

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
Introduction	1
<i>Kathleen A. Feeley and Jennifer Frost</i>	
1 "They make one very handsome Mirkin amongst them": Gossip and Church Politics in Mid-Seventeenth-Century Virginia	17
<i>Christine Eisel</i>	
2 "The Time When There Was So Much Talk of the Witchcraft in this Country": Gossip and the Essex County Witchcraft Crisis of 1692	39
<i>Mary Beth Norton</i>	
3 Governed by Gossip: The Personal Letters and Public Purpose of Philip Ludwell in Early-Eighteenth-Century Virginia	59
<i>Virginia Price</i>	
4 The Infamous Anne Royall: Jacksonian Gossip, Scribbler, and Scold	79
<i>Nancy Isenberg</i>	
5 "Gadding," "Gainsaying," and Negotiating Gossip in the Antebellum Black Press	101
<i>Erica L. Ball</i>	
6 Gossip Law	123
<i>Samantha Barbas</i>	
7 Diplomacy and Gossip: Information Gathering in the US Foreign Service, 1900–1940	139
<i>Molly M. Wood</i>	

- 8 "As Told By Helen Ferguson": Hollywood Publicity,
Gender, and the Public Sphere 161
Mary Desjardins
- 9 Gossip in the Women's Pages: Legitimizing the
Work of Female Journalists in the 1950s and 1960s 183
Kimberly Wilmot Voss
- 10 The Smearing of Joe McCarthy: The Lavender
Scare, Gossip, and Cold War Politics 203
Andrea Friedman
- 11 Gossip Goes Mainstream: *People Magazine*, the
National Enquirer, and the Rise of Personality
Journalism 225
Anne Helen Petersen
- 12 Is Charles Trippy Famous? Twenty-First-Century
Celebrity Gossip on *Internet Killed Television* 249
Tim Seiber
- About the Contributors* 267