

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 0. | Introduction | 13 |
| 1. | R.S. Thomas Criticism - a survey | 17 |
| 2. | The background: cultural alienation and the language problem | 35 |
| 2.1 | Biographical evidence: towards integration | 35 |
| 2.2 | England and Wales: spotlights on a history of animosity | 41 |
| 2.3 | Anglo-Welsh literature: the dragon's inferior tongue? | 48 |
| 2.4 | R.S. Thomas: fragments of a poetic theory | 51 |
| 2.5 | Border Blues: a paradigm of alienation | 77 |
| 3. | The lyrical I as a role | 91 |
| 3.1 | Towards a redefinition of the persona | 91 |
| 3.2 | Roles and personae: priest - Welshman - member of the family - 'naked self' | 98 |
| 4. | Poetry | 133 |
| 4.1 | Iago Prytherch - a re-interpretation | 133 |
| 4.2 | Poetry and society | 150 |
| 4.3 | Poetry and poetics | 168 |
| 5. | Religion | 181 |
| 5.1 | In search of God | 181 |
| 5.2 | A nature mystic? | 203 |
| 5.3 | Via Negativa | 236 |
| | Bibliography | 247 |
| | Appendix | 254 |
| | Index | 275 |