

Acknowledgments

In the course of writing this book I have incurred many debts, none of which can be adequately repaid. My work was inspired in particular by the late Prof. Henryk Zbierski, who was solely responsible for arousing my interest in Shakespeare. I would also like to acknowledge my special debt of gratitude to Mrs Leonarda Zbierska for her kindness, advice and genuine interest in my work.

My thanks are also due to the reviewers, Prof. Krystyna Kujawińska-Courtney and Prof. Jerzy Limon, as well as to Prof. Emma Harris, Prof. Alicja Pisarska, Prof. Jacek Fabiszak, and Dr Gerald Nawrocki who, at various stages and in a variety of ways, offered their invaluable support and criticism necessary to proceed with the project.

I am also very grateful to Mrs Krystyna Waloszczyk for her consent to use Mariusz Stachowiak's pictures.

Most of all I would like to thank my friend and editor of the present volume, Dr Aniela Korzeniowska, whose generous and round-the-clock assistance went far beyond what one can reasonably expect from friends and editors.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Małgosia, Krzysztof and Maciej. They all have my gratitude and love.

Parts of this book, in Polish or in English, have been previously published in the following volumes: *PASE Papers in Literature, Language and Culture* (1998), eds. Edmund Gussmann and Bogdan Szymanek; *Z badań nad literaturami europejskimi. Księga poświęcona pamięci prof. dr hab. Henryka Zbierskiego* (1999), eds. Jacek Fabiszak and Jerzy Świdziński; *Tradition and Postmodernity: English and American Studies and the Challenge of the Future* (2000), ed. Elżbieta Mańczak-Wohlfeld; *PASE Papers in Literature and Culture* (2000), ed. Ewa Kęłowska-Ławniczak; *Przekładając nieprzekładalne* (2000), eds. Wojciech Kubiński et al.; *Approaches to Literature 1* (2001), ed. Grażyna Bystydzieńska; and in *Poznańskie Studia Polonistyczne* (1999), thematic issue *Barańczak – poeta lector VI (XXVI)*.

Warsaw, 2007