## Contents

Preface x	
Acknowledgments xv	
PART I	
1/ The Printer as American Man of Letters 3	
2 / The Symbolism of Literary Alienation in the Revolutionary Age 23	
3 / The Fiction of the Real American Revolution 47	
4 / Slavery and Modernism 67	
Coda / The Act of Thought in Virginia 85	
5 / The Civil War and the Failure of Literary Mind in America 103	
6 / The Southern Exodus from Arcadia 115	
PART II	
7 / The Will to Art in Postbellum America 127	
8 / The Spectatorial Attitude 135	
Coda / The Decorum of the Writer 159	
9 / The Bard and the Clerk 167	
10 / The Legend of the Artist 181	
11 / A Fable of Civilization 209	
12 / What Survivors Do 233	
13 / The Closure of History in a Postsouthern America	255