Acknowledgements

The ideas that frame this book can be traced back to my earliest days of postgraduate research at Royal Holloway, University of London. Since that time, I have been incredibly fortunate in meeting with friends, advisors and supportive institutions who have made this work not only possible but also enjoyable. But there is one person who has had a defining influence on my development as a researcher, Professor Penelope Corfield, and this project owes an immeasurable debt to her intellectual generosity and firm guidance. I have also benefited hugely from the support and inspiration provided by Professor Margot Finn, Dr Susan Whyman, Professor Michèle Cohen, Dr Simon Werrett, Professor Lisa Jardine and Professor Amanda Vickery.

Various institutions have been critical to the completion of this research, in practical, financial, social and intellectual terms and they include Royal Holloway, University of London, University College London, the Institute of Historical Research, the British Federation of Women Graduates and, more recently, Queen's University, Belfast. I am also indebted to the conversations made possible by the mighty British History in the Long Eighteenth Century Seminar at the Institute of Historical Research in London, which have nurtured and developed my thinking over many years.

This book is the product of archival research and I am grateful to the very many archivists who have helped me and the archives that gave their permission for manuscripts to be quoted. They include: the Bodleian Library, the British Library, the Bedfordshire and Luton Archive Service, the Derbyshire Record Office, the Keep Archives at the East Sussex Record Office, Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, the Library of the Society of Friends, Northamptonshire Record Office, Somerset Archive and Record Office, the University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections and West Yorkshire Archive Service.

Throughout the research and writing of this book I have continued to work in other professional settings outside the very particular world of academic history. This book has, therefore, been shaped by the cultural influences and collegial support of a host of organisations, most importantly, Museums & Collections at University College London, Lifespan Research Group (formerly of Royal Holloway, University of London), Kensington and Chelsea College, Birkbeck College, University of London, the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, the Geffrye Museum,

the Old Operating Theatre Museum and Herb Garret, the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons (London) and Milton Manor House. All of these environments and encounters have helped me think through my subject and have removed the possibility of holding a narrow perspective on the practice of history.

I am very grateful to the team at Manchester University Press for shepherding this book to completion and also to the anonymous readers for their rigorous scrutiny of the manuscript and helpful suggestions. I also want to thank Professor John Thompson for giving me a long-term future in academic research and the opportunity to write my next book.

For their personal and intellectual friendship I would like to thank Joey O’Gorman, Julie Mathias, Ananay Aguilar, Jane Hamlett, Polly Bull, Helen Chatterjee, Kate Smith, Eleanor Hannan, John Steward, Melanie Griffiths, Tabitha Tuckett and all of the 100 Hours Collective. A scholarly existence only gets you so far and time spent with all my friends has been crucial at every step. Finally, I owe a deep gratitude to Sheila and Patrick Hannan for imparting such a varied and vibrant childhood education that I could only presume it possible to pursue a life of the mind, and to Joey O’Gorman for sharing it with me.

Leonie Hannan
Belfast, June 2015