## Contents

Introduction: The Variety of Humors/1 SARAH BLACHER COHEN

Toward a Definition of Black Humor/14 MAX F. SCHULZ

Nabokov's Black (Hole) Humor: *Lolita* and *Pale Fire*/28 RICHARD PEARCE

Berger and Barth: The Comedy of Decomposition/45 STANLEY TRACHTENBERG

Take-Off to Cosmic Irony: Science-Fiction Humor and the Absurd/70 DAVID KETTERER

Detached Laughter in the South/87 C. HUGH HOLMAN

Comic Modes in Black America (A Ramble through Afro-American Humor)/105 CHARLES H. NICHOLS

Saul Bellow's Humane Comedy/127 ALLEN GUTTMANN The Comic Anatomy of *Portnoy's Complaint*/152 SHELDON GREBSTEIN

The Jewish Literary Comediennes/172 SARAH BLACHER COHEN

The Satire and Moral Vision of Mary McCarthy/187 WENDY MARTIN

Ladies in Boston *Have* Their Hats: Notes on WASP Humor/207 GEORGE GARRETT

College Humor and the Modern Audience/238 EARL ROVIT

The Urban Tall Tale: Frontier Humor in a Contemporary Key/249 SANFORD PINSKER

Prolegomena to the Study of Fictional *Dreck*/263 PHILIP STEVICK

Camp, Cruelty, Colloquialism/281 RUBY COHN

Fresh Air: Humor in Contemporary American Poetry/304 JOHN VERNON

Contemporary American Humor: A Selected Checklist of Criticism/324

Notes on Contributors/337