English Pronunciation in the Eighteenth Century

Thomas Spence's *Grand Repository of the English Language*

JOAN C. BEAL

CLARENDON PRESS · OXFORD
1999

Contents

List of Figures and Tables x

Abbreviations xi

A Note about Bracketing xii

1. Thomas Spence: His Life and Works 1

2. Eighteenth-Century English: The 'Cinderella' of English Historical Linguistics? 13

3. Evidence for Eighteenth-Century Pronunciation: The Value of Pronouncing Dictionaries 36

4. Spence's *Grand Repository of the English Language* 69

5. The Phonology of Eighteenth-Century English: Evidence from Spence's *Grand Repository* and Contemporary Pronouncing Dictionaries 96

6. Conclusion 181

Appendices

1. Sample of output from OCP: all words containing the recoded character ⟨3⟩ (= Spence's {ɑ}) 187

2*a*. Nares's list of words with 'open A' spelt ⟨a⟩ compared with the same entries in the *Grand Repository* and three other pronouncing dictionaries 189

2*b*. Incidence of 'long' and 'short' reflexes of ME /a/ before word-final /r/ in the *Grand Repository* and three other pronouncing dictionaries 192

2*c*(i). Words with {ʌ} in stressed syllables in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in two other pronouncing dictionaries 193

2*c*(ii). Words with {ʌ} in unstressed syllables in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in two other pronouncing dictionaries 195

2*d*(i).	Words with {æ} in stressed syllables in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in two other pronouncing dictionaries	196
2*d*(ii).	Words with {æ} in unstressed syllables in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in two other pronouncing dictionaries	198
3*a*(i).	Words with {ɑU} (= /ɔ:/) before orthographic ⟨l⟩ in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in three other pronouncing dictionaries	200
3*a*(ii).	Words with {æ} (= /æ/) before orthographic ⟨l⟩ in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in three other pronouncing dictionaries	202
3*a*(iii).	Words with {ʌ} (= /a:/) before orthographic ⟨l⟩ in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in three other pronouncing dictionaries	203
3*b*(i).	Words with {ɑU} (= /ɔ:/) after /w/ in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in three other pronouncing dictionaries	203
3*b*(ii).	Words with {æ} (= /æ/) after /w/ in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in three other pronouncing dictionaries	204
4.	Reflexes of ME /ʊ/ in the *Grand Repository* and three other pronouncing dictionaries	206
5*a*.	Words with {ɒ} in the *Grand Repository* (other than those involving 'yod-dropping') compared with the same entries in three other pronouncing dictionaries	207
5*b*.	Words with {l} from ME /o:/ in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in three other pronouncing dictionaries	210
6*a*.	Words with the ending ⟨-ure⟩ (unstressed) in the *Grand Repository* and three other pronouncing dictionaries	211
6*b*.	Words with {U} (= /ju:/) after {R} in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in three other pronouncing dictionaries	213
6*c*.	Words with {ɒ} after {R} by yod-dropping in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in three other pronouncing dictionaries	214
6*d*.	Words with {l} after {R} by yod-dropping in the *Grand Repository* compared with the same entries in three other pronouncing dictionaries	216
7*a*.	Words beginning with ⟨per⟩ in the *Grand Repository* and three other pronouncing dictionaries (adapted from Shields 1973: 123)	217
7*b*.	Vowels in unstressed syllables: a selection of words from the *Grand Repository* and three other pronouncing dictionaries	219
8.	Vowels before /r/ in the *Grand Repository* and three other pronouncing dictionaries	222

9. Words of French/Latin origin with initial ⟨h⟩ in the *Grand Repository* and three other pronouncing dictionaries 223

10. Words with initial ⟨wh⟩ (in traditional orthography) in the *Grand Repository* and three other pronouncing dictionaries 224

References 226

Index 237