

EXILE AS AN EXISTENTIAL CONDITION

Stephen Prickett
University of Kent at Canterbury

Abstract: This study analyzes the experience of exile and its effects on the art and artists who have been exiled, starting from what may be considered the epitome of the artist's experience in exile, Ovid at Tomis. For some artists, such as Robert and Elizabeth Browning, T.S. Eliot, Rudyard Kipling, Joseph Conrad and Henry James, exile has been artistically productive. Hence, the necessity of exile for our sense of place and the understanding of exile as an existential condition. The article extends the metaphor of exile, the conclusion being that the condition of the writer is one of exile in itself.