Acknowledgments

THIS BOOK GREW out of the pleasure of reading Milton with good students in seminars at Washington University and at Rice University; in particular, I thank Cooper Mackin, Roy Roussel and Ray Waddington, friends who encouraged with their rage for order . . . keener sounds.

A summer fellowship at the Folger Shakespeare Library provided me with the time to write it all down; funds from Rice University expedited the final preparation of the manuscript. By permission of the Odyssey Press, the text employed in citing Paradise Lost is that edited by Merritt Y. Hughes.

Fragments of what follows have appeared in ELH, Modern Philology (University of Chicago Press), and PMLA; I owe the editors of these journals a debt of gratitude both for their careful assistance and for their kind permission to reprint material.

Don Cameron Allen, Albert J. Kuhn, Arnold Stein, and Aubrey Williams have at various times read and left large marks upon the whole; there were many lapses of detail and of perspective which their patience has erased, while the others my obstinacy retained. Aubrey will know why I must single him out with special thanks for good comfort which extended far beyond the limits of these pages while they were being written.