## Contents

Acknowledgments · ix

- 1 Verse into drama · 1
- 2 Sidney's Defence and Greville's Mustapha · 7
- 3 Tragedy and history in Richard II · 46
- 4 The standard: the moral and the golden  $\cdot$  56
- 5 The standard: the metaphysical and the Shakespearean 77
- 6 Reductions: style and the character of Bolingbroke · 106
- 7 Deflections: style and the character of Richard 114
- 8 Tragic doings, political order and the closed couplet • 144
- 9 Astounding terms: bombast and wonder · 168

10 Macbeth: style and form · 196

Notes · 221

Index · 253