

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page ix
Introduction	I
PART I ORIGIN STORIES AND POLITICAL ECONOMY, 1740–1870	13
1 History as abstraction	19
Condillac's philosophy of signs	19
Rousseau's revision	24
Adam Smith on the origin of language	28
Rousseau: writing and national character	33
The abstraction of desire: Smith's <i>Theory of Moral Sentiments</i>	36
The abstraction of labor: the <i>Wealth of Nations</i>	42
2 Value as signification	50
Value and character in Ricardo	52
Kant and the philologists	58
Longfield and Whately: value in Irish economic thought	61
J. S. Mill's political ethology	65
Jevons's perfected speech	69
PART II PRODUCING THE CONSUMER	73
3 Market indicators: banking and housekeeping in <i>Bleak House</i>	77
1847	80
The bleakness of the house: the novel's systems and metaphors	86
Home of coin: Dickens in the Bank of England	95
More market metaphysics	100
The merits of the system	106

4	Esoteric solutions: Ireland and the colonial critique of political economy	112
	Trevelyan's machine of history	119
	Esoteric solutions	122
	Potato money	127
	Asenath Nicholson's new domestic economy	134
5	Toward a social theory of wealth: three novels by Elizabeth Gaskell	144
	Household words: "homely and natural language" in <i>Mary Barton</i>	145
	"Cold lion": history and rationality in <i>Cranford</i>	158
	Toleration and freedom in <i>North and South</i>	166
	Conclusion	182
	<i>Notes</i>	184
	<i>Bibliography</i>	212
	<i>Index</i>	224