VII

CONTENTS

| I. | Introduction | 1 |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| П. | 'Aesthetics' - An Ambivalent Term | 7 |
| | 1. Arts and the Beautiful in the Ancient World and the Middle Ages | 8 |
| | 2. Renaissance Theories of the Arts and the Beautiful | 11 |
| | 3. Descartes and Leibniz: Preparing the Way for Modern Aesthetic Theory | 14 |
| | 4. Alexander Gottlieb Baumgarten - Founder of 'Aesthetics' as a Philosphical | • |
| | Discipline | 18 |
| | 5. Kant's Critical Aesthetic Theory | 26 |
| III. | A Definition of 'Aesthetics': Five Fundamental Questions | 47 |
| IV. | Thoreau's Aesthetics - A Textual Analysis | 51 |
| | 1. Self and World - The Subject-Object Relation | 53 |
| | 1.1. Walden | 61 |
| | 1.2.The Early Journal (1837-1850) | 66 |
| | 1.3. The Middle Journal (1851-1854) | 75 |
| | 1.4. The Late Journal (1855-1861) | 81 |
| | 2. Perception - Thoreau's Approach to Nature and His Artistic Objects | 90 |
| | 2.1. Walden and the Early Journal (1837-1850) | 91 |
| | 2.2. The Middle Journal (1851-1854) | 97 |
| | 2.3. The Late <i>Journal</i> (1855-1861) | 103 |
| | 3. The Poet – Thoreau's Understanding of Art and His Own Role as a Poet | 108 |
| | 3.1. Walden and The Early Journal (1837-1850) | 109 |
| | 3.2. The Middle Journal (1851-1854) | 113 |
| | 3.3. The Late <i>Journal</i> (1855-1861) | 121 |
| V. | Thoreau's Aesthetic Position: Trying to Answer Five Fundamental Questions | 127 |
| | 1. How, when, and where can sensory and/or aesthetic knowledge be gained? | 127 |
| | 2. How does the subject process sensory and/or aesthetic knowledge? | 132 |
| | 3. Does sensory and/or aesthetic knowledge have any specific effects? | 137 |
| | 4. Does sensory and/or aesthetic knowledge possess a specific character or | |
| | value? | 140 |
| | 5. How is the relation between sensory and rational knowledge defined? | 142 |
| | 6. Summary | 143 |
| VI. | Modern Implications of Thoreau's Aesthetic Position | 149 |
| VII. | Conclusion. | 169 |
| | Bibliography | 179 |
| | Danksagung | 185 |
| | Index | 186 |