Literary History Writing, 1770–1820

April London

palgrave macmillan

Contents

Αc	knowledgments	ix
In	troduction	1
Section I: Writing and Rewriting Lives		9
1	Writing Lives	13
	Addison and the history of literary criticism	13
	Ordering "Lives" after Johnson	16
	Literary history and opinion	24
2	Rewriting Lives: Revolution, Reaction, and Apostasy	27
	Before and after the Revolution	28
	Literary history and the politics of rationalization	32
	Godwin's Lives of Edward and John Philips	37
Section II: Literary History and Books		47
3	Bibliomania and Antiquarianism	49
	The "rational antiquary"	49
	Antiquarianism and Warton's History of English Poetry	54
4	Literary History and Literary Specimens	59
	George Ellis and the "opinions and prejudices of mankind" Southey's "sneering at the reader" in a history	60
	of modern taste	66
	Thomas Campbell and the "national mind"	72
Se	Section III: Isaac D'Israeli and Literary History	
5	Apostasy and Exclusion	85
	"What often is not in history": conservative	
	iconoclasm and writing from outside	85
	"The historian of the human mind"	89
6	The Structures of Opinion	97
	Opinion, secret history, and anecdote	97
	Literary history and An Enquiry into the Literary	
	and Political Character of James the First	104

viii Contents

Section IV: The Genres of Literary History		111
7	The "whole mind of the nation"	113
	"Our Ancient Literature"	113
	History, biography, and the "mind of the community"	115
	Writing literary histories of "domestic and civil life"	118
	Literary histories in and of the novel	124
8	Literary History, Periodicals, Lectures	134
	The hypercritical tribe	134
	John Corry's View of London	138
	The Cockneys and the Lakers	143
	Institutional lectures and literary history	148
C	Conclusion	
Notes		161
Bibliography		201
Index		219