

# Contents

Preface	
Twenty Years Later	v
Acknowledgements	1
Introduction	
The <i>Bildungsroman</i> as Symbolic Form	3
1 The Comfort of Civilization	15
The Ring of Life — The Rhetoric of Happiness — Anti-Robinson — Aesthetic Education — The Art of Living — Personality — Trial, Opportunity, Episode — Conversation — 'Inevitable evils' — The Sociology of Prejudice — Symbol and Interpretation — Escape from Freedom — Of Necessity, Virtue	
2 Waterloo Story	75
Politics as Destiny? — 'The uniform of my generation' — <i>Homo Clausus</i> — Bovaryism, Disavowal, Bad Faith — The Age of Ideals — 'That's the way of the world' — Reality principle, realism, irony — The Automaton's Rights — 'A parody, perhaps . . .' — Socialization Rejected — 'A certain amount of impudence' — <i>Streben</i> — 'All ties cast off' — Unhappy Ending — Irony and Irrationality — The Fall of Wisdom — The Waterloo Paradox	

3	The World of Prose <i>Parvenir</i> — In Fashion — The Balzacian Narrator (I): 'Nothing is hidden from me' — The Balzacian Narrator (II): 'At a time like this it would be a wonderful spectacle . . .' — Capitalism and Narration — Fifty Thousand Young Men, One Hundred Thousand Novels — On the Genesis of Tolerance — 'Narration' — Balzac At His Very Worst — The World of Prose — Dialectics of Desire — 'And in return, what do you hope to take?' — Forever Young?	129
4	The Conspiracy of the Innocents The Confinement of Youth — The White and the Black — Very Common Persons — Anthropological Garden — 'In this enlightened age . . .' — The Devil's Party — <i>The Hero in Exile</i> — Ur-Novel — The Great Tribunal of the World — 'Narratio' versus Novel — 'To alter the world a little' — Eliot's Narrator: Maturity as Humour — <i>End of a Genre</i>	181
	Appendix 'A Useless Longing for Myself': The Crisis of the European <i>Bildungsroman</i> , 1898–1914	229
	Notes	246
	Index	272