

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 7

I. INTRODUCTION: THE DONORS' LUNCH 10

2. THE PUBLICAN AND THE MASKED LADIES 22

*Sir Clough Williams-Ellis,
Bill Stickers and Red Biddy*

3. THE EDITOR AND THE STATESMAN 38

*Christopher Hussey and Scotney Castle;
Philip, 11th Marquess of Lothian and Blickling*

4. THE DIARIST 52

James Lees-Milne and the Country Houses Scheme

5. THE AGENTS 68

Cubby Acland, Michael Trinick and Gull Rock

6. THE 'HEIR OF TAILYIE' 88

Mrs Dalyell and The House of The Binns

7. THE PAINTER'S DAUGHTER

AND THE BIOGRAPHER 100

*Lady Berwick and Attingham Park;
Lady Mander and Wightwick Manor*

8. THE PLANTSMEN 118

*Henry, 2nd Lord Aberconway and Bodnant;
Graham Stuart Thomas*

9. THE BANKERS 136

*The Rothschilds at Wicken Fen and Waddesdon;
Sir John Smith*

10. THE MILL OWNER AND THE WOODLANDER 154

Alec Greg and Styal; John Workman and Eborworth

11. THE MILITARY HISTORIAN 166

Henry, 7th Marquess of Anglesey and Plas Newydd

12. THE ACTOR 184

Philip Yorke and Erddig

13. THE SQUIRE, THE SCHOOLMASTER
AND SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE 200

*Wyndham Ketton-Cremer and Felbrigg Hall;
Mildred Cordeaux, Bill Smith and Sheringham Park*

14. THE TRAITORS, THE COUNTESS
AND MR BOND 218

*Nancy, Countess of Enniskillen and Florence Court;
Walter MacGeough Bond and The Argory*

15. THE GROCER 238

Simon Sainsbury and the Monument Trust

16. THE SHELLFISH MERCHANT 250

Cyril Southerland and the Isabel Deborah

17. THE AMBASSADORS 262

*Lady Labouchere and Dudmaston;
Lord Bridges and Orford Ness*

18. THE SPIRITUALIST AND THE VOLUNTEER 278

Edith Pretty, the Tranners and Sutton Hoo

19. THE FRENCH HAIRDRESSER 294

Tyntesfield and a Public Appeal

20. THE REWARDS OF GENEROSITY 306

NOTES 324

TIMELINE 328

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 332

INDEX 333