

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page ix
<i>List of Contributors</i>	xi
1 Introduction: Beyond Transcendence MYRA JEHLLEN	1
<b>I Reassessments</b>	
2 Symbol and Idea in <i>Virgin Land</i> HENRY NASH SMITH	21
3 Pastoralism in America LEO MARX	36
4 Myth and the Production of History RICHARD SLOTKIN	70
5 American Criticism Left and Right GERALD GRAFF	91
<b>II Perspectives</b>	
6 The Novel and the Middle Class in America MYRA JEHLLEN	125
7 Figurations for a New American Literary History HOUSTON A. BAKER, JR.	145
8 American Studies as a Cultural Program ALAN TRACHTENBERG	172
9 Reification and American Literature CAROLYN PORTER	188

**III Texts**

- 10 *Mysteries of the City: A Reading of Poe's "The Man of the Crowd"*  
ROBERT H. BYER 221
- 11 *The Politics of *The Scarlet Letter**  
JONATHAN ARAC 247
- 12 *Sentimental Power: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the Politics of Literary History*  
JANE TOMPKINS 267
- 13 *Walden and the "Curse of Trade"*  
MICHAEL T. GILMORE 293

**IV The Example of Melville**

- 14 *Melville's Economy of Language*  
PAUL ROYSTER 313
- 15 *Art, Religion, and the Problem of Authority in *Pierre**  
EMORY ELLIOTT 337
- 16 *That Hive of Subtlety: "Benito Cereno" and the Liberal Hero*  
JAMES H. KAVANAGH 352
- 17 *Melville and Cultural Persuasion*  
DONALD E. PEASE 384
- 18 *Afterword*  
SACVAN BERCOVITCH 418
- Selected Bibliography* 443
- Index* 447