Contents

List of illustrations \hspace{1em} page ix
Preface \hspace{1em} xi
Acknowledgments \hspace{1em} xvi
A note on the references \hspace{1em} xviii
List of abbreviations \hspace{1em} xix

Introduction \hspace{1em} 1
1 Enigma personified: the riddling beasts, sphinx and griffin \hspace{1em} 7
2 Enigma as trope: history, function, fortunes \hspace{1em} 27
3 What is the shape of the riddle? Enigma as masterplot \hspace{1em} 64
4 Case study i. Enigma in Dante’s Eden (Purgatorio 27–33) \hspace{1em} 92
5 Questions of riddle and genre \hspace{1em} 110
6 Riddle as Scheme: a case for a new griph-class \hspace{1em} 139
7 Case study ii. Mapping riddles: Lewis Carroll and the Alice books \hspace{1em} 160
8 Figures for enigma \hspace{1em} 181
9 Case study iii. The structure of reality: enigma in Wallace Stevens’s later work \hspace{1em} 210
10 From protection to innocent amusement: some other functions of enigma \hspace{1em} 226
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afterword: enigma, the boundary figure</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix: Enigma, riddle, and friends among the lexicographers</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select bibliography</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>