BRECHT’S POETRY OF
POLITICAL EXILE

Bertolt Brecht, one of the most influential European playwrights of the twentieth century, was also a poet of distinction. Brecht’s Poetry of Political Exile is the first comprehensive study devoted to his most important collection of political poetry, the Svenborg Poems. In these essays, a team of contributors takes the poems as the focal point for a much wider study of politics and poetry in an age of totalitarianism. They analyse Brecht’s work critically and historically, discussing it in relation to questions of poetics, political commitment, exile, propaganda, rhetoric, and the scope and limitations of political poetry. Links are also made to the work of German, Soviet and English poets of the period, and to later German poets. This volume sheds light on Brecht’s political investment in and aesthetic commitment to political poetry, and will complement the plentiful scholarship focusing on his drama.

Ronald Speirs is Professor of German at the University of Birmingham. He is the author of Brecht’s Early Plays (1982), Bertolt Brecht (1987), and numerous essays on Brecht. He is also co-editor, with S. Larsen and B. Sandberg, of Fascism and European Literature and, with P. Lassman, of Max Weber: Political Writings, and with R. Geuss, of Nietzsche: The Birth of Tragedy.
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For

Philip Brady
‘den vieles Wissenden, neues Suchenden’
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