Contents

Introduction, 3 Literature and Criticism, 3 The Discipline of Criticism, 12 The Writing of Literary Criticism, 22

I Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn", 29

Paraphrasing Poetry, 29
"Ode on a Grecian Urn": A Paraphrase, 31

The Importance of the Text, 34
The Textual Problems of the Concluding Lines of
"Ode on a Grecian Urn", 38

The Poem and the Poet, 42 Keats's Letters and the "Ode on a Grecian Urn", 45

Metaphor, Poetry, and Meaning, 48
The Figurative Language of "Ode on a Grecian Urn", 52

Analysis of Structure, 55
The Structure of the "Ode on a Grecian Urn", 59

Further Possibilities, 63

VIII CONTENTS

II Pope's Rape of the Lock, 66

Literary Determinants, 66

The Literary Determinants of The Rape of the Lock, 74

The Poem and the Objective Source, 78

The Rape of the Lock, Miss Fermor, Lord Petre, and
Their Friends, 79

Genre as a Literary Detreminant, 84

The Rape of the Lock as an "Heroi-Comical Poem", 88

Verse Patterns as Literary Determinants, 95 Versification, Syntax, and Meaning in *The Rape of the Lock*, 99

Thematic Determinants: The Social Theme, 104 The Social Theme of The Rape of the Lock, 106

Further Possibilities, 112

III Sophocles' Oedipus Rex, 115

Literature in Translation, 115

On Reading Drama, 119
Oedipus Rex and the Greek Stage, 123

Characters as Dramatic Functionaries, 126 The Function of the Chorus in *Oedipus Rex*, 131

The Idea of the Tragic Flaw, 137 Oedipus and the Tragic Flaw, 139

The Question of Tragedy, 144

Oedipus Rex and the Question of Tragedy, 146

Further Possibilities, 150

IV Shakespeare's Henry IV, Part I, 154

Literature and History, 154
History and Henry IV, Part I, 156

The Entertainment Bulge, 160

Henry IV, Part I, and the Entertainment Bulge, 164

CONTENTS

Literary Parallelism, 169
Parallelism in *Henry IV*, *Part I*, 172
Theme and Emotion, 176
Theme and Emotion in *Henry IV*, *Part I*, 178
Further Possibilities, 188

V Conrad's Heart of Darkness, 192

Prose Fiction and Biography, 192 Conrad and the *Heart of Darkness*, 195

Point of View in Fiction, 198
The Narrators of *Heart of Darkness*, 202

Fiction and Close Reading, 205
The Frame of *Heart of Darkness*: Description as Foreshadowing, 206

Characters and Thematic Values, 210
The Gang of Virtue and the Hollow Men, 213

Psychology and Criticism, 220 The Heart of the Darkness, 224 Further Possibilities, 229

A Brief Bibliography of Critical Works, 233

Index, 239