

## CONTENTS

- Acknowledgments *vii*
- List of Illustrations *xi*
- Introduction: Of Civil Discourse and Private Society *xiii*
- Prologue *1*
- 1 Overture: The Promise of Civil Discourse *6*
- 2 Belles Lettres and the Arenas of Metropolitan Conversation *11*
- A Conversation in the Suburbs* *22*
- Politeness and Wit* *26*
- The Model of Belles Lettres* *28*
- Sociability* *31*
- Gentility and Taste* *37*
- The Spas and the Sexes* *40*
- The Profanations of Grub Street* *46*
- 3 Coffeehouse and Tavern *55*
- Henry Brooke: The Poet as Agent of Urbanity* *65*
- Tavern Talk Transfigured* *79*
- Beyond Politeness* *88*
- 4 Tea Tables and Salons *99*
- Tea and Sympathy* *104*
- The Garden of Sensibility* *126*
- 5 Rites of Assembly *141*
- At the Ball* *145*
- Card Games and the Muse* *158*
- The Sphinx's Challenge* *161*
- Crambo* *165*
- The Contest of Wit* *168*
- 6 The Clubs *175*
- The Brotherhood of Fish* *189*
- The Practice of Good Fellowship* *198*
- 7 The College, the Press, and the Public *209*
- Elegy and the College Cult of Memory* *219*

	<i>The Religious Sublime</i>	226
	<i>The Polite Christian</i>	236
	<i>Famous Characters and the Defamer</i>	243
	<i>The Duplicities of Print</i>	262
	<i>Old Janus</i>	266
8	Gaining Admission	275
	<i>The Rapid Rise of Dr. Dale</i>	277
	<i>An Anatomy of Hospitality</i>	301
9	Toward the Polite Republic	308
	Index	329