THE POETICS OF NATIONAL AND RACIAL IDENTITY IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE

John D. Kerkering's study examines the literary history of racial and national identity in nineteenth-century America. Kerkering argues that writers such as Du Bois, Lanier, Simms, and Scott used poetic effects to assert the distinctiveness of certain groups in a diffuse social landscape. Kerkering explores poetry's formal properties, its sound effects, as they intersect with the issues of race and nation. He shows how formal effects, ranging from meter and rhythm to alliteration and melody, provide these writers with evidence of a collective identity, whether national or racial. Because of this shared reliance on formal literary effects, national and racial identities, Kerkering shows, are related elements of a single literary history. This is the story of how poetic effects helped to define national identities in Anglo-America as a step toward helping to define racial identities within the United States. This highly original study will command a wide audience of Americanists.

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THE POETICS OF NATIONAL AND RACIAL IDENTITY IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE

JOHN D. KERKERING

Loyola University Chicago
For my mother and father
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JACK KERKERING
# Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Author/Work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Richard Wagner, Beethoven</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;BB&quot;</td>
<td>Sidney Lanier, &quot;From Bacon to Beethoven&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;CC&quot;</td>
<td>Sidney Lanier, &quot;The Centennial Cantata&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;CMC&quot;</td>
<td>Sidney Lanier, &quot;The Centennial Meditation of Columbia&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;CR&quot;</td>
<td>W. E. B. Du Bois, &quot;The Conservation of Races&quot;</td>
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<td>DA</td>
<td>Dvořák in America</td>
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<td>J</td>
<td>Walter Scott, The Journal of Sir Walter Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;LII&quot;</td>
<td>Sidney Lanier, &quot;Lecture II&quot; of The English Novel</td>
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<td>LG</td>
<td>Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass</td>
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<td>LGL</td>
<td>William Dwight Whitney, The Life and Growth of Language</td>
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<td>MHR</td>
<td>Houston Baker, Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance</td>
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<td>PPO</td>
<td>Sidney Lanier, Poems and Poem Outlines</td>
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<td>PW</td>
<td>Walt Whitman, Prose Works</td>
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<td>R</td>
<td>Eric Foner, Reconstruction</td>
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<td>SBF</td>
<td>W. E. B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk</td>
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<td>SEV</td>
<td>Sidney Lanier, The Science of English Verse</td>
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<td>SJS</td>
<td>J. B. T. Marsh, The Story of the Jubilee Singers</td>
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<td>V&amp;R</td>
<td>William Gilmore Simms, Views and Reviews in American Literature, History and Fiction</td>
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