LAURENCE STERNE AND THE ARGUMENT ABOUT DESIGN

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Mark Loveridge

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To Olive and Basil

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Preface

A number of studies have been of particular help in the construction of this book. Martin Battestin's article 'Tom Jones: The Argument of Design' suggested a banner under which various aspects of the work could be brought together. The most useful general studies were John Traugott's *Tristram Shandy's World: Sterne's Philosophical Rhetoric*, R. F. Brissenden's *Virtue in Distress*, the chapter on Sterne in A. D. McKillop's *The Early Masters of English Fiction*, and Gabriel Josipovici's *The World and the Book*. Victor Erlich's *Russian Formalism: History-Doctrine* provided the starting-point for the first chapter, and helped to show me an approach to the other materials of the book. The other work which helped to suggest an approach was Ronald Paulson's *Theme and Structure in Swift's 'A Tale of a Tub'*. The chapter on *A Sentimental Journey* has benefited from having to disagree with Arthur Cash's *Sterne's Comedy of Moral Sentiments: The Ethical Dimension of the Journey*.

Rather late in the day, I read Eric Rothstein's *Systems of Order and Enquiry in Later Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, and found it highly interesting on the subjects of system and analogy, and on their prevalence in eighteenth-century thought and art. It also has a stimulating chapter on Sterne's methods of construction and control in *Tristram Shandy*.

In the endnotes and bibliography, provenance of sources is London where not otherwise specified.

I should like to record my gratitude for the constant encouragement and stimulation offered by Dr Howard Erskine-Hill of Pembroke College, Cambridge, who supervised the work for the thesis from which this study is adapted. And to Kate, who typed it.

January 1980

Mark Loveridge

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Abbreviations

<i>TS</i>	Laurence Sterne, <i>The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman</i> (1760–67), ed. J. A. Work (New York: Odyssey Press, 1940), 4th printing 1960.
<i>SJ</i>	Laurence Sterne, <i>A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy</i> (1768), ed. Ian Jack (London: OUP, 1968).
<i>ELH</i>	<i>Journal of English Literary History</i>
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
<i>MLQ</i>	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
<i>EC</i>	<i>Essays in Criticism</i>
<i>PQ</i>	<i>Philological Quarterly</i>