

C O N T E N T S

Acknowledgments vii

Introduction

Recovering the "Narrow Plot of Acquisitiveness and Desire":
A Methodology for Reading Working-Class Narrative 1

1

Rehabilitating Working-Class Cultural and Literary History:
The Critical Agenda 27

2

The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists and After:
Epistemologies of Class, Legacies of Resistance 63

3

On the "Borderland of Tears": Reputation, Exposure, and the
Public/Private Dynamic of Working-Class Culture 93

4

The "Revolt of the Gentle": Romance and the Politics of
Resistance in Working-Class Writing 145

Afterword: Getting Their Own Back 203

Notes 209

Bibliography 225

Index 235