

# Contents

Philipp Löffler, Clemens Spahr, and Jan Stievermann

**0 Introduction — 1**

## Part I: Definitions, Backgrounds, Contexts

Winfried Fluck

**1 Antebellum Period and Romanticism: Definitions and Demarcations — 9**

David O. Dowling

**2 Antebellum Literary Culture: The Institutions of Romanticism — 33**

Johannes Voelz

**3 Transnational Dimensions of Romanticism — 55**

Jan Stievermann

**4 American Romanticism and Religion — 81**

Thomas Constantinesco

**5 Romanticism and European Philosophy, or “Idealism As It Appears in 1842” — 119**

## Part II: Intellectual, Spiritual, and Political Debates

Daniel S. Malachuk

**6 Romanticism and Democracy — 143**

Sandra Harbert Petrulionis

**7 Romanticism and Social Reform — 163**

Everett Messamore

**8 American Romanticism and Esotericism — 185**

Frank Kelleter

**9 America as Interior Space: Artificial Landscapes and the Modernization of Literature in Edgar Allan Poe’s Short Fiction — 207**

## Part III: Contestations of Authorship and Genre

Philipp Löffler

**10 Authorship as Profession and the Uses of Genre in Antebellum America — 229**

Clemens Spahr

**11 Poet-Prophets and Seers: American Romanticism, Authorship, and Literary Institutions — 249**

Kenyon Gradert

**12 Life Writing and Romantic Expressivism — 269**

Astrid Franke

**13 The Fireside and Sentimental Poets — 293**

## Part IV: Close Readings

Wesley T. Mott

**14 Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Nature* (1836): American Romantic "Manifesto" — 313**

Charlene Avallone

**15 *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* (1845): Romanticism and (Proto) Feminism — 335**

Laura Dassow Walls

**16 The Continuous Creation of *Walden* — 355**

John Eevelev

**17 Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* (1851) — 375**

Frank Obenland

**18 Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* (1850) and the Historical Imagination in American Romanticism — 389**

Paul E. Kerry

**19 Romanticism and History: Göttingen and George Bancroft's *History of the United States* (1834) — 415**

David Komline

**20 *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) and the Politics of Sentimentalism — 435**

Jared Hickman

**21 Myth and Mythmaking in the Douglass Circle — 453**

Wendy Martin

**22 “The Soul Selects Her Own Society:” Emily Dickinson’s Poetry and the Creation of the Self — 477**

Walter Grünzweig

**23 The Great Psalm of the Republic: Walt Whitman’s Democratic Poetics — 495**

## **Part V: Reception Histories**

Russell B. Goodman

**24 Transcendentalist Legacies in American Philosophy — 517**

Marianne Noble

**25 Rethinking Gender in Antebellum American Literature — 537**

Devin Zuber

**26 “In the Woods We Return to Reason and Faith”: American Romanticism, Environmentalism, and Seeker Spirituality — 561**

**Index of Names — 579**

**Index of Subjects — 589**

**List of Contributors — 599**

