Contents

Introduction 11
Chronology 15
Family Tree 18

PART ONE  BECKFORD’S LIFE

1. Accounts of Beckford’s Life 23
   Biographies 23
   Full-length Studies 27
   Contemporary Accounts 30
   Obituaries and Funeral 32
   General Accounts 34
   Children’s Books 43

2. Aspects of Beckford 44
   General, including Beckford Society publications 44
   Memoirs and Diaries 50
   Character 52
   Politics 54
   Portraits 55
   Religion 56
   Sexuality 57
   Slavery 60
   Wealth 61
   Publishing Beckford 62
   Beckford in lists of subscribers 63
   Collections of Beckfordiana on paper 64
   International Congresses 65
   Obituaries in the Beckford Journal 65
   Letters seeking or giving information 66

3. Family 67
   Alderman William Beckford 67
   Mrs Maria Beckford, ‘The Begum’ 72
   Elizabeth Hervey 72

[5]
4. Contemporaries


5. Fonthill

General Accounts 98
Fonthill House, up to the fire in 1755 100
Fonthill Splendens 101
Nelson’s visit in 1800 105
Fonthill Abbey 107
Contemporary Accounts before 1822 111
James Wyatt 114
Heraldry 115
1822 and Christie’s Sale 116
John Farquhar 122
Contemporary Poems 123
1823 and Phillipp’s Sale 124
Fall of the Tower 131
Contemporary Accounts after 1823 131
Later Accounts – General 134
Architectural Studies 144
Interiors 149
Images of the Abbey 150

6. Beckford’s Tower and Bath

General Accounts 161
Poems, Contemporary Bath Guide Books 162
Contemporary Articles, 1823–1844 163
Henry Edmund Goodridge 164
Sales: 1837, 1841, 1845, 1848 165
Other Accounts, 1844–1848 166
The Cemetery Question, 1858 167
Restoration, 1898–1901 167
The Fire of 1931 and Restoration, 1931–1934 167
Restoration, 1954–1956 168
Other Articles, 1933–1969 169
Sale of the Tower, 1969–1971 171
Dr & Mrs Leslie Hilliard, 1971–1977 172
Bath Preservation Trust, 1993–2005 175
Reports, Information Pack 178
Articles, 1993–1999 178
Fundraising & Restoration, 1997–2000 179
Landmark Trust Flat, 1999–2005 181
Recent articles, 2000–2005 181
Siena Marble Table from Vestibule 184
Beckford’s Tomb and Railings 184
Architecture and History 186
Later Bath Guide Books 193
1966 Bath Festival 196

7. Landscape Gardening

Books 197
Articles 202

8. The Collection

General Accounts 204
Beckford’s Library, including Gibbon’s 208
Ceramics 213
Furniture 214
Gold and Silver 217
Paintings and Drawings, including Cozens, Maddox, West 219
Sculpture 227
Stained Glass 228
Works of Art 229
BECKFORD BIBLIOGRAPHY

9. Exhibitions

Bicentenary Exhibition, Yale University Library, 1960
Bicentenary Exhibition, British Museum, 1960
William Beckford, Holburne Museum, Bath, 1966
William Beckford Exhibition, Salisbury & Bath, 1976
Beckford’s Motifs, Beckford’s Tower, 1979
Illustrations of Vathek, Beckford’s Tower, 1980
Beckford and Hamilton Silver from Brodick, London, 1980
Beckford as a Collector of Paintings, Beckford’s Tower, 1981
Postcards of Beckford’s Tower, Beckford’s Tower, 1986
William Beckford & Portugal, Palace of Queluz, 1987
William Beckford as a Collector, Beckford’s Tower, 1989
Beckford’s Travels in Spain and Portugal, Beckford’s Tower, 1990
Beckford and Hamilton Silver from Brodick, Brussels, 1992
Souvenirs of Fonthill Abbey, Beckford’s Tower, 1994
Beckford’s Heraldry, Beckford’s Tower, 1995
Builder of Towers, Building of Bath Museum & Christie’s, 1997–8

PART TWO • LITERATURE


Prose 251
Poetry 251
Posthumous Works 252
Letters 253
Annotations 254
Music 255
Attributed Works 256

11. Vathek and The Episodes: Editions

English 257
French 264
German 266
Italian 267
Portuguese 268
Russian 269
Spanish 269
Other Languages 270
Abridgements of Vathek 271
Extracts from Vathek 272

12. Vathek and The Episodes: Criticism

Reviews, Announcements and Advertisements 275
Commentaries on Vathek 279

13. Travel

Editions of Beckford’s Travel Writing 307
Dreams, Waking Thoughts and Incidents . . .
The Journal of William Beckford in Portugal and Spain . . .
Beckford’s 1794 Journal
Italy; with Sketches of Spain and Portugal
Recollections of an Excursion to the Monasteries . . .
Anthologies 313
General Commentaries 315
England 317
France 317
Holland 318
Italy 319
Portugal 321
Spain 328
Switzerland 329

14. Beckford’s Other Works

Satires 330
Biographical Memoirs of Extraordinary Painters
Modern Novel Writing
Azemia
Poetry 334
‘A Prayer’
‘The Last Day’
The Transient Gleam
Posthumous Works 335
The Vision and Liber Veritatis
Letters 335
Life at Fonthill 1807–1822 . . .
Other Works 336
Music 337
The Beckford Papers 340
Other Beckford Papers in the Bodleian Library 341
Attributed Works 341

15. Literary Studies

Full-length Studies 345
Books 345
Articles 349
Beckford studies were greatly enriched by the publication in 1930 of Guy Chapman and John Hodgkin's *Bibliography of William Beckford of Fonthill*. It was a beautifully produced account of all known editions of Beckford's works published in his lifetime, with collotype facsimiles of the title pages. Since then the need to bring it up to date and extend its range has often been felt, in particular to track the many posthumous editions of Beckford's works, and to record the vast body of writing about him. It is for this reason that the present work has been prepared. Because of Beckford's contribution to a number of diverse fields apart from literature, such as architecture, landscape gardening and collecting, it seemed worthwhile to try to cover all these aspects in separate sections. In this way Beckford's influence from his lifetime onwards can begin to be appreciated.

Eight biographies, as well as a number of full-length studies, demonstrate the fascination that Beckford has exerted over the years. Perhaps the last half-century has seen the greatest expansion in academic and popular works, with a turning point being the bicentenary of his birth in 1960 which was marked by an exhibition at Yale and a smaller one at the British Museum. At the same time the Middle East's homage was a valuable collection of essays from the University of Cairo. Further exhibitions of ever-increasing size were to follow, beginning with a well-chosen group of objects at the Holburne Museum in Bath in 1966, enhanced by a finely printed and most informative catalogue that is prized by collectors today. Then, in 1976, came the wide-ranging William Beckford Exhibition which opened in Salisbury before transferring to Bath. Great attention was paid to creating suitable settings for the exhibits, including an inner sanctum containing some wonderful objects. In the 1980s and 1990s smaller exhibitions attracted visitors to Beckford's Tower in the summer months.

After many years of planning and extensive research the third, and most recent, major exhibition was staged in New York at the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture in the autumn of 2001. Early in the following year it came to the Dulwich Picture Gallery in London. Accompanying the exhibition was a monumental catalogue that provides a reminder of the works of art shown, and is also of permanent value as a source of reference for future scholars and enthusiasts, containing as it does sixteen well-illustrated essays on many aspects of