

Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Abbreviations	xi
Introduction: The New and the Original Eighteenth Century	1
1 The New Holy Scripture of Humanity: The Reader of the Novel and the Mission of the Genre in <i>Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre</i>	14
2 Hölderlin's "An die Parzen": Poetry as a Game in Society	64
3 Lessing's <i>Laokoon</i> : The Poetics of Experience	116
4 Ironic Conversation and the Communal Soul: Goethe on and in Language	162
5 Instability and Irony: The Real Eighteenth Century	217
6 The Genres of Mind and Contract: The Theater, the Novel, and the Jews	269
Conclusion: The Use and Abuse of the Eighteenth Century	327
Index	349