

Contents

List of Illustrations	<i>page</i> 11
Preface	13
I Horace Walpole in his Library	15
II John Chute and the Strawberry Committee	42
III George Selwyn and the Out of Town Party	74
IV Dowagers: The Countess, the Actress and the Marquise	106
V Thomas Gray and the Republic of Letters	138
VI Politics and the Conways	177
VII William Cole and Lady Diana Beauclerk: Antiquaries, Artists and Collectors	208
VIII Lady Ossory, Mary and Agnes Berry: The Last Years	236
Bibliography	265
Index	271