American Foundational Myths

edited by
Martin Heusser and Gudrun Grabher

Gunter Narr Verlag Tübingen
# Table of Contents

## Introduction

Cultural Mythopoeia

John Blair (Geneva)
Against American Exceptionalism: Post-Colonial Perspectives on Irish Immigration 15

Paul Crumbley (Utah)
Contesting the Sublime: New Versions of an Alternative American Tradition 29

Adrienne Kalfopoulou (Athens, Greece)
Where is America? Elsewhere Realities and the American Dream 45

Histories

Inger H. Dalsgaard (Aarhus, Denmark)
Making Myths about the 'Merrikins: Imagining American Ingenuity in the Jacksonian Era 53

Pascale Smorag (Besançon, France)
From *Columbia* to the *United States of America*: The Creation and Spreading of a Name 67

Barre Toelken (Utah)
Native American Myths Reconsidered 83

Myth and the Female Voice

William Blazek (Liverpool)
Foundational Myths Revisited: Traditional and Contemporary Identity in the Novels of Louise Erdrich 103

Stéphanie Durrans-Brochon (Bordeaux, France)
The American Myth in Progress: Willa Cather’s *My Ántonia* 117
Dorothea Steiner (Salzburg, Austria)
Women’s “Enlightened” Re-visions of a New World 127

(Re)defining Male Views

Martin Heusser (Zurich)
Ginsberg, Ferlinghetti and the De-Disneyfication of America 139

Samuel Ludwig (Berne)
“I spoke in haste”: Overcoming Original Causality in
*The Grandissimes* 149

Henri Petter (Zurich)
American Fiction and White Male Myths 163

Film and Visual Representation

Monika Messner (Innsbruck, Austria)
The Foundation of a Myth: Visualizing the American West 175

Cheli Reutter (Riverside, California)
The Fate of the American Western Film 187

Barbara Straumann (Zurich)
Rewriting American Foundational Myths in Alfred Hitchcock’s
*North by Northwest* 201

Notes on Contributors 215

Index of Names 219