

Contents

Acknowledgments — V

Introduction: On Plot and the One-by-One — 1

Part I: Poetry: Necessity and Plot in Aristotle and Eighteenth-Century German Criticism

- 1 **Unexpected Yet Connected: On Aristotle's *Poetics* and its Heterodox Receptions — 17**
 - Universals and tragic plot — 19
 - The catharsis of events — 21
 - Suspense for the sake of suspense — 26
 - The riven *Poetics* — 32
- 2 **Contingency, Connection, and Possible Worlds: History and Poetry in Gottsched's *Versuch einer kritischen Dichtkunst* — 38**
 - Borrowing from the possible — 40
 - Unruly *Scharfsinnigkeit* — 44
 - Fabel* and possible realities — 47
 - Clear connections and the constraints of *Zusammenhang* — 50
 - Real connections in fabulated narratives — 55

Part II: History: Aesthetic Connection in Historical Knowledge and Historical Composition

- 3 ***Cognitio historica* between Kant and Meier — 61**
 - Temporality and aesthetics in *cognitio historica* — 64
 - Perfect and beautiful knowledge — 71
 - Narrative knowledge and the temporality of history — 76
- 4 **“On the Wings of Imagination”: Wholeness and Spontaneity in Kant's Philosophy of Universal History — 78**
 - Judgment and history — 80
 - Teleology and history — 83
 - The effectivity of historical form — 85

Freedom, spontaneity, and the infinitesimal — 87
Continuity and the novel of history — 90
Humboldt's mediated representation — 92
Benjamin and Kant — 94

- 5 **Not Benjamin's Ranke: On the Aesthetics of Historicism — 98**
Form in Hegelian historicism — 100
Ranke's constructed historicism — 102
Not progress, not development — 105
Ranke and ideology — 107
Old and older historicism — 111

Part III: Epochality: On Phenomenology's Appeals to a Disconnected Past

- 6 **Heidegger and the Plot of Metaphysics — 119**
Dasein's historicity — 121
The emplotment of inquiry — 123
The epochal history of metaphysics — 126
The disappearance of history — 129
Freedom and the history of being — 132
- 7 **Arendt's Epochal Phenomenology: History and the New — 135**
Anti-Semitism in *Origins of Totalitarianism* — 138
Freedom or narrative: Competing Kantianisms — 143
The totalitarianism of "process" — 147
Arendt's realist Kantianism — 151
- 8 **Speaking for the Past: On *Begriffsgeschichte* and the Language
of Other Epochs — 153**
Connections to the past — 154
Temporalities and the conditions of history — 157
Narrative and phenomenology: Mutual interferences — 161
Koselleck's exemplary phenomenology — 167

Conclusion: Wholeness and its Sabotage — 170

Bibliography — 175

Index — 194