Contents

Acknowledgments ix

- 1 Culture, Criticism, and Unreality 1
- 2 The Myth of the Postmodern Breakthrough 31
- 3 The Politics of Anti-Realism 63
- 4 English in America 103
- 5 What Was New Criticism? 129
- 6 How Not to Talk about Fictions 151
- 7 How Not to Save the Humanities 181
- 8 Babbitt at the Abyss 207

Notes 241

Index 257