Contents

Cue-Titles 9

Introduction – Power, Majesty, Darkness, Shadows 10

Chapter 1 – Ackroyd’s London, Past and Present 17
  London and the English Literary Sensibility 17
  Ackroyd, History and the Historical Novel 29
  Ackroyd’s London Chronotope 45

Chapter 2 – Uncanny London 65
  London the Obscure 69
  Wandering and Wondering in Eternity – Mythical Time 74
  Where Suffering Seems to Linger – Genius Loci 81
  Variety, Energy and Darkness – Cockney Visionaries 88
  Poets of Power and Darkness – Ackroyd’s Occultists 97
  The Divine Spark that never Dies, or Making the Dead Speak –
  the Magic of the Imagination 111

Chapter 3 – Felonious London 115
  Serial Killings and the London Gothic Psychothriller 119
  Crime Re-written 130
  Assuming a Story – the Narrative of Detection 135
  London Confined 141
  Vivifying Crimes, Vivifying the City 150

Chapter 4 – Psychogeographic and Antiquarian London 155
  Psychogeography 156
  Ackroyd’s Psychogeographic Antiquarianism 159