

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vi
<i>Author's Note on Translation of Quoted Material</i>	vii
Introduction	1
<b>First Series: Origins, Recognitions</b>	9
1 Plato's <i>Symposium</i> : The Transcending Enigma of Eros	11
2 Nuptial Splendour: The Song of Songs	25
3 Shadow Upon Splendour: Genesis, Transgression and the West	45
<b>Second Series: Love as Cultural Construct</b>	67
Mappings: Eros and Agape	69
4 Love in French Literary Tradition: The Troubadours to Rousseau	73
5 The Crisis of Eros and the 'Death of God'	87
<b>Third Series: Deconstructing Romantic Transcendence</b>	103
Mappings: Eros Under Suspicion	105
6 Marcel Proust: The Idolatries of Eros	109
7 Paul Valéry: Eros Unveiled and the Re-imagining of Love	127
8 Paul Claudel: Transgression and Promise	149
<b>Fourth Series: The Immanent Beyond</b>	171
Mappings: Libido Liberated and Love Sublime	173
9 André Breton's Starry Castle	177
10 Georges Bataille: The Erotic Abyss	195
11 Marguerite Duras: The Haunting	213
<b>Fifth Series: The Postmodern Symposium</b>	231
Mappings: Eros 'Post-Everything'	233
12 Roland Barthes: Amorous Discourse and its Subject	237
13 Luce Irigaray: Lifting the Curse of Genesis	255
<b>Sixth Series: Agape Remembered?</b>	275
Mappings: 'Post-Christian' Memory of Agape	277
14 Pierre Emmanuel: 'Car enfin je vous aime'	281
15 Julia Kristeva: Re-Telling the Love Story	301
Conclusion: Remembering the Past, Negotiating the Future	323
<i>Select Bibliography</i>	331
<i>Index</i>	339