## Contents

	Illustrations	ix
	Acknowledgements	x
	Introduction: The price of a Romantic sensibility	]
I.	To the formidable and inaccessible Vathek himself	7
2.	Aesthetic education and a second Emile	25
3.	The dangerous facility of a teenage author	41
4.	The sorrows of an English Goethe	54
5.	A paedophile as literary hero	79
6.	Italy, with castrati	90
7.	A soft but criminal delight	103
8.	A quest for the talismans of Solomon	113
9.	No wife, no heir, and daughters lost	129
IO.	Lisbon and a pilgrim for St Anthony	149
II.	Sintra and the flight from friends	169
12.	Madrid - the winter of reacceptance	191
13.	Beckford in transit, 1788-93	201
14.	Portugal as a prelude to the Abbey	214
15.	'Veil'd Melancholy has her sovran shrine' - the Abbey	222
16.	A Gothic villain for a Gothic abbey	249
17.	'I adore Buhl' - Beckford as collector and interior	
	decorator	269
18.	Bath - The Tower, and the Disraeli factor	288
	Manuscript Sources	309
	Select Bibliography	309
	Index	315