

Contents



1. Reimagined Communities: An Introduction 1
2. The Critic as Clubman: Origins of the
Social Life of Criticism 23
 - Virtual Networking: Periodical Clubs and the
Public Sphere 25
 - Gendering Discourse: Collectivity and
Female Judgment 31
 - Tattling on Tradition: The Cases of
Jenny Distaff and Mrs. Crackenthorpe 38
 - A Network of Spies: *The Female Spectator* 48
3. The Critic as Interlocutor: Anna Jameson
and the Politics of Dialogue 56
 - The Round Table: Male Collectivity and the
Nineteenth-Century Critic 58
 - Scripting Gender: Critical Discourse and the
Politics of Gallantry 64
 - Solitary Confinement: Anna Jameson and the
Sentimental Woman Writer 69
 - Opening a Dialogue: Female Critics
in Conversation 80

4. The Critic as Sociologist: Sociable Dissent in the Work of George Eliot	91
Laws of Progress: The Sociological Foundations of the <i>Westminster Review</i>	93
A Common Fund: The Female Salon and Critical Collectivity	100
A Fellowship in High Knowledge: Dorothea Brooke as Female Critic	109
The Critic in Exile: <i>Impressions of Theophrastus Such</i>	118
5. Critics without Borders: The Antisocial Criticism of Eliza Lynn Linton and Vernon Lee	126
Tootles and Screeds: The Problem of Classification	128
The Shrieking Sisterhood: Eliza Lynn Linton and the Limits of Community	136
A First-Rate Fellow: The Case of Jane Osborne	144
An Antisocial Tirade: Vernon Lee's <i>Althea</i>	151
Epilogue	169
A Society of Outsiders: Feminist Criticism and Collectivity after the Nineteenth Century	
NOTES	181
BIBLIOGRAPHY	217
INDEX	235