

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	I
2. THE DIALECTIC: THE SPIRIT OF CONTRADICTION	23
THE STATE OF INDETERMINATION	23
THE MOOD OF DOUBT	25
ARGUING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION	26
THE CONSISTENCY OF NATURE	28
PESSIMISM	31
PERSONAL MERIT	32
THE UNREALITY OF HUMAN PLEASURES	35
ON MADNESS	36
THE PASSIONS ARE NECESSARY	37
ON THE NECESSITY OF ILLUSIONS AND DECEPTIONS	38
ON VANITY	39
WHY THE CAUSES OF GREAT HISTORICAL EVENTS OUGHT TO BE CONCEALED	40
THE LAUGHING PHILOSOPHER AND THE WEEPING PHILOSOPHER	41
THE SYSTEMATIZING PHILOSOPHER	43
A POINT OF PERFECTION BEYOND ONE'S REACH	46
THE OBSCURANTIST	48
PRIDE, AND THE LESSON IN HUMILITY	49
CONCLUSION	54
3. FONTENELLE AND THE PLATONIC DIALOGUE: IRONY	59
THE INCONCLUSIVENESS OF PLATO'S SOCRATIC DIALOGUES; A LESSON IN METHOD	59
AFFINITIES	62
DIALOGUE AND DRAMA	64

	<i>Eiron</i> AND <i>alazon</i>	65
	SOCRATIC IRONY	66
	COSMIC IRONY	71
4.	SATIRE AND COMIC CHARACTERIZATION	78
	THE SATIRE OF THE GREAT MAN; BURLESQUE	78
	COMEDY-DIALOGUES AND CHARACTER DELINEATION	91
5.	SECONDARY DEVICES	104
	HADES ENDOWED WITH A MORAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SOCIAL LIFE	104
	URNS OF SPEECH AND PHRASES WHICH PREVENT THE DEBATE FROM FLAGGING	106
	THE DRAMATIC MOVEMENT OF THE DIALOGUE INTENSIFIED	109
	ANTITHESIS	110
	THE ANECDOTE	114
	WIT	119
	THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE EMPEROR HADRIAN AND MARGARET OF AUSTRIA	127
6.	EVALUATIONS AND COMPARISONS	136
	<i>The Judgment of Pluto</i> , CRITICAL EPILOGUE OF THE <i>Dialogues</i>	136
	CRITICISMS	145
	THE FORTUNE OF THE <i>Dialogues of the Dead</i>	147
	THE <i>Avertissement</i> TO THE THIRD EDITION: CONTRAST, THE BASIC DEVICE	153
	THE <i>Dialogues</i> AND THE QUARREL OF THE ANCIENTS AND MODERNS	154
	THE PROBLEM OF INFLUENCES; PLATO	159
	THE SALON AND PRECIOUSITY	160
	CLASSICISM	161
	LUCIAN	161
	THE <i>Libertins</i> AND LA MOTHE LE VAYER'S DIALOGUES	163
	ORIGINALITY OF FONTENELLE	170

CONTENTS	xi
THE DIALOGUES OF FÉNELON	171
THE DIALOGUES OF VAUVENARGUES	180
FONTENELLE WAS IN HIS PROPER ELEMENT WHEN HE ES- SAYED THE DIALOGUE	188
7. CONCLUSION	191
NOTES	197
BIBLIOGRAPHY	231

