

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xi
<i>List of illustrations</i>	xii
1 Introduction: inventors and other heroes	1
2 The new Prometheus	27
3 The inventor’s progress	59
4 The apotheosis of James Watt	91
5 Watt, inventor of the Industrial Revolution	125
6 ‘What’s Watt?’ The radical critique	153
7 The technological pantheon	181
8 Heroes of the Pax Britannica	212
9 Debating the patent system	249
10 The workers’ heroes	280
11 Maintaining the industrial spirit	315
12 Science and the disappearing inventor	351
Epilogue: the Victorian legacy	383
<i>Bibliography</i>	397
<i>Index</i>	440