

Contents

<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	viii
Introduction: Benjamin, Adorno, and the Experience of Literature	1
COREY McCALL AND NATHAN ROSS	
PART I	
Benjamin and Adorno: Literary Themes and Philosophical Debates	17
1 Against the Reification of History: Benjamin and Adorno on Baudelaire	19
COREY McCALL	
2 <i>Theatrum Philosophicum</i>: Thinking Literature and Politics With Walter Benjamin	37
OSCAR GUARDIOLA-RIVERA	
3 Adorno and Beckett: Aesthetic <i>Mimêsis</i> and the Language of “The New”	57
MARCIA MORGAN	
4 Abysmal Humanity: Anthropological Materialism in Georg Büchner and Walter Benjamin	76
CAT MOIR	

PART II

- Kafka: “Fairy Tales for Dialecticians” 91

- 5 Breaking Through the Mythic Organization of Life:
On the Critique of Capitalism in Benjamin and Kafka 93
NATHAN ROSS

- 6 The Virtue or Power of the Useless: Benjamin and Adorno
on Kafka 111
IDIT DOBBS-WEINSTEIN

- 7 Discovering the Truth of Sancho Panza: The Meaning of
Comedy in Adorno’s and Benjamin’s Divergent Readings
of *Don Quixote* 126
MENACHEM FEUER

PART III

- Proust: Recovering Experience 141

- 8 Adorno and Proust: Memory, Childhood, and the
Experiential Grounds of Social Criticism 143
ROGER FOSTER

- 9 Seeing In, Seeing Through: Adorno and Proust 159
OWEN HULATT

PART IV

- From Hölderlin to Walser: Poetic Afterlives 179

- 10 Hölderlin’s Aesthetic Critique of Modernity 181
MICHAEL J. THOMPSON

- 11 Walter Benjamin on Hölderlin’s “Poetic Cosmos” 201
HYUN HÖCHSMANN

- 12 *Wo bist du, Nachdenkliches!* Sobriety and Poetic
Determinability in Hölderlin and Walser 221
STÉPHANE SYMONS

13 Ramble On: Robert Walser at the Limits of Critical Theory	235
JEFFREY A. BERNSTEIN	
<i>List of Contributors</i>	252
<i>Index</i>	255