

Contents

List of Illustrations vii

Preface: The Curve of the Literary Horizon ix

- 1 Do We Understand the Outlines of Literary History? 1
- 2 The Life Spans of Genres 34
- 3 The Long Arc of Prestige 68
- 4 Metamorphoses of Gender 111
- 5 The Risks of Distant Reading 143

Acknowledgments 171

Appendix A: Data 173

Appendix B: Methods 185

Index 199