

# Contents

List of Illustrations	x
Preface	xi
Acknowledgements	xiv
Family Trees	xvi

## *Part One: Apprenticeships*

1	The Cyssylls of Stamford	3
2	St John the Evangelist	12
3	London and Court	24
4	Servant and Secretary	33
5	Conscience or Treason?	50
6	'Some Fruit Made of an Evil Time'	65

## *Part Two: 'A Shop for Cunning Men'*

7	Master Secretary's Device	85
8	'This Famous Isle'	103
9	'As Sheep without a Shepherd'	121
10	Household and Family	139
11	Conspiracy and Rebellion	151
12	Vomiting up a Poison	167
13	To Kill a Duke	184

*Part Three: Burghley's Commonwealth*

14	'The Poorest Lord in England'	205
15	A Gaping Gulf	223
16	<i>The Execution of Justice</i>	241
17	The Commission	260
18	To Kill a Queen	279
19	Burghley Triumphant	296
20	'Better for Heaven than for the World'	315
Epilogue		332
Reflections		335
Notes		348
Select Bibliography		372
Index		389