

JOHN DONNE AND BAROQUE ALLEGORY

John Donne has been one of the most controversial poets in the history of English literature, his complexity and intellectualism provoking both praise and censure. In this major reassessment of Donne's poetry, Hugh Grady argues that his work can be newly appreciated in our own era through Walter Benjamin's theory of baroque allegory. Providing close readings of *The Anniversaries*, *The Songs and Sonnets*, and selected other lyrics, this study reveals Donne as being immersed in the aesthetics of fragmentation that defines both the baroque and the postmodernist aesthetics of today. Synthesizing cultural criticism and formalist analysis, Grady illuminates Donne afresh as a great poet for our own historical moment.

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BAROQUE ALLEGORY

The Aesthetics of Fragmentation

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In memory of Terence Hawkes (1932–2013)

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