

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910959543803321
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Titolo	Writing history as a prophet : postmodernist innovations of the historical novel / / Elisabeth Wesseling
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam ; ; Philadelphia : , : J. Benjamins Pub. Co., , 1991
ISBN	1-283-42448-7 9786613424488 90-272-7760-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (228 pages)
Collana	Utrecht publications in general and comparative literature, , 0167-8175 ; ; v. 26
Disciplina	809.3/81
Soggetti	Historical fiction - History and criticism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	<p>WRITING HISTORY AS A PROPHET; Editorial page; Title page; Copyright page; Table of contents; Preface; I. Postmodernism and History; A Revival of Historical Fiction; The Corpus of Postmodernist Historical Fiction; The Delineation of Postmodernism; Postmodernism and Deconstruction; Linda Hutcheon's Poetics of Postmodernism; The Postmodern and the Utopian; Notes; II. Some Theoretical Deliberations About Genre; Genre as a Social Institution; Notes; III. The Classical Model of Historical Fiction; The Emergence of the Historical Novel; The Framing of the Waverley Novels</p> <p>The Didactic Function of the Historical Novel; Imitation and Emulation; The Demise of Scott; Notes; IV. Modernist Experiments With the Historical Novel; A Twentieth-Century Perspective on Scott's Shallowness; Historicism Criticized; Historical Fiction and the Questioning of Objective Historical Knowledge; Modernist Innovations of the Historical Novel; The Subjectivization of History; The Transcendence of History; Self-Reflexivity; Historical Fiction and the Detective Novel; Notes; V. Fiction Historical and Scientific; Science Fiction and the Utopian Mode</p> <p>Utopian Historical Fiction and Nostalgic Science Fiction; Time-Travelling; Uchronian Fiction; The Parodic Nature of Counterfactual Conjecture; The Political Implications of Uchronian Fiction; Modernist</p>

Self-Reflexivity Versus Postmodernist Counterfactual Parody; Notes; VI. Self-Reflexivity in Postmodernist Historical Fiction; The Conventionalization of Self-Reflexivity; Historiography in the Making; The Partiality of Historical Knowledge; The Unreliability of the Sources; Selectivity; Narrativity; Enclaves of Authenticity; History in the Making; Esthetic History; Political History
Toward Counterfactual Conjecture; Notes; VII. Alternate Histories; Eclecticism; Negational Counterfactual Conjecture; Uchronian Fantasies; History Turned Upside Down; Counterfactual Shifts; Closure; Parody; Coda: "'Gravity's Rainbow; Notes; Conclusion; References; INDEX

Sommario/riassunto

This is a postmodernist history of the historical novel with special attention to the political implications of the postmodernist attitude toward the past. Beginning with the poetics of Sir Walter Scott, Wesseling moves via a global survey of 19th century historical fiction to modernist innovations in the genre. Noting how the self-reflexive strategy enables a novelist to represent an episode from the past alongside the process of gathering and formulating historical knowledge, the author discusses the elaboration of this strategy, introduced by novelists such as Virginia Woolf and William Faulkner.
