

British salons, with guests such as Byron, Moore, Thackeray, and Baillie, were veritable hotbeds of political and cultural agitation. In this comprehensive study of the British salon between the 1780s and the 1840s, Susanne Schmid traces the activities of three *salonnières*: Mary Berry, Lady Holland, and the Countess of Blessington. Mapping out the central place these circles held in London, this study explains to what extent they shaped intellectual debate and publishing ventures. Using a large number of sources—diaries, letters, silver-fork novels, satires, travel writing, *Keepsakes*, and imaginary conversations—the book establishes sociable networks of days gone by.