Preface

The manuscript of a book may be written alone, but it is not revised without the opinions of others, nor does it reach publication without the assistance of still others.

I owe a great debt to my friends Professor William B. Piper of Rice University and Professor Robert Wallace of Case Western Reserve University, both of whom read the entire manuscript and made innumerable, invaluable comments and criticisms—the majority of which I incorporated into the final draft. I wish also to thank my friends and former colleagues Professor Louis D. Giannetti, Professor P. K. Saha, and Professor Gary Lee Stonum, as well as my former graduate students Leonard Podis and Evelyn Gajowski, all of whom read and commented on various chapters. And I owe thanks to Ms. Carol S. Sykes, my editor, who read and reread the manuscript with a thoroughness above and beyond what was required.

Beyond the gratitude expressed above, I want to take this public opportunity to express my thanks to my wife Jane, whose astute advice and endless patience are matched by a deep confidence in me.


All references to the Tale are to A Tale of a Tub, to which is added The Battle of the Books and the Mechanical Operation of the Spirit, ed. A. C. Guthkelch and D. Nichol Smith, 2d ed. (Oxford, 1958). For the sake of clarity I have in a few minor instances taken the liberty of silently deleting Swift's italics or reversing his italics and roman type; however, any important changes in original texts have been duly noted.
Language
and Reality in Swift's

A Tale of a Tub