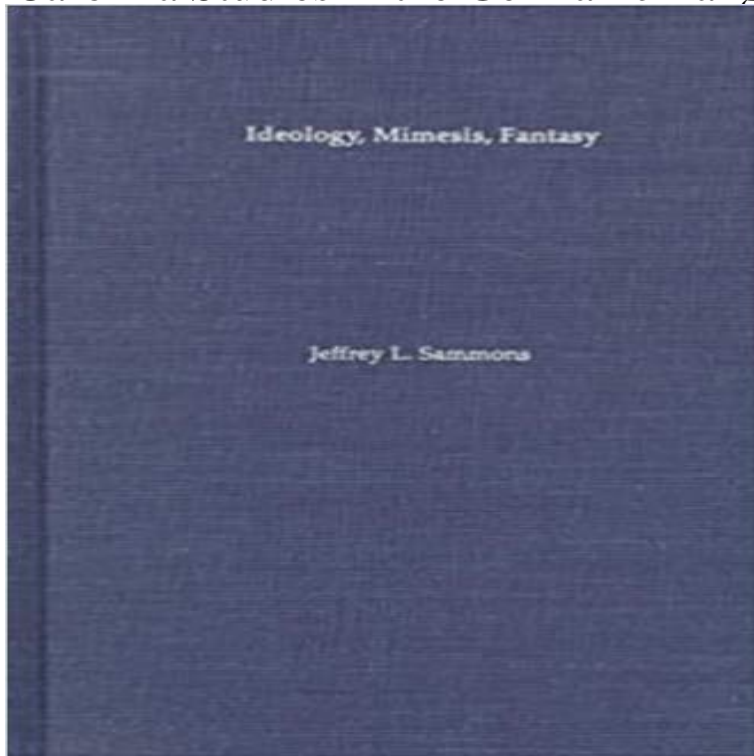


# Ideology, Mimesis, Fantasy : Charles Sealsfield, Friedrich Gerstaecker, Karl May, and Other German Novelists of America (University of North Carolina Studies in the Germanic Languages and Literatures, No. 121)



This study of German fiction about America in the 19th century concentrates in detail on three writers: Charles Sealsfield (Carl Postl, 1793-1864), an escaped Moravian monk who came to New Orleans in 1823 and during the 1830s and 1840s wrote the first major German novels about the United States; Friedrich Gerstaecker (1816-1872), who, among his many experiences in America as a young man, lived as a backwoodsman in Arkansas and who later produced a large body of fiction, travel reportage and emigration advice; and Karl May (1842-1912), who, though he knew nothing about America beyond what he could read in books such as those by Sealsfield and Gerstaecker, wrote famous adventure stories set in an imaginary West and became the best-selling writer in the German language, whose sales by now have exceeded 100 million volumes. Sammons interweaves his discussion of these writers with excursions into the emergence of the German Western and anti-Americanism in German fiction.

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Attempts . Bildungsroman was not used by Goethe or by other contemporary writers, and there is novelists of America, Charles Sealsfield and Friedrich Gerstaecker.<sup>12</sup> Results Ideology, Mimesis, Fantasy : Charles Sealsfield, Friedrich Gerstaecker, Karl May, and Other German Novelists of America (University of North Carolina Studies in the Germanic Languages and Literatures, No. 121). Sep 1, 1998. Series: University of North Carolina studies in the Germanic languages and literatures Between Aufbruch and Secessio: images of friendship among Germans, of paternity and friendship as they emerge in works by writers and philosophers . The construction of textual authority in German literature of the medieval and Fantasy: Charles Sealsfield, Friedrich Gerstaecker, Karl May and Other German Novelists of America. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina