

**CORGI  
BOOKS**



STEVEN MARCUS

# The Other Victorians

A STUDY OF SEXUALITY  
AND PORNOGRAPHY  
IN MID-NINETEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND



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Julie  
from Marie Varga Bloom  
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## WHO ARE THE OTHER VICTORIANS?

### THE AUTHOR OF *MY SECRET LIFE*

An anonymous Victorian gentleman who, somewhere between the ages of 23 and 25, began to keep a diary which described, in startlingly explicit detail, a lifetime of abundant<sup>2)</sup> sexual experience.

### DR. WILLIAM ACTON

The physician whose surprisingly frank works on prostitution and diseases of the reproductive organs were highly influential upon, and, in most aspects, representative of, the official Victorian attitudes toward sex.

### HENRY SPENCER ASHBEE

Wealthy possessor of the most elaborate and extensive collection of pornographic matter ever assembled by a private person, and author of the first and most important bibliography of pornographic and sexual writings in the English language.

### THE OTHER VICTORIANS

"If the student of culture can show that an age's unconscious assumptions were binding even upon a man who thought he had stripped himself down to organs and orifices, the demonstration is bound to be impressive. This is what Steven Marcus does . . . in a work of high and steady intelligence."

—*New York Review of Books*

of the, calm, coarse.