

Contents

Preface	
1 Problems in the Relationship of Literature to Society	9
Introduction	
Melodrama and the Nineteenth Century	
Conclusions	
2 The Eighteenth Century: Defoe, Smollett and the Rise of the Novel	46
3 <i>Clarissa</i>	72
4 <i>Tom Jones</i>	92
5 <i>Persuasion</i>	116
6 <i>Vanity Fair</i>	147
7 Dickens: the Early Novels	174
8 <i>Daniel Deronda</i>	193
9 Conclusions	212
Notes	223
Select Bibliography	234
Index	236