

c o n t e n t s

*Preface and Acknowledgments* • ix

Introduction	1
1 Dante and the Secularization of Religion through Literature	9
2 “Enditynges of Worldly Vanitees”: Truth and Poetry in Chaucer as Compared with Dante	43
3 Prophecy Eclipsed: <i>Hamlet</i> as a Tragedy of Knowledge	70
4 Blind Prophecy: Milton’s Figurative Mode in <i>Paradise Lost</i> and in Some Early Poems	103
5 The Logic of Infinity in European Romanticism: Blake or Leopardi?	120
6 The Linguistic Turning of the Symbol: Baudelaire and His French Symbolist Heirs	143
7 “The Missing All”: Emily Dickinson’s Apophatic Poetics	169
8 The Dialectical Logic of William Butler Yeats’s Byzantium Poems	189
9 The Religious Vocation of Secular Literature: Dante and Postmodern Thought	207

*Bibliography* • 231

*Index* • 246