

Contents

	PAGE
PREFACE by Phyllis B. Tillyard	vii
INTRODUCTION	I
PART I. THE EARLY POEMS	
CHAP.	
I. Childhood and School	7
II. First Years at Cambridge	12
III. Middle Years at Cambridge	22
IV. The Nativity Ode	31
V. Between the Nativity Ode and Comus	38
VI. Comus	58
VII. Later Horton Period and Lycidas	67
VIII. Visit to Italy	75
PART II. THE PERIOD OF THE PROSE	
CHAP.	
I. Introductory	91
II. Pamphlets against Episcopacy: 1. General	100
III. Pamphlets against Episcopacy: 2. Separate Works	109
IV. Milton's Marriage: First Divorce Tract	119
V. Tract on Education and Areopagitica	130
VI. Last Divorce Tracts: Tetrachordon and Colasterion	138
VII. Interval in Pamphlet-Writing, 1645-1649	143
VIII. First Pamphlets against Monarchy	153
IX. Defensio Secunda	163
X. Interval in Pamphlet-Writing, 1655-1659	172
XI. Pamphlets preceding the Restoration	177
INTERCHAPTER: Milton's Beliefs	181
PART III. THE LATER POEMS	
CHAP.	
I. Paradise Lost: Introductory	201
II. Paradise Lost: the Construction	207
III. Paradise Lost: the Conscious Meaning	218
IV. Paradise Lost: the Unconscious Meaning	234

CONTENTS

	PAGE
v. Paradise Lost: Possible Inconsistency	245
vi. Paradise Lost: Summary of the Meaning	250
vii. Paradise Regained: its Relation to Paradise Lost	252
viii. Paradise Regained: its Subject and Characters	256
ix. Paradise Regained: its Literary Character	266
x. Paradise Regained: the Construction	273
xi. Samson Agonistes: its Origin	278
xii. Samson Agonistes: its Quality	282
xiii. Samson Agonistes: the Dramatic Motive	286
xiv. Samson Agonistes: its Relation to Milton's Experience and Thought	294
 EPILOGUE: Milton To-day	 302
 APPENDICES:	
A. Thomas Young	315
B. Dating of Song on May Morning, etc.	316
C. The Doctrine of Chastity in Milton	318
D. Date of Ad Patrem	327
E. Paragraphing in Lycidas, lines 23-4	328
F. The 'two-handed engine' in Lycidas	330
G. Dating of Sonnet, 'When I consider . . .	331
H. Spenser's Influence on Milton	332
I. Paradise Lost: Possible Inconsistency	333
 INDEX	 335