

Authority, Autonomy, and Representation in American Literature, 1776–1865

Mark R. Patterson

A work of literary history and criticism, this study offers valuable insights into political and literary theory. In separate chapters on Benjamin Franklin, Hugh Henry Brackenridge, and Charles Brockden Brown in the post-Revolutionary period and on Fenimore Cooper, Emerson, and Melville in the antebellum period, Patterson provides a series of brilliant readings of major texts to describe how American writers have conflated political and literary concerns as a means to their own social authority.

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