

Contents

General Editor's Preface	vii
Acknowledgements	ix
Preface	xi
Introduction Defining the eighteenth century: public sphere conversations	1
Literary groups and coteries: from the Scriblerians to the Bluestockings	6
Collaborative writing	13
The emergence of a reading public and subscription publishing	17
The circulating library, the book club and literary reviewing	22
Conversational circles and texts	25
Part I Conversational Forms	31
1. Literary Communities	33
Literary groups	34
Communities of readers and spectators	50
Testing sociability: speaking to strangers	78
2. Social / Textual Forms	85
The novel	87
Textual letters: the familiar letter, the verse epistle and epistolary fiction	99
The dialogue and other conversational forms	114
The periodical	121
The republic of letters	131

3. Female Communities	138
Women's place in the public sphere	139
Imaginative female communities	144
Women's involvement in the creation of the 'public sphere'	159
'Almost a Scriblerian': the case of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu	162
The public emergence of the woman writer	168
Part II Textual Conversations	173
Textual Conversations: Introduction	175
4. <i>The Dunciad</i> : Associating with 'Republica Grubstreetaria'	178
5. <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> : Ceding Interpretations	193
6. The Political Controversies of <i>Pamela</i>	209
Textual Conversations: Conclusion	226
7. Afterword: Continuing the Conversation	235
Chronology	240
Key Concepts and Contexts	262
Annotated Bibliography	267
Bibliography	273
Index	295