

LIST OF TEXT ILLUSTRATIONS	6
VERMEER'S LIFE	7
A master in Delft	7
A small <i>œuvre</i>	9
Vermeer's financial difficulties	10
VERMEER'S WORK	11
Vermeer's early work	11
History painting	14
The emergence of the Delft school	17
Dutch interior scenes	24
Vermeer's <i>The Procuress</i> and <i>Girl asleep at a Table</i>	27
Pieter de Hooch	29
Vermeer's discovery of sunlight	32
Vermeer's city views: <i>The little Street</i> and the <i>View of Delft</i>	36
Further refinement, and the influence of Frans van Mieris	40
The 'three women'	41
'Companion of joy, balm for sorrow' (Plates 16, 17, 18)	44
The Art of Painting (Plate 19)	46
A crisis in style	49
Vermeer's late style	53
The culmination of Vermeer's late style	55
Mannerism	56
Vermeer's last years	57
Conclusion	59
VERMEER AND HIS PUBLIC	60
Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries	60
Theophile Thoré and appreciation in the nineteenth century	67
Van Meegeren's forgeries of Vermeer	69
Two questionable Vermeers	73
NOTES	75
LIST OF PLATES	80
THE PLATES	81
DOCUMENTS	145
CATALOGUE	155
FULL TITLES OF PUBLICATIONS ABBREVIATED IN THE TEXT	173
INDEX	174