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Neil Corcoran

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## SHAKESPEARE AND THE MODERN POET

Shakespeare is a major influence on poets writing in English, but the dynamics of that influence in the twentieth century have never been as closely analysed as they are in this important study. More than an account of the ways in which Shakespeare is figured in both the poetry and the critical prose of modern poets, this book presents a provocative new view of poetic interrelationship. Focusing on W. B. Yeats, T. S. Eliot, W. H. Auden, Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath, Neil Corcoran uncovers the relationships – combative as well as sympathetic – between these poets themselves as they are intertwined in their engagements with Shakespeare. Corcoran offers many enlightening close readings, fully alert to contemporary theoretical debates. This original study beautifully displays the nature of poetic influence – both of Shakespeare on the twentieth century, and among modern poets as they respond to Shakespeare.

NEIL CORCORAN is King Alfred Professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool. His previous publications include *Elizabeth Bowen: The Enforced Return* (Clarendon Press, 2004) and, as editor, *The Cambridge Companion to Twentieth-Century English Poetry* (Cambridge University Press, 2007).

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## *Contents*

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i> vi
Introduction	I
PART I YEATS'S SHAKESPEARE	25
1 Setting a sail for shipwreck: Yeats's Shakespeare criticism	27
2 Myself must I remake: Shakespeare in Yeats's poetry	41
PART II ELIOT'S SHAKESPEARE	61
3 That man's scope: Eliot's Shakespeare criticism	63
4 This man's gift: Shakespeare in Eliot's poetry	90
PART III AUDEN'S SHAKESPEARE	121
5 A plenum of experience: Auden's Shakespeare criticism	123
6 The reality of the mirror: Shakespeare in Auden's poetry	147
PART IV TED HUGHES'S SHAKESPEARE	181
7 A language of the common bond	183
8 The Shakespearean moment	200
9 Survivor of cease: Shakespeare and Sylvia Plath in Ted Hughes's poems	223
<i>Index</i>	242

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[More information](#)

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