### **Contents**

### Preface 11

Introduction: The Essay as Knowledge in Progress

19

## I. Criticism

#### CHAPTER I

The Structure of Dostoevsky's Notes from Underground

35

#### CHAPTER 2

The Culmination of Love in Benjamin Constant's Adolphe

CHAPTER 3	}
-----------	---

A Revaluation of André Gide's Paludes

82

CHAPTER 4

The History of Art in Victor Hugo's Notre-Dame de Paris

93

CHAPTER 5

Speránski's Dinner and the Duality of War and Peace

IIO

CHAPTER 6

Description and Cliché

132

# II. Theory

CHAPTER 7

Time and the Aesthetic Phenomenon

ISI

CHAPTER 8

Aesthetics and History: Convergence and Paradox

161

CHAPTER 9

The Concept of Poetic Estrangement

173

CHAPTER IO

Wilhelm Worringer and the Polarity of Understanding

182

CHAPTER II

Auerbach's *Mimesis:* Aesthetics as Historical Understanding

2 I I

CHAPTER 12

Narrativity as Knowledge

226

Index 271