Acknowledgements

My work on this book has accumulated debts of gratitude over more than a decade, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge them at last, though I worry I have left some out of the account. I began research on the book in earnest during the academic year 2013–2014 thanks to the generous grant of a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship, topped up by an allocation of rota research leave from the School of English Literature, University of Kent. In 2022, towards the end of the project, the University of Reading covered the costs of a crucial writing term out of its COVID mitigation fund, during which I finished most of the manuscript. My fellow staff at Reading's Department of English Literature generously covered teaching during a further period of leave. I am very grateful for this collegial and institutional support.

More recently, some admired colleagues read individual chapters and offered insights and encouragements. They are Ros Ballaster, Judith Hawley, Chloë Houston, John McTague, Melinda Rabb, Adam Smyth and Marcus Walsh. The book has had a mighty boost from their advice and expertise. Having helped with all of its components over the years, Rebecca Bullard found time to read through a complete draft of the manuscript and, with some timely criticism, did much to tie it together at last. Two anonymous readers for Cambridge University Press asked searching questions about an earlier version, and I have adopted nearly all their suggestions and corrections. These good people have saved me from many mistakes. Weaknesses, errors and shortcomings remain, but they are mine, not theirs.

The earlier parts of Chapter 3 are based on my article 'The Scriblerian Mock-Arts: Pseudo-Technical Satire in Swift and His Contemporaries', *Studies in Philology*, 110 (2013), pp. 611–636. The second half of Chapter 4 is based on my article 'Gulliver, Medium, Technique', *ELH*, 83 (2016), pp. 517–541. I am grateful to the editors of these journals for permission to reproduce material in this book.

The earliest versions of these chapters were listened to and interrogated at conferences and research seminars. For invitations, hospitality and discussion, I am especially grateful to Christopher Tilmouth and members of the Faculty of English, Cambridge University; Felicity Henderson, Nick McDowell, Henry Power and colleagues at the University of Exeter; Tess Somervell and delegates at the 'Reworking Georgics' conference, University of Leeds, 2019; Kate Loveman, Felicity James and Ian Harris at the Early Modern Research Seminar, University of Leicester; Melanie Bigold and colleagues at the University of Cardiff; Abigail Williams and members of the Restoration to Reform research seminar (as was), Oxford University; and Katharina Boehm and colleagues, who invited me to a colloquium at the University of Passau, Bavaria. Looking at this book I remember a hundred conversations with friends and fellow scholars while it was a work in progress. The following people may not recall our talk about it, but each said something that stuck with me, altered my thinking and prompted new ideas, which I gratefully acknowledge: Paul Baines, Clare Bucknell, Louise Curran, Greg Dart, Bart van Es, Alexandra Harris, Joseph Hone, Felicity James, Tom Jones, Tom Keymer, Bonnie Latimer, James McClaverty, Tim Michael, Kathryn Murphy, Juan Christian Pellicer, Michael Prince, Adam Rounce, Valerie Rumbold, Sean Silver, Ceri Sullivan, Alexis Tadié, David Taylor, Sean Walsh, David Womersley and Henry Woudhuysen.