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Reason,
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A Study of the Language of Religion and Ethics in England, 1660–1780

VOLUME I
WHICHCOTE TO WESLEY

ISABEL RIVERS
Fellow of St Hugh's College, Oxford

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
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In memory of my father
Anthony Haigh
1907–1989
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Preface

I have been working on this study since the early 1970s, though my love of the English moralists dates back at least to 1964–5, when I took the paper of that name in Part 2 of the Cambridge English Tripos. I am grateful to the Mistress and Fellows of Girton College for electing me to the Ottoline Hancock Research Fellowship, 1970–3, thus enabling me to begin my work, and also for allowing me to stay in college during periods of leave in 1979 and 1983. I should also like to thank the University of Leicester for granting me those periods of leave, and its Research Board for financial support while I stayed in Cambridge. The Principal and Fellows of St Hugh’s College kindly granted me further periods of leave in 1987 and 1989, thereby enabling me to complete Volume I. My reading was largely done in the Cambridge University Library, Leicester University Library, the London Library, Dr Williams’s Library, and the Bodleian. I am grateful to all these institutions, particularly the London Library and Dr Williams’s, in which it is always such a pleasure to work. The generous lending policy of the London Library has made my task much easier.

I have been unbelievably lucky in the critical interest shown in my work by the three scholars who have read and commented on the book in detail: Dr J. D. Walsh, of Jesus College, Oxford (especially Chapter 5), the Rev. Dr G. F. Nuttall (especially Chapters 3 and 4) and Dr N. H. Keeble, of the University of Stirling (the whole volume). They have proved an ideal audience. Where I have disagreed with them, I have thought carefully about my reasons for doing so. I should also like to thank Dr John Spurr and Dr Roger Fallon for making me rethink aspects of Chapter 2.


In its original form this study would have appeared at half its projected length. I am grateful to Dr Howard Erskine-Hill and the Cambridge
Preface

University Press for agreeing to publish it in two volumes, thus giving me the opportunity of attempting to do justice to a very complex subject.

Successive tutors’ secretaries at St Hugh’s, Laura Marsland and Ria Audley-Miller, have wordprocessed my mixture of typescript and manuscript with great efficiency. Deborah Quare, Librarian of St Hugh’s, very helpfully suggested the jacket illustration.

During the long stages of reading and writing Tom Rivers has cheerfully urged me to press on. I much regret that I did not finish in time for Anthony Haigh to read ‘The Three Graces’.
Abbreviations

All titles in the notes are given in shortened form; full titles (except for journals) will be found in the Bibliography. Titles reduced to initials are given below.

ATR     Anglican Theological Review
BQ      Baptist Quarterly
DNB     The Dictionary of National Biography
EHR     English Historical Review
ES      English Studies
HJ      Historical Journal
HLQ     Huntington Library Quarterly
JEH     Journal of Ecclesiastical History
JHI     Journal of the History of Ideas
JHP     Journal of the History of Philosophy
JURCHS  Journal of the United Reformed Church History Society
LH      Literature and History
LQHR    The London Quarterly and Holborn Review
MLQ     Modern Language Quarterly
MP      Modern Philology
NQ      Notes and Queries
PS      Prose Studies
PWHS    Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society
RB      Richard Baxter, Reliquiae Baxterianae (1696)
TCHS    Transactions of the Congregational Historical Society