Contents

Introduction
The Late Modern English Grammatical Tradition
RICHARD W. BAILEY (MICHIGAN) The Ideology of English in the Long Eighteenth Century
CAROL PERCY (TORONTO) The Art of Grammar in the Age of Sensibility: The Accidence [] for [] Young Ladies (1775)
JOAN c. BEAL (SHEFFIELD) John Walker: Prescriptivist or Linguistic Innovator?
LYNDA MUGGLESTONE (OXFORD) Proof and Process: The Making of the Oxford English Dictionary
The Syntax of Late Modern English
MAURIZIO GOTTI (BERGAMO) Central Modal Verbs in Three 18th-Century English Grammars 131
ILSE WISCHER (POTSDAM) The Treatment of Aspect Distinctions in 18th- and 19th-Century Grammars of English
RAFAŁ MOLENCKI (SILESIA) Proscriptive Prescriptivists: On the Loss of the 'Pleonastic' Perfect Infinitive in Counterfactual Constructions in Late Modem English 175

UWE VOSBERG (PADERBORN) Cognitive Complexity
and the Establishment of <i>-ing</i> Constructions with Retrospective Verbs in Modern English
ELENA SEOANE POSSE (SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA) The Codification of Indefinite Agents in Early and Late Modern English
Language and Context in the Late Modern Period
INGRID TIEKEN-BOON VAN OSTADE (LEIDEN) Lowth's Language
TONY FAIRMAN (MAIDSTONE) Letters of the English Labouring Classes and the English Language, 1800-34
MARINA DOSSENA (BERGAMO) Modality and Argumentative Discourse in the Darien Pamphlets
ROBERT MCCOLL MILLAR (ABERDEEN) 'Blind attachment to inveterate custom'. Language Use, Language Attitude and the Rhetoric of Improvement in the first Statistical Account
AGNIESZKA KIEŁKIEWICZ-JANOWIAK (POZNAŃ) Language and Society in the Diaries of Two Women in Early New England
RAYMOND HICKEY (ESSEN) How and Why Supraregional Varieties Arise
Notes on Contributors