Contents

List of Figures x
Preface xi

1 Robin Hood’s Retort 1
2 Legitimating Written English 26
3 Who Writes, Who Reads, and Why 48
4 Setting Standards 95
5 The Rise of English Comp 143
6 Commas and Canaries 167
7 What Remington Wrought 197
8 Language at a Distance 216
9 Why the Jury’s Still Out on Email 247
10 Epilogue: Destiny or Choice 260

Notes 270
Bibliography 285
Name Index 305
Subject Index 311