

4) INTRODUCTION TO ISAAC WATTS'S REPLY TO DODDRIDGE'S 'ACCOUNT'

Isaac Watts was an influential leader of dissent, whose pedagogical works such as *Logick* (1725) won him respect as an educational theorist. Though he never taught in a dissenting academy, he was interested in their courses of study and corresponded with several students and tutors including Thomas Secker (later Archbishop of Canterbury) who described the course of studies at Samuel Jones's academy in 1711 (Milner, pp. 232-37). In his reply to Doddridge's 'Account', Watts praises the breadth and piety of Jennings's course, raises questions about its content and offers suggestions of his own as to how the course might be structured. He includes information about the academy and practices of his own tutor, Thomas Rowe (1656/7-1705). This document clearly responds to Doddridge's 'Account of Mr Jennings's Method', for it refers to features of that 'Account' which are not present in Doddridge's 'Shorter Description of Jennings's Academy', such as the particular maps used by Jennings for teaching geography. Watts's response identifies his points by noting the page number in Doddridge's 'Account' to which they refer. However, Watts's page references do not correspond with those of the extant copy of 'An Account of Mr Jennings's Method', indicating that one or more copies circulated.

Four hands appear on the MS. Watts's and Doddridge's each contributes a body of text: Watts's in ff. 1-3, Doddridge's in f. 4 and in references added to Watts's section. A third hand has written a heading on f. 1 of 'A manuscript of Dr Watts', and completed the heading on f. 4 by writing 'by Dr Doddridge'; 'for Mr Neal' is written sideways in the left-hand margin of f. 4v in another hand. Nathaniel Neal (d.1769) was a lawyer, and Watts's executor. Following Watts's death in 1748, Neal was in charge of his manuscripts, which is perhaps the reason this manuscript was sent to him.

The MS is a folio sheet folded into quarters to make a booklet with the dimensions 150 mm x 187 mm. The paper is breaking across the horizontal fold. The MS is not foliated. It is not a letter, though it displays some epistolary features. As individuals named in the document are not identified here, readers should read Watts's reply in conjunction with Doddridge's 'Account of Mr Jennings's Method'. Watts's comments have been published in an incomplete form as footnotes to transcriptions of Philip Doddridge's 'Shorter Description of Jennings's Academy', in Williams's and Parsons's edition of Doddridge's *Works*, vol. 5 (1802) pp. 557-67, and in John Doddridge Humphreys's edition of Doddridge's *Correspondence*, vol. 2 (1829), pp. 462-475. They also appear, again in an incomplete form, in Milner's biography of Watts (1834) entitled 'Dr. Watts's Remarks upon the scheme of Mr. Jennings's Plan of Education, drawn out by Doddridge, with the Annotations of the latter' (pp. 461-63).