Contents

INTRODUCTION 3

1 Werther, Goethe, and Charlotte von Stein 15
   Life, Love, and Writing 1775–89 22

2 Writing and Rewriting 1776–90 71
   Literary Game-playing 72
   Werther 1776–86 88
   Other Works Revised 1786–9 92

3 The Changes in Werther 121
   Albert 123
   Lotte 133
   Werther 151
   The Editor’s Report 186

4 Werther: The Case for a Rereading 213
   The Final Werther in the Light of the Final Tasso 213
   Goethe on Writing and Being Read 231
   A Closer Look at Our Critical Responses to Werther 239
   Werther: A Summary of the Need for Review 249

APPENDIX 259

BIBLIOGRAPHY 261