Consuming Splendor is a fascinating study of the ways in which the consumption of luxury goods transformed social practices, gender roles, royal policies, and the economy in seventeenth-century England. Linda Levy Peck charts the development of new ways to shop; new aspirations and identities shaped by print, continental travel, and trade to Asia, Africa, and the East and West Indies; new building, furnishing, and collecting; and the new relationship of luxury, technology, and science. As contemporaries eagerly appropriated and copied foreign material culture, the expansion of luxury consumption continued across the usual divide of the Civil War and the Interregnum and helped to propel England from the margins to the center of European growth and innovation. Her findings show for the first time the seventeenth-century origins of consumer society and she offers the reader a new framework for the history of seventeenth-century England.

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CONSUMING SPLENDOR

Society and Culture in Seventeenth-Century England

LINDA LEVY PECK
To my friends and family
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I, of course, remain responsible for the errors that remain in this volume.
List of abbreviations

Add. Mss.  Additional Manuscripts
BL        British Library
CSPD      Calendar of State Papers Domestic
CSPV      Calendar of State Papers Venetian
Folger    Folger Shakespeare Library
HEH       Henry E. Huntington Library
HMC       Historical Manuscripts Commission
PCC       Prerogative Court of Canterbury
PRO       Public Record Office
TRHS      Transactions of the Royal Historical Society