

EDITH WHARTON'S

The House of Mirth



A CASEBOOK

Edited by
Carol J. Singley

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

2003



Contents

Introduction 3

CAROL J. SINGLEY

A Backward Glance 27

EDITH WHARTON

Introduction to the 1936 Edition of *The House of Mirth* 31

EDITH WHARTON

The Death of the Lady (Novelist): Wharton's *House of Mirth* 39

ELAINE SHOWALTER

Debasing Exchange: Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* 63

WAI CHEE DIMOCK

Crowded Spaces in *The House of Mirth* 85

AMY KAPLAN



The House of Mirth: A Novel of Admonition 107

LINDA WAGNER-MARTIN

"The Word Which Made All Clear": The Silent Close of
The House of Mirth 131

SHARI BENSTOCK

The "Perfect Jew" and *The House of Mirth*:
A Study in Point of View 163

IRENE C. GOLDMAN-PRICE

Another Sleeping Beauty: Narcissism in *The House of Mirth* 181

JOAN LIDOFF

Lily Bart and the Drama of Femininity 209

CYNTHIA GRIFFIN WOLFF

Engendering Naturalism: Narrative Form and Commodity
Spectacle in U.S. Naturalist Fiction 229

LORI MERISH

The Crumbling Structure of "Appearances":
Representation and Authenticity in *The House of Mirth* and
The Custom of the Country 271

CHRISTOPHER GAIR

Extinction, Taxidermy, Tableaux Vivants: Staging Race and Class
in *The House of Mirth* 299

JENNIE A. KASSANOFF

Selected Bibliography 331

