Written by leading scholars on Philip Roth from around the globe, this book offers new insight into the various contexts that inform his body of work. It opens with an overview of Roth’s life and literary influences, before turning to important critical, geographical, theoretical, cultural, and historical contexts. The volume closes with focused meditations on the various iterations of Roth’s legacy, from the screen to international translations of his work to his signature stylistic imprint on American letters. Together, all of these chapters reveal Roth’s range as a writer, as he interrogates American national identity and history, and explores the dimensions of the individual self.

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Philip Roth (Presses de Universitaires de Montpellier, 2002), Ecritures contemporaines de la différence (Belin, 2003), Mémoires d’Amériques (Michel Houdiard, 2009), Autour de Saul Bellow (Presses Universitaires d’Angers, 2010), American Pastoral: Lectures d’une oeuvre (Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2011) and a Special Issue on Grace Paley (Journal of the Short Story in English, 2015). She also co-edited the first volume of Philip Roth’s writings in La Pléiade (Gallimard, 2017).

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Press of Kentucky, 2017), Critical Insights: Raymond Carver (Salem Press, 2013), Roth and Celebrity (Lexington Books, 2013), and Perspectives on Barry Hannah (University Press of Mississippi, 2007). In 2015, Shipe won the John Updike Review’s Emerging Writers Prize for his essay “The Long Goodbye: The Role of Memory in John Updike’s Short Fiction.” He currently serves as President of the Philip Roth Society and is on the Executive Board of the John Updike Society. He is also on the editorial board of Philip Roth Studies and is a consulting editor for Critique.

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A Note on References and Abbreviations

Writers in this volume draw from different editions of Roth’s texts, some citing from early editions and others employing more recent reissues by Random House, for the Vintage International series, or by The Library of America, which has published Roth’s entire collected works over the course of ten volumes. In each chapter, authors indicate in endnotes which edition of Roth’s work they have used. For ease of reference, below are the in-text abbreviations used across the volume.

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A Note on References and Abbreviations

P Patrimony: A True Story
PAA The Plot Against America
PC Portnoy’s Complaint
PD The Professor of Desire
PO The Prague Orgy
RMO Reading Myself and Others
ST Sabbath’s Theater
WSG When She Was Good
ZU Zuckerman Unbound