

CONTENTS

PREFACE vii

ONE INTRODUCTION:

Excess, Mastery, and Systems 1

TWO PROLOGUE:

Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow* 36

THREE REDUNDANCY:

Joseph Heller's *Something Happened* 69

FOUR RECURSION:

William Gaddis's *J R* 87

FIVE REENACTMENT:

Robert Coover's *The Public Burning* 106

SIX REFORMULATION:

Joseph McElroy's *Women and Men* 131

SEVEN RESET:

John Barth's *LETTERS* 175

EIGHT EPILOGUE:

Ursula Le Guin's *Always Coming Home* 204

BIBLIOGRAPHY 238

INDEX 242