Contents

List of Illustrations ix List of Tables xi Acknowledgments xiii List of Abbreviations xv

Introduction: The Significance of Common Readers in South Africa 3

- 1 Early Readers at the Cape, 1658–1800 12
- 2 Literacy, Class, and Regulating Reading, 1800–1850 30
- 3 The Women's Building of Nations: History Books in the Early Twentieth Century 54
- 4 Books for Troops in the Second World War 69
- 5 Politics and the Libraries, Part One: Book Theft, Intellectual Fraud, and Book Burning, 1950–1971 83
- 6 Politics and the Libraries, Part Two: Dissident Readers and Librarians in the 1980s Townships 100
- 7 Reading in Exile after Soweto, 1978–1992 112
- 8 Combating Censorship and Making Space for Books 124

Conclusion: Revealing the Hidden Books and Hidden Readers 139

Notes 143 Index 191

