

# *Contents*

Foreword	vii
Introduction	1
One: Validity and the Author's Intention: A Critique of E. D. Hirsch's Hermeneutics	
I. Meaning and Significance	13
II. The Author's Intention	25
III. Meaning and Consciousness	35
Two: The Nature of Understanding: H.-G. Gadamer's Philosophical Hermeneutics	
I. Two Conflicting Conceptions of Hermeneutics	43
II. The Limits of Objectivity	48
III. Understanding, Interpretation and Application	51
IV. Understanding and <i>Phronesis</i>	55
V. Understanding and Language	61
VI. Beyond Relativism?	68

Three: Text and Context	73
I. The Estrangement of Writing: Derrida's Bottomless Chessboard	77
II. Immanence and Reference: Ricoeur's Hermeneutical Arch	84
III. Appropriation	89
IV. The Historicity of Interpretation	95
Four: Truth and Criticism	101
I. The Historicity of Art	103
II. Hermeneutical and Transcendental Truth: Karl-Otto Apel	107
III. The Gadamer-Habermas Debate	117
IV. Summary: Hermeneutics as Critique	128
Five: Hermes and Clio	131
I. Literary History: Paradox or Paradigm?	131
II. Beyond Historicism?	133
III. "History or Literature?" Gadamer Contra Barthes	141
IV. The Common Nature of Historical and Literary Texts	146
V. Hermeneutics and Practical Criticism: Jauss, Staiger, Riffaterre, Fish	150
VI. The Paradox of Modernity: Harold Bloom	159
VII. Literary History and the Interpretive Circle: A Synopsis	166
Notes	169
Index	179