

Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Introduction 1

The Principle of Exclusivity 9

The Territory of Conversation 12

1 *Seventeenth-Century Guides to Interaction* 17

Redefining the Space of Conversation 22

Written Conversation: The Epistolary Manuals 28

2 *Excess and Euphoria in Madeleine de Scudéry's
Conversations* 41

Euphoric Conversation 47

Refocused Encounters 54

How to Repay Louis XIV 59

Teaching Conversation at Saint-Cyr 66

3 *History, Social Identity, and Talk:
The Writings of Bussy-Rabutin* 77

Memoirs as Conversation 84

Refashioning a World 88

Letters to Louis XIV 97

- 4 *Sociability and Intimacy in the Letters of Madame de Sévigné* 111
- Conversation as Frame: The Trial of Fouquet* 115
- Talking in the Garden* 123
- The Conduct of Intimacy* 132
- 5 *Teaching Sociability Through Literature: The Works of Edme Boursault* 143
- Modern Image-Making: Le Mercure galant* 145
- Esope à la ville, Esope à la cour* 149
- Boursault's Epistolary Experiments* 151
- Babet's Metaphors of Exchange* 152
- Treize lettres: A Manual of Female Passion* 161
- Afterword* 171
- Selected Bibliography* 175
- Index* 183