## E. Joseph Sharkey

Identification of the Engine

Linguistic Skepticism in and around Cortázar, Kafka, and Joyce

The Catholic University of America Press Washington, D.C.

## Contents

Preface / vii
Acknowledgments / xiii
Abbreviations / xv

- Introduction: Paradise Lost as an Allegory of Finitude / 1
   The Skeptical Threat in Paradise Lost / 4
   Paradise Lost in Light of Gadamer and Wittgenstein: Idling the Engine / 21
   Conclusion / 40
- 2. Skeptical Self-Contradiction in *Hopscotch:* Knowing, Being, Reading, Writing / 42

The Self-Contradiction of Cortázar's "Active Spectator": How to Know? How to Be? / 44

The Confused Hermeneutics of *Hopscotch*: How to Read? How to Write? / 77 Conclusion / 114

3. Kafka, Wittgenstein, and the Limits of Language / 118

Wittgensteinian Skepticism in *The Castle*: Inside and Outside the Language-Game at Once / 124

"On Parables": The Value of Already Knowing That the Incomprehensible Is Incomprehensible / 156

Conclusion / 189

## vi Contents

4. The Skeptic and the Hermeneut in Joyce / 191
Stephen's Rejection of Finitude / 197
Bloom's Finite Existence and Hermeneutical Aesthetic, *Bloomitas* / 226
Conclusion: Joyce's Choices / 251

5. Conclusion: Joyce's Teacup / 254

Works Cited / 261 Index / 269