Contents

Introduction xiii

1 Background of the Problem 1

2 The Introduction of Pneumatic Chemistry into France 36

3 The Origin of Lavoisier’s Experiments—Some Theories Examined and Some New Evidence 76

4 The Mysterious Calcination of Metals 111

5 A Striking Anticipation of Lavoisier’s Theory 146

6 Lavoisier, Phosphorus, and the Role of Mitouard 156

Conclusion 192

Appendix 197

Index 231