

## Contents

Preface xiii

Introduction: a meditation upon misreading 3

### PART I CHARTING THE TERRITORY

1. Poetic origins and final phases 9
2. The dialectics of poetic tradition 27
3. The primal scene of instruction 41
4. The belatedness of strong poetry 63

### PART II THE MAP

5. The map of misprision 83
6. Testing the map: Browning's *Childe Roland* 106

### PART III USING THE MAP

7. Milton and his precursors 125
8. In the shadow of Milton 144
9. Emerson and influence 160
10. In the shadow of Emerson 177
11. In the shadow of the shadows: for now 193