Contents

List of Figures .......................... page vii
List of Contributors ..................... viii
Preface ................................ ix
Chronology, 1930–1940 ............... xi

Introduction .............................. 1
Eve Dunbar and Ayesha K. Hardison

PART I PRODUCTIVE PRECARITY AND LITERARY REALISM 31
1 Black Excesses and Deprivations in Literature and Photography of the 1930s 33
Sharon Lynette Jones

2 Arna Bontemps and Black Literary Archives 59
Emily Lutenski

3 Black Women’s 1930s Protest Fiction 86
Jennifer D. Williams

PART II NEW DEAL, NEW METHODOLOGIES 109
4 Folklore, Folk Life, and Ethnography in African American Writing of the 1930s 111
Robin Lucy

5 New Deal Discourses 139
J. J. Butts

6 Black Theatre Archives and the Making of a Black Dramatic Tradition 170
Kate Dossett
vi

Contents

PART III CULTIVATING (NEW) BLACK READERS 209

7 Racial Representation and the Performance of 1930s African American Literary History 211
   John Edgar Tidwell

8 Black Print Culture of the 1930s 238
   Shawn Anthony Christian

PART IV INTERNATIONAL, BLACK, AND RADICAL VISIONS 263

9 Democracy Unfinished: African Americans Writing “Africa” 265
   Nicole A. Waligora-Davis

10 Langston Hughes and the 1930s: From Harlem to the USSR 296
    Cynthia Davis and Verner D. Mitchell

11 Black Cultural (Inter)nationalism: Communism and African American Writing in the Great Depression 321
    Nathaniel Mills

Index 349