

## Preface

THE ESSAYS WHICH COMPOSE this volume were, with the exception of the Introduction, papers originally given at the Symposium on Alexander Pope: World and Word, held at the British Academy in May 1994, to mark the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Pope's death. Each paper has since been supplemented and revised.

While one reason for the Introduction is, naturally, to introduce the essays which follow, it seemed useful also to survey the work on Pope which had been published during the last twenty-five years, since G. S. Rousseau produced a similar survey as the Introduction to *Alexander Pope*, which Peter Dixon edited for the Writers and Their Background Series in 1972. Like G. S. Rousseau's review, mine does not pretend to mention every book and article on Pope which has appeared during a quarter of a century. It claims only to sketch the salient features of a fertile and various terrain.

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