

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Note on the text</i>	xii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xiv
1 Introduction: The idol of the market	I
2 Hartlibian beginnings	23
3 From Oxford to the Royal Society	64
4 Discursus: Artificial languages, religion and the occult	110
5 The <i>Essay</i> : Wilkins's 'darling'	146
6 After the <i>Essay</i> : Reception, revision, frustration and failure	188
7 Conclusion: From pansophia to comprehension	222
<i>List of manuscripts cited</i>	230
<i>Bibliography</i>	233
<i>Index</i>	257