Mark Akenside
A Reassessment

Edited by

Robin Dix

Madison • Teaneck
Fairleigh Dickinson University Press
London: Associated University Presses
## Contents

**Editions Used**  
7  
**Introduction**  
9  
**Abbreviations**  
15  

**Akenside’s Political Muse**  
**DUSTIN GRIFFIN**  
19  

**Akenside and the “Lamp of Science”**  
**KARINA WILLIAMSON**  
51  

**The Start of Akenside’s Career: The 1737 Poems**  
**ROBIN DIX**  
83  

**“The Mirthful Sting”: Akenside and the Eighteenth-Century Controversy over Ridicule**  
**RICHARD TERRY**  
108  

**“To Bless the Lab’ring Mind”: Akenside’s The Pleasures of Imagination**  
**STEVE CLARK**  
132  

**Akenside, Coleridge, and the Pleasures of Transcendence**  
**DAVID VALLINS**  
156  

**“Words of Power”: The Search for Authority in “Hymn to the Naiads”**  
**MANDY GREEN**  
183  

**“True Eloquence in Metre”: Akenside and Bishop Hoadly**  
**HARRIET DEVINE JUMP**  
229  

**The Composition and Recomposition of The Pleasures of Imagination**  
**JOHN CONSTABLE**  
249  

**Notes on Contributors**  
285  
**Index**  
287