Contents

	Preface and Acknowledgments	ix
I	Toward an Understanding of the Romantic Heroic Ideal	1
II	The Aesthetic Quest for Self-annihilation	27
III	The Romantic Communal Impulse: A Search for Providential Order	51
IV	The Failure of the Heroic Ideal: American Questioning of the Perfectionist Premise	79
V	The Romantic Love Object: The Woman as Narcissistic Projection	96
VI	Incest and American Romantic Fiction	133
VII	The Emersonian Anti-hero and the Romantic Concept of Tragedy	168
VIII	Conclusion	188
	Bibliography	197
	Index	213