

Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction The Literary Order: Policies and Poets	1
Preliminary Thoughts	1
Policies	4
Literature and the Genres	16
Part One: Adjustments	
1 Stephen Hermlin: “Volkstümlichkeit” and the Banality of Language	27
Expressionism and <i>Résistance</i> (1940–45)	27
Postwar Reminiscences (1945–50)	38
“Volkstümlichkeit” (After 1950)	49
2 Franz Fühmann: The Dialectics of Fantasy	72
“Secret Paths into Chaos” (1940–45)	72
“Out of Chaos”: The Lessons of Stalingrad (1945–50)	87
Communist Fairy Tales (After 1950)	95
Part Two: Visions	
3 Peter Huchel: The Disenchanted Idyll	119
Origin (1925–33)	122
Germany’s Twelve Nights (1933–45)	148
The Law (1945–53)	157
Winter Psalm (After 1953)	172
4 Johannes Bobrowski: Shadow Land, Of Guilt and Community	205

Approaching Bobrowski	205
Sarmatia, Myth and History	210
Language: Recollection and Communication	233
“Nachbarschaft,” Love and Anxiety	255
Part Three: Revisions	
5 Premonitions and Provocations: Günter Kunert, Volker Braun, Karl Mickel, and Wolf Biermann	275
Contradictions and the Critical Stance	275
Günter Kunert’s Parabolic Premonitions	280
Volker Braun and Karl Mickel: Provocations and Antimyths	292
Wolf Biermann, East Germany’s <i>Enfant Terrible</i> A Final Prospect	301
	313
Appendix	317
Bibliography	328
Index	345