Contents

Acknowledgements XI
List of Illustrations XII
Notes on Contributors XIV

Introduction 1
Mark Towsey and Kyle B. Roberts

PART 1
Empire and Enlightenment

1 Building Religious Communities with Books: The Quaker and Anglican
Transatlantic Libraries, 1650–1710 33
Louisiane Ferlier

2 Poetry and Civic Urbanism in the Coffee-House Library in the
Mid-Eighteenth Century 52
Markman Ellis

3 Of Mudfish, Harpsichords and Books: Libraries and Community in
Eighteenth-Century Jamaica 73
April G. Shelford

4 Affleck Generations: The Libraries of the Boswells of Auchinleck,
1695–1825 98
James J. Caudle

5 Sedition, Revolution and Libertinism in Eighteenth-Century Brazil:
The Library of Naturalist José Vieira Couto 123
Júnia Ferreira Furtado

PART 2
Revolution and Nation Building

6 Uncommon Knowledge: Late Eighteenth-Century American
Subscription Library Collections 149
Cheryl Knott
PART 3
Institutionalisation and Expansion

10 From Private Devotion to “Public” Education: Northern Dissenting Academy Libraries and Their Benefactors
   239
   Rachel Eckersley

11 The Foundation of Plymouth Public Library: Cultural Status, Philanthropy and Expanding Readerships, 1810–1825
   262
   Annika Bautz

12 Reading on the Edge of the Atlantic: The Easton Library Company
   286
   Christopher N. Phillips

13 Crafting Respectability: The Politics of Class at the Mechanic Apprentices’ Library of Boston
   304
   Lynda K. Yankaskas

PART 4
Public Libraries

14 Reading Publics: Books, Communities and Readers in the Early History of American Public Libraries
   325
   Tom Glynn
15 From Voluntary to State Action: Samuel Smiles, James Silk Buckingham and the Rise of the Public Library Movement in Britain 349
   Alistair Black

Bibliography of Secondary Works 371
Index 398