

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE IN CONTEXT

This volume provides a comprehensive overview of Nathaniel Hawthorne and demonstrates why he continues to be a critically significant figure in American literature. The first part focuses on Hawthorne's interest in and knowledge of past (Puritan and colonial) and contemporary nineteenth-century history (women's, African American, Native American) as the inspiration for his writings and the source of his literary success. The second part explores his fascination with social history and popular culture by examining topics such as mesmerism, utopian life styles, theatrical performances, and artistic innovations. The third part looks at how Hawthorne succeeded and excelled in the literary marketplace, as an author of children's literature, literary sketches, and historical romances. In the fourth part, Hawthorne's literary precursors, peers, colleagues, and successors are analyzed. In the final part, Hawthorne's attachment to family, nature, and home is examined as the source of creative inspiration and philosophical questing.

MONIKA M. ELBERT is Professor of English and Distinguished University Scholar at Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ. Former editor of the *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review*, she has published extensively on Hawthorne (*Encoding the Letter A: Gender and Authority in Hawthorne's Early Fiction*, 1990, two editions of *The Scarlet Letter*, and numerous essays on Hawthorne and on other nineteenth-century American authors). Recent books include coedited collections: *Romantic Education in Nineteenth-Century American Literature: National and Transatlantic Contexts* (2015, with Lesley Ginsberg), *Anglo-American Travelers and the Hotel Experience in Nineteenth-Century Literature* (2017, with Susanne Schmid), and *Haunting Realities: Naturalist Gothic and American Realism* (2017, with Wendy Ryden).

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Montclair State University



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*In memory of Stephen Foss,
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Abbreviations

References to the works of Hawthorne are to *The Centenary Edition of the Works of Nathaniel Hawthorne*, ed. William Charvat et al. (Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press, 1962–1994), and are cited parenthetically in the text by volume and page number:

- 1: *The Scarlet Letter*
- 2: *The House of the Seven Gables*
- 3: *The Blithedale Romance and Fanshawe*
- 4: *The Marble Faun*
- 5: *Our Old Home*
- 6: *True Stories from History and Biography*
- 7: *A Wonder Book and Tanglewood Tales*
- 8: *The American Notebooks*
- 9: *Twice-told Tales*
- 10: *Mosses from an Old Manse*
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