.<sup>26</sup> This comparative discussion of cultures, based on a wide reading of travel accounts about China, Peru, and the Arab world as well as the ancient world of the Mediterranean basin, among other things,<sup>27</sup> is the chief claim Temple has to original thought.<sup>28</sup> In *Gulliver's Travels*, Swift, a lifelong reader of travel

<sup>23</sup> See, in addition to Real (1978), pp. xxi-xxxii, the introduction and notes in Martin Kämper's edition of *Sir William Temples Essays "Upon Ancient and Modern Learning" und "Of Poetry": eine historisch-kritische Ausgabe mit Einleitung und Kommentar* (Frankfurt am Main, New York, Paris: Peter Lang, 1995), pp. vi-xix, 127-228, and Howard D. Weinbrot, “‘He Will Kill Me Over and Over Again’: Intellectual Contexts of the Battle of the Books,” *Reading Swift* (2003), pp. 225-48.

<sup>24</sup> For Temple, see *Miscellanea: The Second Part* (London: by T. M. for Ri. and Ra. Simpson, 1690), pp. 57-58, and, for a commentary on his essay, Ciaran Murray, *Sharawadgi: The Romantic Return to Nature* (San Francisco, London, Bethesda: International Scholars Publications, 1999), pp. 32-39; Samuel Johnson, *The Lives of the Most Eminent English Poets*, ed. Roger Lonsdale, 4 vols (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2006), IV, 450.

<sup>25</sup> Chiefly in Section IV of *Miscellanea: The Second Part*, pp. 76-104.

<sup>26</sup> *Sir William Temples Essays "Upon Ancient and Modern Learning" und "Of Poetry"*, ed. Kämper, pp. 2-3, 72-73, 170, 316-17.

<sup>27</sup> Apart from *Sir William Temples Essays "Upon Ancient and Modern Learning" und "Of Poetry"*, ed. Kämper, the best account of Temple's reading is to be found in the notes of Jutta Winnefeld's unpublished doctoral dissertation, “‘Beauty without Order’: Temples Essays ‘Upon the Gardens of Epicurus’ and ‘Of Heroick Virtue’” (Münster, 1980), pp. 120-201.

<sup>28</sup> Consequently, Temple may be said to occupy an important place in the development of “historical consciousness” in the last two decades of the seventeenth century. See René Wellek, *The Rise of Literary History* (Chapel Hill:



accounts himself,<sup>29</sup> was to make pervasive use of this comparison of cultures. While at Moor Park, he also seems to have imbibed two other notions to which Sir William subscribed throughout his life (unless one wants to assume that Swift arrived at them independently). These are the beliefs that Mankind's creative potential, his "nature," never changes throughout history, that it remains essentially the same everywhere and in all ages (*Natura est semper eadem*),<sup>30</sup> and that the true end of studying history is moral philosophy.<sup>31</sup>

A special interest is attached to the third essay printed by Swift, "Some Thoughts upon Reviewing the Essay of Antient and Modern Learning."<sup>32</sup> Sir William drafted these "Thoughts" in reply to William Wotton's attack on his "Upon Ancient and Modern Learning." This attack was entitled *Reflections upon Ancient and Modern Learning*, the first edition of which came out on 2 July 1694, with the second edition following in July of 1697.<sup>33</sup> To the second edition, Richard Bentley added his *Dissertation upon the Epistles of Phalaris*, and this moved Temple to contemplate publishing what he had already written. The draft of a Preface for the "Thoughts," entitled

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The University of North Carolina Press, 1941), pp. 24-44; Waldemar Zacharasiewicz, *Die Klimatheorie in der englischen Literatur und Literaturkritik: von der Mitte des 16. bis zum frühen 18. Jahrhundert* (Wien and Stuttgart: Wilhelm Braumüller, 1977), pp. 471-500.

<sup>29</sup> *Prose Works*, V, 192; Real (1978), pp. 128-32, and, in particular, Dirk Friedrich Passmann, *"Full of Improbable Lies": "Gulliver's Travels" und die Reiseliteratur vor 1726* (Frankfurt am Main, New York, Paris: Peter Lang, 1987), pp. 133-332.

<sup>30</sup> For Temple, see the notes in *Sir William Temple's Essays "Upon Ancient and Modern Learning" und "Of Poetry"*, ed. Kämper, pp. 2, 133, 170; for Swift, see *Prose Works*, VIII, 180; XIV, Index, s.v. "Human Nature," and Real (1978), pp. xxxvi-xxxix.

<sup>31</sup> See *Prose Works*, IX, 74, for example, and James William Johnson, "The Role of Historiography," *The Formation of English Neo-Classical Thought* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1967), pp. 31-68.

<sup>32</sup> *Miscellanea: The Third Part*, pp. 201-87.

<sup>33</sup> A. T. Bartholomew and J. W. Clark, *Richard Bentley, D. D.: A Bibliography of his Works and of all the Literature Called Forth by his Acts or his Writings* (Cambridge: Bowes and Bowes, 1908), pp. 26-41.

“A Fragment written upon the Subject of An<sup>t</sup>. & Mod. Learning,” survives in Swift’s hand,<sup>34</sup> and it is notable for establishing Swift’s role in his defence of Temple.<sup>35</sup> It also provides support for the view that *An Answer to a Scurrilous Pamphlet* was produced in Temple’s circle.

Finally, Swift decided to print two of Temple’s incomplete works, which were left in the form of “Heads, Designed for an Essay upon the Different Conditions of Life and Fortune.” In explaining the reason for this decision in The Publisher to the Reader, Swift paid his former employer and patron a pretty compliment: “*I believe there are few who will not be content to see even the First Draughts of any thing from this Author’s Hand*” (ll. □□). In like manner, he later used the title page of *Memoirs: Part III* to pay Temple a public tribute. The epigraph is taken from a letter by Pliny the Younger (AD c.61-c.113): “Et ille quidem plenus annis abiit, plenus honoribus, illis etiam quos recusavit [He died full of years and full of honours, even illustrious by the honours he refused].”<sup>36</sup> Pliny is here referring to his guardian, L. Verginius Rufus, who had been consul three times, and who had twice been offered the principate by his soldiers. This he twice refused, choosing instead to retire to his country estate the second time. In Swift’s eyes, the sentence seemed particularly apt when applied to Sir William, who had also refused Charles II’s offer to appoint him Secretary of State, and who retired, in February 1681, to his country estate Sheen instead: “In

<sup>34</sup> THE ROTHSCHILD LIBRARY II, 609-10 (2253). A carbon copy of eleven typewritten pages, entitled “The Manuscripts of Temple’s ‘Defense’ of his Essay upon the Ancient and Modern Learning,” revised and corrected in the hand of David Woolley, is, together with an accompanying note and discarded trial preface to George P. Mayhew, dated 10 December 1973, part of the MAYHEW COLLECTION at the Ehrenpreis Centre. Woolley convincingly argues that this draft “was written in Temple’s lifetime, hence before 1699, and the note’s final paragraph that it was after publication of the second edition of Wotton’s *Reflections*, that is after 30 April 1697, the date of the Postscript to the Preface” (p. 2).

<sup>35</sup> All facts are presented in full detail in the Historical Introduction to the *The Battle of the Books* (pp. QQ).

<sup>36</sup> Quoted from the edition of Pliny the Younger’s letters which was in Swift’s library: *C. Plinii Cæciliæ Secvndi Epistolarvm libri X* (Leyden: Elzevir, 1640), p. 31 (II, i) (PASSMANN AND VIENKEN II, 1463-65).



alluding to Pliny's gratitude, grief, and intermediary role in the state, Swift also presents Temple in the respectful, orderly, directive way that serves his patron's memory and his country's needs."<sup>37</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Howard D. Weinbrot, *Menippean Satire Reconsidered: From Antiquity to the Eighteenth Century* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), p. 117.