

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

IN the more than eleven years since the first edition of this biography much new evidence concerning Mrs. Piozzi has become available. *Thraliana* has been admirably edited by Professor Katharine C. Balderston. Well over two hundred new letters from Mrs. Thrale to the Burneys may now be consulted. And the dramatic discovery of the original manuscript of Boswell's *Life of Johnson* makes it possible to evaluate more accurately his treatment of his rival.

There is little in the new material, however, which fundamentally changes our understanding of Mrs. Piozzi's character. While it reinforces and elaborates, it does not alter the main outlines of the story. Consequently, instead of rewriting the entire volume, I have preferred to reproduce the first edition by lithography, making only such minor changes as are necessary to correct typographical errors and obvious errors of fact.

Although little new material has been added to the text, readers will find in the additions to the 'Select Bibliography' references to the more significant of the recent discussions of Mrs. Piozzi. In the notes I have not attempted to bring up to date the statements of ownership of manuscripts. A few major changes, nevertheless, may be indicated here. The whole of the famous R. B. Adam collection, and most of the Piozzian holdings of the late Mr. A. Edward Newton are now in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hyde. Those of the late Sir Randle Mainwaring are owned by his son, Mr. Hugh Mainwaring. Unfortunately I do not know the whereabouts of the papers listed as the property of the late Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Evans of Brynbella.

Because of the method involved in reprinting the book, it has proved impossible to revise thoroughly the sections dealing with Boswell and Mrs. Piozzi. For some objections to my conclusions, readers are referred to the review-article by Professor F. A. Pottle and Dr. Charles H. Bennett in *Modern Philology* for May 1942. So far as possible, all errors of fact have been eliminated, but in order to reconcile our differences of interpretation it would have been necessary to rewrite large sections of the text. Although I willingly soften some of my remarks about Boswell's handling of the evidence, I still am not convinced that

his later expansions of his original notes have the same validity as have the notes themselves or the expansions made a short time after the conversations took place. In the controversial passages in Chapters XII and XVII, therefore, readers should always bear in mind these unresolved differences of opinion.

Thanks are due again to Dr. L. F. Powell and to Professor Allen T. Hazen for help in correcting various minor errors.

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NOTE TO THE CORRECTED IMPRESSION

FOR this second impression of the second edition only a few textual changes have been made, and there has been no attempt to indicate all recent shifts of ownership of manuscripts. One correction, however, can now be made. The papers listed as the property of the late Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Evans of Brynbella are now in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

J. L. C.

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