

Edmund Mellen

**A NEW READING OF RILKE'S "ELEGIES":
Affirming the Unity of "life-AND-death"**

Dr. John Mood
Ph.D., Drew University

Contribution to Scholarship:

This volume traces Rilke's struggle to affirm death's unity with life. It examines selections from the poet's letters and novel, *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge*, analyzing his inexplicable popularity in America, his unexpected attention to the scientific accuracy of his poetic images and his surprising use of humor. The work culminates in a new interpretation of Rilke's *Duinese Elegies*.

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From a Peer Review:

"Most enjoyable, yr [sic] Rilke; gave me a different overview of what often looked to me like the ruin of a barococo [sic] church . . ."

– *Gore Vidal*

From a Peer Review:

"[Rilke's] words on death, as [Mood] isolate[s] them, both in [Rilke's] earlier prose and in the Elegies, are discerning, exquisitely phrased of course, and – perhaps most of all – helpful; an important aid . . ."

– *Harold Jaffe*
Editor-in-Chief, Fiction International