

## Contents

Editors' Preface	5
Author's Preface	7
Aesthetic Experience and the Collective Life: An Introduction	11
<i>I. Turning Outward/Turning Inward: Late Howells and Late James</i>	
“Helping my people know themselves”: Novels of William Dean Howells from the Turn of the Century	31
The Reign of Consciousness: Henry James's Late Phase	51
<i>II. American Modernism: Its Visions and Its Continuities</i>	
Making It New: Histories and Definitions	69
Imaginariness of American Modernism	87
Transcendentalists and Cultural Nationalists: Painters & Poets of the Stieglitz Circle	105
Hart Crane's Columbus: The Poet's Voyage in Search of the Incarnate Word	123
Pound's <i>Cantos</i> as Challenge and Provocation	137
“A clean wind through the chaff of truth”: William Carlos Williams as Critic	163
Verbal Abstraction and the Democratic Promise of Natural Speech: From Williams and Creeley to the Language Poets	179
“Historical imagination gathers in the missing”: History, Memory and Strategies of Commemoration in the Poetry of Susan Howe	205

### *III. Versions of Contemporary American Fiction*

Manners and the Contemporary Novel	221
History, Utopia and Transcendence in the Space-Time of Pynchon's <i>Against the Day</i>	247
Constructing the Self – Inventing the Other: Race in Novels of the Post-Sixties	271
Finding Voice in Fragmentation: Negotiations of (Female) Identity in North American Migrant Texts	291
“A-synchronous messaging”: The Fictional World of Richard Powers	307

### *IV. American Studies and the Place of the Aesthetic*

Conformism and Non-Conformity as Categories of Literary Criticism	329
American Studies in an Age of Globalization	345
Toward a Pluralist Aesthetics	361
Works Cited	375
Reprint Notices	401