Contents

List of tables viii
List of abbreviations x
Acknowledgments xi

1 Introduction: In search of spoken language in the past 1
2 The Bolton/Worktown Corpus (BWC) and the Mayhew Corpus (MC) 13
3 Windows on society: pronouns and vague category markers 35
4 Evaluation, affect and intensity 63
5 Dialect and identity 96
6 Sources and resources for historical spoken language research: beyond the MC and the BWC 118
7 Vernacular grammar: longevity and obsolescence 127
8 Vernacular continuity 165
9 Reflections 185

Index 198