

Contents



Preface	xi
1. Introduction: The Modernity of Nineteenth-Century American Fiction	1
2. "The Being of Language: The Language of Being" in Thoreau's <i>A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers</i>	28
3. The Metaphysics of Imagination: Narrative Consciousness in Hawthorne's <i>The Blithedale Romance</i>	52
4. Writing and Truth in Poe's <i>The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym</i>	91
5. Ecliptic Voyaging: Orbits of the Sign in Melville's "Bartleby the Scrivener"	111
6. Trumping the Trick of the Truth: The Extra-Moral Sense of Twain's <i>Pudd'nhead Wilson</i>	139
7. The Authority of the Sign in James's <i>The Sacred Fount</i>	168
Postscript: Through the Custom-House	190
Notes	196
Index	215