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SURREALISM:

The Spirit and the Letter in
Twentieth-Century English Poetry.

A Ph.D. thesis by Robert Jackaman,

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PREFACE:-

The present thesis is the result of work carried out at Auckland University, New Zealand, on a full-time study basis, commencing on 21 February, 1968.

This final draft relies in the main on material assembled in an original draft, which was approximately twice the size of the present volume.

The magnitude of the first draft enabled me to examine and explore the period under study quite extensively, both in separate sections and as a whole. From this expanded survey, I was then able to select those aspects which seemed most relevant to my thesis, and which helped to provide the best perspective for the subject.

The work seems to me to divide up basically into three sections; these are surrealism in the thirties, surrealism in the forties, and what one might reasonably term the surrealist ancestry and progeny of these main decades--surrealism before and after its short-lived rise to prominence.

I have tried to maintain an approximate balance between these sections, so that roughly equal space is given to the material from the thirties (Parts One and Three), the forties (Part Four), and the period either side (Parts Two and Six).

The key to an unbiased view of surrealism lies in ignoring

preconceptions, and in concentrating on the evidence available. This has been my prime concern throughout. In this way I have arrived, to the best of my abilities, at a reasonable statement of surrealism's extent, significance, and development in modern English poetry-- a statement in keeping with the facts as they now appear.

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