

Contents

Acknowledgements	ix
Abbreviations	x
Introduction	xiii
1: Life and contexts	1
Life	1
English Auden	1
Post-English Auden	4
The literary context	8
The historical context	13
Signs of the times: poetry and politics	13
Auden 'in our time': the Great War, the General Strike, economic slump	16
England, their England	19
An age of anxiety – and Auden's response	22
Looking beyond this island: to Iceland, Spain, China and the USA	25
The personal context	28
Family; sexuality; education	28
Auden's fantasy world	31
Ideas, ideology and Christianity	33
2: Works	39
Auden's books of poetry	40
<i>Poems</i> (1930)	40
<i>The Orators</i> (1932)	43

<i>Look, Stranger!</i> (1936)	49
<i>Letters from Iceland</i> (1937); <i>Journey to a War</i> (1939)	52
A note on Auden as dramatist	54
<i>Another Time</i> (1940)	55
<i>The Double Man; New Year Letter</i> (1941)	56
<i>For the Time Being</i> (1944)	58
<i>The Age of Anxiety</i> (1947)	59
<i>Nones</i> (1951)	61
<i>The Shield of Achilles</i> (1955)	63
<i>Homage to Clio</i> (1960)	63
<i>About the House</i> (1965)	65
<i>City Without Walls</i> (1969); <i>Epistle to a Godson</i> (1972); <i>Thank You, Fog</i> (1974)	65
Poems individually considered	67
‘The Watershed’	67
‘The Letter’	69
‘The Secret Agent’	71
‘1929’	72
‘Consider’	76
‘A Summer Night’, ‘On This Island’	78
‘Lullaby’	82
‘Spain’, ‘In Time of War’, ‘September 1, 1939’	84
‘Musée des Beaux Arts’, ‘The Shield of Achilles’	91
‘In Memory of W.B. Yeats’, ‘The Sea and the Mirror’	94
‘In Praise of Limestone’, ‘Amor Loci’	98
‘Horae Canonicae’, ‘Bucolics’, ‘Thanksgiving for a Habitat’	101
3: Criticism	110
Critical contours: Auden and his readers	110
Critical perspectives	117
Inventing Auden and the 1930s	117
Auden and others	124
Early Auden – later Auden	128
Auden theorised	132
Poets’ Auden	136
Chronology	142
Further reading	149
Select bibliography	153
Index	158