"I Am Not Master of Events"

The Speculations of John Law and Lord Londonderry in the Mississippi and South Sea Bubbles

Larry Neal

Yale UNIVERSITY PRESS

NEW HAVEN AND LONDON
Contents

Preface vii
Cast of Characters xiii

1. Storms in the Caribbean Sea and the Life of Lord Londonderry 1
2. The War of the Spanish Succession and the Jacobite Rebellion 23
3. The Diamond Deal 40
4. Learning by Doing: Law and Londonderry Before the Bet 55
5. The Bet of the Bubbles 75
6. The Blowing and Bursting of Bubbles 94
7. The Workout 107
8. Family Problems 123
9. Did the Speculations of Law and Londonderry Matter? 141
10. Epilogue 158
Appendix: Preliminary Catalogue of the Londonderry Papers 165
Notes 177
References 203
Index 207