
CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS—page viii

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—ix

NOTE ON TEXTS—x

INTRODUCTION 'The central man'—1

PART I HISTORY

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1 The early nineteenth century: Dante and Milton among the whigs | 8 |
| 2 Ruskin and Dante: centrality and de-centring | 29 |
| 3 Dante and the Victorian distancing of history | 45 |

PART II NATIONALISM

- | | |
|---|----|
| 4 <i>Anello aureo</i> : the risorgimento and English poetry | 58 |
| 5 George Eliot, Mazzini and nationalist aspiration | 83 |

PART III AESTHETICS

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 6 The quest for the historical Beatrice | 102 |
| 7 'Drawn within the circle': uses of allegory by the Rossetti family | 117 |
| 8 Moral luck in the second circle: Francesca and the Victorian fate of tragedy | 150 |

PART IV UNREAL CITIES

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 9 Life after death and the hell of this world | 164 |
| 10 No man's land: Dante between the Victorians and the modernists | 202 |

NOTES—241

INDEX—273