Rainer Maria Rilke and Jugendstil

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Published by The University of North Carolina Press

Webb, Karl Eugene.  
Rainer Maria Rilke and Jugendstil: Affinities, Influences, Adaptations.  

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Preface and Acknowledgments

This book is the culmination of several years of study of the early works of the poet Rainer Maria Rilke, beginning with a dissertation on Buch der Bilder which was completed in 1969 at the University of Pennsylvania. The significance of these early works as the basis for the overall development of Rilke’s creativity has become increasingly clear as this project has progressed, and it is hoped that this study will succeed in filling a noticeable lacuna in the body of knowledge about this period of the poet’s life.

Portions of Chapters Two, Three, and Five have appeared previously. The editors of The Centennial Review, Orbis Litterarum, and Suhrkamp Verlag have kindly granted permission to use material published under their auspices.

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I would like here to express my appreciation to the University of Houston for its assistance in this project in the form of an Initiation Grant in 1970 and a Limited Grant-In-Aid in 1973 and to the American Council of Learned Societies, the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, and the AATG, grants from which permitted me to spend the summer of 1973 conducting research in Germany. I wish also to express my thanks to my colleagues Gertrud Pickar and Harold Lenz whose suggestions and careful reading of the manuscript have been of inestimable worth to me. To my wife, Deanna, I owe a special debt of gratitude for her patience, support, and encouragement.

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Houston, January 1977

K. E. W.