

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At long last, what seemed at one time unfinishable is finished. As with the typical allegory that threatens never to end, this study has taken a long time to emerge into broad daylight. It was started in 1967 under the joint auspices of the late Professor J. Swart, who suggested T.F. Powys as a possible subject for research, and the late Professor J. Kamerbeek Jr., whose interest in the subject of symbolism was infectious. After some initial fieldwork, together with Peter Riley, deep down in Dorset, under the inspiring guidance of the late Harry Coombes, and several visits to Mr E.E. Bissell, at Ashorne — without whose invaluable collection of *Powysiana* no proper study of any of the Powyses can be undertaken — the object of research took firm shape.

But in the summer of 1974 the first draft of what was to be completed in hospitable Welsh surroundings was stolen from my car while I was staying overnight in London. Neither the Metropolitan Police, nor a private detective, nor a parapsychologist — nor the refuse department — managed to retrieve what proved to be irrecoverable.

Mindful that 'in our end is our beginning', a wholly new start with the same subject was made in the summer of 1978 in different personal and professional circumstances. Notwithstanding a change of supervisors and in spite of a number of physical and other set-backs, work progressed — thanks to Dr. G. Cavaliero (Cambridge), who has given so generously of his time and knowledge of the Powyses, and to Dr. C.C. Barfoot (Leiden), who over a period of many years has shared his critical acumen with me, and who sharpened my academic pen through a succession of earlier drafts. Without their unfailing support, both professional and moral, this dissertation would never have been completed.

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