## Contents

[List of plates]  ix  
[Acknowledgments]  x  
[List of abbreviations]  xi  

Introduction  1  

1  Scepticism, Job and the double principle  6  
  Propositions and illustrations  6  
  Curiosity and seriousness  12  
  The problem of consolation  14  
  Translating Job  19  
  The double principle  23  

2  Originality and the hobbyhorse  31  
  The old English plainness and sincerity  36  
  Origins in accidents  40  
  Originality and imitation  44  
  Defective archetypes  51  

3  Associationism  56  
  Early associationisms  60  
  Hartley and Hume  64  
  Language  70  
  Doubles and reciprocals  73  
  Associationist narratives  76  

4  Narratives and readings  83  
  Hogarthian outlines  83  
  The happiness of the Cervantian humour  93  
  Laddered stockings and the story of Le Fever  96  
  Reader-reflecting narratives  102
Contents

5 The Shandean sublime 105
   Figures of the scriptural sublime 109
   Little circumstances and the sublime 126
   Figuration and fragmentation 132
   Parents and stones 140

Index 159