

Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Introduction: Historical Contrast and the Prestige of Literary Culture	1
1 Historical Unconsciousness in the Novel, 1790–1819	17
2 The Invention of Historical Perspective	55
3 The Invention of the Period Survey Course	81
4 The Disciplinary Rationale for Periodization, and a Forgotten Challenge to It (1886–1949)	114
5 Stories of Parallel Lives and the Status Anxieties of Historicism in the 1990s	136
6 Digital Humanities and the Future of Literary History	157
Notes	177
Index	195