

Contents

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION (1954)	xi
PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION (1962)	xv
INTRODUCTION	i
1. Thesis	
2. Communications with the Counter Reformation	
3. Meditation: Definition and Distinctions	
4. Plan of the Present Study	
 PART I	
<i>The Art of Meditation</i>	
CHAPTER 1. THE METHOD OF MEDITATION	25
1. Spiritual Exercises: Composition of Place	
2. The Structure of a Meditation	
3. Meditative Structure in Poems by Southwell	
4. Donne's "Holy Sonnets" and "Good Friday, 1613"	
5. Meditative Structure in Poems by Herbert	
6. Similar Structure in Poems by Crashaw and Vaughan	
7. Meditation as Poetic Discipline	
CHAPTER 2. MEDITATIONS ON THE LIFE OF CHRIST	71
1. The Meditations of "Bonaventure": Imaginative Representation	
2. Fusion of Intellect and Senses: Southwell's "Burning Babe"	
3. Poems of Donne, Herbert, and Vaughan	
4. Mental Communion: Herbert's "Sacrifice"	
5. Devotion to Mary in Seventeenth-Century England	
6. Southwell's Sequence on the Lives of Mary and Christ	
7. Donne's "La Corona"	
8. From Medieval to Baroque: Crashaw's "Descant" on the "Stabat Mater"	

CHAPTER 3. SELF-KNOWLEDGE: THE SPIRITUAL
COMBAT 118

1. Methods of Self-examination
2. The *Spiritual Combat*; the Equipose of Wit:
Marvell, Donne, Herbert
3. Meditations on Death: Donne and Herbert
4. The Jesuit and the Salesian Spirit: Donne and Herbert
5. The Search for the Image: Vaughan's "Vanity of Spirit"

CHAPTER 4. PROBLEMS IN PURITAN MEDITATION:
RICHARD BAXTER 153

1. The Search for Evidences of Election
2. Decline of Meditations on the Life of Christ
(Milton and Crashaw: the Nativity)
3. Baxter's Method of Meditation

PART 2

Three Meditative Poets

CHAPTER 5. ROBERT SOUTHWELL AND THE
SEVENTEENTH CENTURY 179

1. English Devotional Poetry in the 1580's
2. Southwell and the Art of Sacred Parody
3. Southwell and Herbert
4. Southwell's Gnomic Verse
5. Southwell and the Literature of Tears
6. Self-analysis in the Works of Southwell

CHAPTER 6. JOHN DONNE IN MEDITATION:
THE *Anniversaries* 211

1. Sacred and Profane Love: the Dual Vision of Donne's
Poetry
2. Exercises of "Election"
3. The Meditative Structure of the *First Anniversary*
4. The Failure of the *First Anniversary*: Conflict between the
Sacred and the Profane
5. The Meditative Structure of the *Second Anniversary*: the
Progress of Conversion

CHAPTER 7. GEORGE HERBERT: IN THE PRESENCE OF A FRIEND	249
1. Herbert and St. François de Sales: <i>Introduction à la Vie Dévote</i>	
2. Herbert and Sidney	
3. Herbert and the Psalms	
4. Herbert and Savonarola: <i>De Simplicitate Christianae Vitae</i>	
CHAPTER 8. GEORGE HERBERT: THE UNITY OF <i>The Temple</i>	288
1. The Sacramental Introduction	
2. The Body of Conflicts	
3. The Plateau of Assurance	
CONCLUSION. THE MEDITATIVE POEM	321
APPENDIX 1. Mauburnus, Hall, and Crashaw: the "Scale of Meditation"	331
APPENDIX 2. The Dating and Significance of Donne's <i>Anniversaries</i>	353
APPENDIX 3. Bibliography	357
a. Works of the Poets	
b. Devotional Works	
c. Secondary Writings	
INDEX	367