

Contents

List of plates	ix
List of tables	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Preface to the second edition	xiii
Illustrations	xv

1 MYTHMAKERS: EARLY LITERATURE 3

Introduction; Aboriginal cultures; Aboriginal texts; Aboriginal mythology; Inuit culture; Inuit mythology; European myth and cultural context

2 REPORTERS: LITERATURE TO 1867 25

Backgrounds; Journalism and cultural politics; Exploration journals; Missionary journals; Travel, captivity and settlement journals; Letters and epistolary form; Satire and speech; Politics and poetry; Romantic documentary; Documentary romance

3 TALE-TELLERS: LITERATURE TO 1922 79

Anglo-protestant, ultramontane, prairie; Currents of ideas; Historical tales; Sentimentality, satire and social reform; Social and literary resistance; Nature stories; Confederation Poets; The Nelligan symbol; Sketches of reality

4 NARRATORS: LITERATURE TO 1959 131

National romance and the land; Painters and the Montreal Group; Social protest and social change; Realism; The politics of literary form; Literature and war; Voice and point of view;

Radio and stage; Public and personal poetry; National presumptions; Sources of change

5 ENCODERS: LITERATURE TO 1985 203

Language, literature, the state and the academies; Codes of myth; Codes of history; Codes of figure and person; Codes of gender; Codes of fantasy and folklore; Parodic codes; Epilogue

6 RECONSTRUCTORS: LITERATURE INTO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY 283

Demography, politics, technology; Changing perceptions; Continuities; Rethinking society; Literature and aboriginality; Laughter and social criticism; From laughter to violence; Recuperative paradigms of identity: ethnicity & sexuality; Living in print and performance; Reconstructing history; The play of storytelling

Chronological table 359

Further reading 425

Index 439