

Contents

Preface: Why History? ix

I Introduction: Second Thoughts about History I

Approaching history-in-society – The paradigmatic change in historical research – Elitism toppled? – The social context recognized? – Present-mindedness disciplined? – Historians as cultural critics? – The structure of the book

2 Historical Research 24

Making histories – The pasts present – The expert as a referee – The specialist's personal contribution – History as 'an argument without end' – The enigmatic truth – The historian's basic predicament

3 The People Addressed 50

The risk of patronage – Not just readers – The present pasts of the audience – Public histories – Popular histories – Scholarly histories – Shared histories – The liquid social fabric

4 The Politics of History 82

Assessing histories – Elaborating the topic – Histories offered – Treacherous time – Expectations of the specialist – The historian's position – The draft of the message

5 Cultural Critics 113

The responsibilities of cultural critics – The profiles of cultural critics – The historian's professional self – Designing research – Arguing for the findings – Composing the final account

6 The Impact of Historical Research **146**

The functions of the historical profession – The role of history in society – Impact assessment by funders – The potentials of a participatory historical culture

Notes 165

Select Bibliography 185

Index of Topics 190

Index of Writers 193