Foreword

In the last month of her life Judith Sloman asked me as a friend and a colleague to see her book on Dryden through the press. Without any special knowledge of Dryden I undertook simply to check the manuscript for mechanical errors and slips in quotations and notes and to write on Judy's behalf to the University of Toronto Press, which had already expressed interest in seeing the manuscript. Perhaps my lack of specialized knowledge has been an advantage: the book remains Judy's alone, and where I have had to change phrases or clarify arguments, I have tried throughout to do so unobtrusively.

Most of the manuscript had been typed from a pencilled draft by the time of Judy's death but had not yet been checked and proofread. A few sections still needed to be typed from the rough version. The checking process was more laborious for me than it would have been for Judy, because I had to retrace her steps, going through her books and files to complete the rather sketchy documentation in some of her notes. Her concluding statement, still very much a draft, turned up in the course of the search, and I have included it in its rough state as an epilogue because it clearly belongs with the rest of the book.

In completing this project I have had the advantage of help and advice from many friends and colleagues. Joyce Kee patiently and efficiently re-typed the whole manuscript, incorporating new material along with my changes and corrections: without her help my task would have been almost impossible. For encouragement and practical assistance I should also like to thank James Black, Patricia Brückmann, John LeBlanc, Jay Macpherson, Earl Miner, David Oakleaf, and Neil Querengesser. The final version of the book has benefited from the criticisms and suggestions of readers for the University of Toronto Press and of its editors, Prudence Tracy and Joan

viii Foreword

Bulger. Some of the ideas in chapter 1 were published in different form in 'An Interpretation of Dryden's *Fables*,' *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 4 (1970-1), 199-211, and they appear in this book with the permission of the editors. In her notes Judy makes some acknowledgments of her own; I should like to acknowledge my debt to the staffs of the William Andrew Clark Memorial Library, Los Angeles, of the University of Calgary Library, and of Research Services, University of Calgary.

ANNE McWHIR
University of Calgary
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