

Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction xi

CHARLES NICOL AND J. E. RIVERS

1. The Fifth Arc

Nabokov: A Portrait 3

ALFRED APPEL, JR.

Nabokov's Critical Strategy 22

JAMES M. RAMBEAU

A Few Things That Must Be Said on Behalf of Vladimir
Nabokov 35

DMITRI NABOKOV

Toward the Man behind the Mystification 43

PHYLLIS A. ROTH

2. The First and Second Arcs

Nabokov's Assault on Wonderland 63

BEVERLY LYON CLARK

The Conjuror in "The Potato Elf" 75

WALTER EVANS

The Cartesian Nightmare of *Despair* 82

WILLIAM C. CARROLL

Invitation to a Beheading and the Many Shades of Kafka 105

MARGARET BYRD BOEGEMAN

3. The Third Arc

Focus Pocus: Film Imagery in *Bend Sinister* 125

BEVERLY GRAY BIENSTOCK

Deciphering "Signs and Symbols" 139

LARRY R. ANDREWS

Humbert Humbert and the Limits of Artistic License 153
GLADYS M. CLIFTON

Parody and Authenticity in *Lolita* 171
THOMAS R. FROSCHE

Postscript to the Russian Edition of *Lolita* 188
VLADIMIR NABOKOV (TRANSLATED BY EARL D. SAMPSON)

Pnin: The Wonder of Recurrence and Transformation 195
JULIAN W. CONNOLLY

4. The Fourth Arc

Pale Fire: The Art of Consciousness 213
MARILYN EDELSTEIN

Speak, Memory: The Aristocracy of Art 224
CAROL SHLOSS

Ada or Disorder 230
CHARLES NICOL

Notes to *Ada* by Vivian Darkbloom 242
VLADIMIR NABOKOV (EDITED BY J. E. RIVERS AND
WILLIAM WALKER)

Notes to Vivian Darkbloom's Notes to *Ada* 260
J. E. RIVERS AND WILLIAM WALKER

The Problem of Text: Nabokov's Last Two Novels 296
PAUL S. BRUSS

Notes on Contributors 309

Bibliography 313