

CONTENTS

Praeludium ix

THE POINT OF VIEW FOR MY WORK AS A CRITIC

Literary Love 3

Sublime Strangeness 16

The Influence of a Mind on Itself 25

SHAKESPEARE, THE FOUNDER

Shakespeare's People 35

The Rival Poet: *King Lear* 48

Shakespeare's Ellipsis: *The Tempest* 62

Possession in Many Modes: The Sonnets 78

Hamlet and the Art of Knowing 87

Milton's Hamlet 94

Joyce . . . Dante . . . Shakespeare . . . Milton 109

Dr. Johnson and Critical Influence 126

THE SKEPTICAL SUBLIME

- Anxieties of Epicurean Influence: Dryden, Pater, Milton,
Shelley, Tennyson, Whitman, Swinburne, Stevens 133
- Leopardi's Lucretian Swerve 162
- Shelley's Heirs: Browning and Yeats 172
- Whose Condition of Fire? Merrill and Yeats 194

WHITMAN AND THE DEATH OF EUROPE IN THE
EVENING LAND

- Emerson and a Poetry Yet to Be Written 209
- Whitman's Tally 218
- Death and the Poet: Whitmanian Ebbings 235
- Notes Toward a Supreme Fiction of the Romantic Self 248
- Near the Quick: Lawrence and Whitman 255
- Hand of Fire: Hart Crane's Magnificence 266
- Whitman's Prodigals: Ashbery, Ammons, Merwin, Strand,
Charles Wright 294
- Coda 334
- Acknowledgments 337
- Credits 338
- Index 341