# Contents

Acknowledgments vii

1 Introducing Colonial Discourse 1

2 Travel, Exploration, and “Discovery”: From Imagination to Inquiry 12
   Imagining Multiple Worlds: The Fantasy of “Discovery” 18
   The Narrative Organization of Discovery 29
   “Inquiry” and the Documentation of the Others 41
   Conclusion: “Discovery” and Wonder, “Contracted and Epitomized” 49

3 The Discourse of Difference: Constructing the Colonial Exotic 55
   The Colony and Imperial Wealth 57
   The Exotic in English Culture 59
   The Colonial Exotic: Aesthetics, Science, and Difference 60
   The Sentimental Exotic 62
   The Scientific Exotic 79
   Conclusion: From the Indian to the Colonial Exotic 95

4 Empire Management: From Domestication to Spectacle 104
   The Domestication of Colonial Spaces 106
   Administering Colonial Spaces 121
   “Raising the General Credit of the Empire”: The Spectacle of Empire 140
   Conclusion: Imperial Improvisation and the Spectacle 145

5 Civilizing the Empire: The Ideology of Moral and Material Progress 161
   England’s Age of Improvement 164
   Discipline and Improve 170
Contents

Imperial Lessons 174
The Salvific Colonial 178
Rescue, Reform, and Race 183
Conclusion: From Improvement to Self-Legitimization 194

6 Aesthetic Understanding: From Colonial English to Imperial Cosmopolitans 201
The Self-Fashioning of the Scholar-Colonial 204
Antiquarian Aesthetics and Colonial Authority 213
“Consumption, Ingestion, and Decoration”: Colonial Commodities 219
The “Empire City”: Pageantry and Empire 226
Conclusion: From Colonial English to Imperial Cosmopolitan 229

References 235

Index 260