Contents

List of Illustrations vii
Acknowledgments viii

Introduction: A New World in Ruins
The Postapocalyptic Fantasy: Semi-Secular Timescapes 7
Accelerated Decrepitude: Rapid Progress and Premature Aging in the New Republic 16
Proleptic Historiography: America’s Future Archaeologists and Postapocalyptic Historians 20
Uncanny Historicism: Speculative Realism in Frontier Travel 26
Science Faction: Natural History and Postapocalyptic Fantasy 29

1 The American Noah
American Antiquity: James Kirke Paulding and the Native Noah 47
Descent from Ararat: Crossing the Alleghenies in Paulding’s The Backwoodsman 56
An Antebellum Antediluvian: Surviving the Flood 69

2 Narratives of Extinction and the Last Man
Witness to Extinction: The Last Man 77
The Last Man in America: James Fenimore Cooper’s Adaptation 83
A Nation in Ruins: Who Is the Last of the Mohicans? 91
Après Moi le Déluge: Coming to Terms with Cooper’s The Crater 98

3 The Magnificent Mound Builders
Mounds Mania: The Ancient Heartland Empire 115
Breaking the Form of “The Prairies”: William Cullen Bryant’s Archaeological Sublime 122
All Abuzz: Nature, Artifice, and the Humble Bee 127
Managing the Landscape: Bryant among the Trees 135

4 History Unearthed
New Views: The Postapocalyptic Topographies of Domestic Travel Writing 146
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The American Holy Land: John Lloyd Stephens's Mayan Excursions</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Step-Mother World: Hawthorne's &quot;New Adam and Eve&quot;</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in Postapocalyptic Boston</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Contact at Ktaadn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruins Already: Thoreau's Tocquevillian Epiphany</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dustbin of History: Thoreau, Parkman, and the Northern Frontier</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact! Carnac!: A Week on Ktaadn and the Merrimack River</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion: Footprints in the Sand</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion: The Revolutionary Ruins of the New West</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Postapocalyptic Postscript

Frequently Cited Works

Index

224 229 235