Contents

Acknowledgements vii

Introduction: What is Comparative Literature Today? 1

1 How Comparative Literature Came into Being 12

2 Beyond the Frontiers of Europe: Alternative Concepts of Comparative Literature 31

3 Comparing the Literatures of the British Isles 48

4 Comparative Identities in the Post-Colonial World 70

5 Constructing Cultures: the Politics of Travellers' Tales 92

6 Gender and Thematics: the Case of Guinevere 115

7 From Comparative Literature to Translation Studies 138

Notes 162

Select Bibliography 176

Index 182