## CONTENTS

Preface ix

Introduction: Halls of Mirror 1

## PART ONE: "Write What You Know"/"Show Don't Tell" (1890-1960)

- Autobardolatry: Modernist Fiction, Progressive Education, "Creative Writing" 77
- 2 Understanding Iowa: The Religion of Institutionalization 127

## PART IWO: "Find Your Voice" (1960-1975)

- The Social Construction of Unreality: Creative Writing in the Open System 183
- **4** Our Phonocentrism: Finding the Voice of the (Minority) Storyteller 227

## PART THREE: Creative Writing at Large (1975-2008)

- 5 The Hidden Injuries of Craft: Mass Higher Education and Lower-Middle-Class Modernism 273
- **6** Art and Alma Mater: The Family, the Nation, and the Primal Scene of Instruction 321
- 7 Miniature America; or, The Program in Transplanetary Perspective 361

Afterword: Systematic Excellence 399

Notes 411 Index 456