

Contents

Acknowledgements IX

List of Illustrations X

A Murder of Crows 1

- 1 **The Taxonomic Axis of Fatality: From Series of Monsters to Serial Murderers** 14
 - 1 From Series to Individuals 16
 - 2 Series and Fatality 20
 - 3 From Series of Monsters to Serial Murderers 24
- 2 **Sketching the Face of Evil: Pioneering Serial Killers** 41
 - 1 The Antihero Factory 42
 - 2 In Search of Singularity 46
 - 3 Sketching the Face of Evil 53
 - 4 Printing in Parts 62
- 3 **On the Edge: Living between Suicide and Madness** 68
 - 1 Official and False Madmen 71
 - 2 Books, Titles, Laws 77
 - 3 "Hanging from a Beam by Choice" 85
 - 4 Living on the Edge 94
- 4 **Expressing Criminal Behavior** 107
 - 1 Detection before Detectives 112
 - 2 Patterns in Crime 123
 - 3 Killers as Pretenders 135
 - 4 Killing and Obsession 142
- 5 **Dying in Parts: Criminography and the Cult of Excess** 153
 - 1 The Syntax of Evil: From *Fait-Divers* to the Crime Catalogue 153
 - 2 *Casus* and Criminography 160
 - 3 Dying in Parts 166
 - 4 The Cult of Excess 175

Cleaning the Crime Scene 187

Bibliography 191

Index of Names and Subjects 213