Contents

Introduction: "Our Nation Is a Caribbean Nation": The West Indies and Early U.S. America 1

Part I. Paracolonialism and the New Republic's Creole Complex

- Locating the Prenational Origins of Paracolonialism and the Creole Complex: Benjamin Franklin's Late Colonial Encounters with the West Indies 25
- 2. Alexander Hamilton and a U.S. Empire for Commerce 64

Part II. Writing the Creole Republic

- 3. Paracolonial Ambivalence in the Poetics of Philip Freneau 111
- 4. The West Indies, Commerce, and a Play for U.S. Empire: Recovering J. Robinson's *The Yorker's Stratagem* (1792) 153
- 5. Charles Brockden Brown's West Indian Specie(s) 175

Afterword: The Afterlife of Cora Munro 200

Notes 217

Bibliography 249

Index 261

Acknowledgments 273