



# Community and Solitude

## New Essays on Johnson's Circle

Edited by Anthony W. Lee

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### DESCRIPTION

Samuel Johnson's life was situated within a rich social and intellectual community of friendships—and antagonisms. *Community and Solitude* is a collection of ten essays that explore relationships between Johnson and several of his main contemporaries—including James Boswell, Edmund Burke, Frances Burney, Robert Chambers, Oliver Goldsmith, Bennet Langton, Arthur Murphy, Richard Savage, Anna Seward, and Thomas Warton—and analyzes some of the literary productions emanating from the pressures within those relationships. In their detailed and careful examination of particular works situated within complex social and personal contexts, the essays in this volume offer a “thick” and illuminating description of Johnson's world that also engages with larger cultural and aesthetic issues, such as intertextuality, literary celebrity, narrative, the nature of criticism, race, slavery, and sensibility.

*Contributors:* Christopher Catanese, James Caudle, Marilyn Francus, Christine Jackson-Holzberg, Claudia Thomas Kairoff, Elizabeth Lambert, Anthony W. Lee, James E. May, John Radner, and Lance Wilcox.

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**Anthony W. Lee's** research interests center upon Samuel Johnson and his circle, mentoring, and intertextuality. He has published three books and more than thirty essays on Johnson and eighteenth-century literature and culture. He has two books forthcoming, *Revaluation: New Essays on Samuel Johnson* (with the University of Delaware Press, 2018) and *“Modernity Johnson”*: *Samuel Johnson Among the Modernists* (Clemson University Press, 2019). Anthony has taught at a number of colleges and universities, including the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Tech University, Kentucky Wesleyan College, the University of the District of Columbia, and the University of Maryland University College, where he also served as Director of the English and Humanities Program.

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