

## *Contents*

Introduction ix

I. FROM HUMANISM TO THE END OF NEOCLASSICISM

1. Rabelais and the Middle French Background 3
2. The Period in Modern French 33
3. Montaigne and Pascal 51
4. Balzac and Bossuet 76
5. The Later Seventeenth Century, La Bruyère, and Saint-Simon 94
6. The Eighteenth Century and the End of Neoclassicism 113
7. The European Context: The Legacy of Boccaccio 132
8. European Ornamented Prose from 1500 to 1660 and the Neoclassical Aftermath 148

II. FROM ROMANTICISM TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

9. Chateaubriand 169
10. Romantic Prose 177
11. Flaubert 204
12. Decadent Style and Beyond 232
13. English Styles and French Theory 251

Conclusion 261

Appendix I: The Variables of the French Period 267

Appendix II: Technical Terms 273

Index 275