## CONTENTS

List of Illustrations Acknowledgments		ix xi
Chapter 1	Encouraging Visual Literacy: Early-Victorian State Sponsorship of the Arts and the Growing Need for Expert Art Commentary	11
Chapter 2	"Mere outward appearances"? Teaching Household Taste and Social Perception in Elizabeth Gaskell's North and South and Contemporary Art Commentary	31
Chapter 3	"My name is the <i>right one</i> ": Lady Elizabeth (Rigby) Eastlake and the Story of Professional Art Criticism	53
Chapter 4	"I have often wished in vain for another's judgment": Modeling Ideal Aesthetic Commentary in Anne Brontë's The Tenant of Wildfell Hall	76
Chapter 5	A New Kind of Elitism? Art Criticism and Mid-Victorian Exhibitions	93

## viii • CONTENTS

Chapter 6	Interpreting Cleopatra:	
	Aesthetic Guidance in Charlotte Brontë's Villette and	
	George Eliot's Middlemarch	111
Chapter 7	Sensational Sentiments:	
	Impressionism and the Protection of Difficulty in	
	Late-Victorian Art Criticism	126
Conclusion	"An astonishingly tasteless idea"?	
	Artistic Value after September 11	149
Notes		157
Bibliography		163
Index		173