

A QUESTION OF TIME

This book brings together leading critics in American literature to address the representation of time throughout a wide range of genres, methodologies, and chronological periods. American literature, from its beginnings to the present, provides a particularly rich set of texts to examine in this regard, with its interest in history, modernity, and progress. Each essay considers how time embeds itself in a variety of textual representations, including Native American rituals, Shaker dances, novels, poetry, and magazines, in order to provide readers with a capacious view of time's constitutive role in American literature. The essays are organized into four parts: Materializing Time, Performing Time, Timing Time, and Theorizing Time. Each section reflects a particular approach to the question of time, but taken as a whole, the volume makes visible unexpected temporal patterns that cut across time period and genre.

CINDY WEINSTEIN is Eli and Edythe Broad Professor of English at the California Institute of Technology. She is the author of *The Literature of Labor and the Labors of Literature: Allegory in Nineteenth-Century American Fiction* (1995), *Family, Kinship, and Sympathy in Nineteenth-Century American Fiction* (2005), and *Time, Tense, and American Literature: When Is Now?* (2015), all published by Cambridge University Press.

A QUESTION OF TIME

*American Literature from Colonial Encounter to
Contemporary Fiction*

EDITED BY

CINDY WEINSTEIN

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For Jim, Sarah, and Sam

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