CONTENTS

Preface	vii
Acknowledgments	ix
1. Practical Criticism	
"Sailing to Byzantium": Prolegomena to a Poetics of the Lyric	3
Rhetoric and the Appreciation of Pope	15
Louise Bogan and Léonie Adams	36
The Poetry of Marianne Moore	50
The Poetry of Wallace Stevens	55
The Poetry of Dylan Thomas	65
2. Interpretation: Two on Hamlet	
Hamlet and the Hermeneutics of Drama	73
"Mighty Opposites": Remarks on the Plot of Hamlet	90
3. Critics	
Longinus and Reynolds	107
William Empson, Contemporary Criticism, and Poetic Diction	118
The Argument of Longinus's On the Sublime	157
The Poetic Method of Aristotle: Its Powers and Limitations	186
4. Critical Theory	
A Letter on Teaching Drama	203
The Lyric	212
The Poetic Process	220
Two Platonic Dialogues:	
A Dialogue on Symbolism	226
A Dialogue on the Function of Art in Society	254

Contents

An Outline of Poetic Theory	268
5. Metacriticism	
Art and Science On Value Judgments in the Arts The Dialectical Foundations of Critical Pluralism	293 307 327
Index	361