CONTENTS

Preface Introduction

Part One

Antebellum Era: The Black Heroine's Awakening

Chapter 1	<i>The History of Mary Prince</i> : First Slave Narrative Published by a Woman			
	(a)	Preliminary Remarks	9	
	(b)	The Slave Narrative: Formal Devices and Characteristic Reatures	10	
	(c)	Slave Narratives Versus Plantation Novels: The Other View of the Patriarchal Institution	17	
~)	Pag	From Slavery to Freedom	21	
	(e)	Nurturing Female Figures in the Face of the 'Peculiar Institution'	27	
Chapter 2	Wilson's Our Nig: First Novel by a Black Woman			
	in America			
	(a)	The Re-Discovery of a Novel	31	
	(b)	The Novel: Formal Devices	34	
	M	From Childhood to Adolescence: A Heroine's Growth	39	
	(d)	Mothers and Surrogate Mothers	47	
Chapter 3	Jaco	bs' Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl:		
	The	Slave Mother's Voice		
	(a)	Fiction and Reality	58	
	(b)	Slave Narrative or 'Sentimental' Novel? Formal Aspects	61	
	(c)	True Woman Versus Heroic Woman, or White Heroine Versus Black Heroine	66	
	(d)	The Black Family and the 'Peculiar Institution'	78	

1

Part Two

Wo	man's Era (1890-1900): Stereotype or Character?	
Chapter 4	Harper's Iola Leroy: An Archetypal Novel?	
	(a) Antebellum and Postbellum America: A Transition	85
	(b) The Novel's Circular Structure	91
	(c) The Black Heroine: True Woman and Race Leader	9 3
	(d) The Black Community: A Search for Mothers	108
Chapter 5	Hopkins' Contending Forces: Assimilation or Protest?	
**	(a) Biographical Remarks	115
	(b) Romance or Political Novel?	119
	(c) Sappho's Two Identities	125
	(d) The Self-Sufficient Black Community	132
Chapter 6	Kelley's Megda: Black Characters, or White?	
A BORNES	(a) An Unrecognized Writer	136
	(b) From Woman's Fiction to Girl's Fiction	139
	(c) The Heroine's Conversion	141
	(d) A Lesson for Whites and Blacks: The Perfect Community	147
	Part Three	
	A Critical Reception: Biased Critics?	151
	Part Four	
÷.	Conclusions:	
14	From the Antebellum Era to the Woman's Era:	
	A Development	16
Bibliograp	hy of Primary Sources	184
Bibliograp	hy of Secondary Sources	19