

Contents

Introduction — 1

- The Human Age and the Geological Age — 1
- Two Avatars of Geohistoricism: Stifter and Viollet-le-Duc — 7
- The Historicization of Nature: Antiquarianism, Restoration, and Historicism in Geology — 14
- On the Mountaintop: Gazing into the Depths of Time — 19
- Ex uno plura*: The Archive of Earth History — 29

Chapter 1: The Geological Motive: Cultural Critique and Restorative Desire in Stifter's Early Prose — 37

- The Metropolitan Prehistory of a “Restorative Project” — 37
- The Urban Panorama: The View(s) from St. Stephen’s Cathedral — 41
- Digging Deeper: “A Walk Through the Catacombs” — 46
- The Catacombs Restored — 52
- Recovering Value at the Flea Market — 54
- Cultural Sedimentation: *Limestone* — 61
- The Madness of Restoration: *Castle Crazy* — 67

Chapter 2: The Summer of Restoration — 77

- Pure Posteriority — 77
- Bildungsroman à deux*: The Narrative Structure of Restoration — 80
- Curriculum geologicum universale — 85
- Diaphanous Spaces: Mountain Lakes and Seas of Fog — 90
- Beauty through Knowledge: The “Winter Letters from Kirchschlag” — 96
- The Poetics of Restoration — 105
- Autobiography of a “Conservator” — 108
- Restoration in Practice: Marble Figures — 114
- Frames and Environments — 121
- Restoration and Revival — 124

Chapter 3: History of a Restorator: Eugène-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc — 129

- Viollet-le-Duc’s Geological Imagination — 129
- Defining Restoration: Viollet-le-Duc’s *Dictionary of French Architecture* — 134

Following Cuvier: From Archeology to Reconstructive
Surgery — 137
Interiors: The Milieu of Everyday Life — 147
From Auvergne to Mont-Blanc: Geology as Loss — 149
Kindred Spirits: Viollet-le-Duc and Stifter — 160

Chapter 4: Traces of Life: The Limits of Geohistoricism — 165

Memento vivere: History and Life — 165
Nietzsche's "Concept-Quake" — 167
Witiko: Life and the Historical Novel — 171
Framing History: The Castle of Wittinghausen — 173
"Among Clubs and Axes:" The Birth of a Novel in the Museum of
Cultural History — 180
The Body of the Middle Ages — 185
The Epic and the Novel: Simulating Orality in Prose — 194

Epilogue — 205

Bibliography — 211

Primary Sources — 211
Secondary Literature — 213

Index — 225