This book re-examines the relationship of Hellenistic poetry to Archaic poetry. It demonstrates how Callimachus, Theocritus and Apollonius develop their primary narrators or main narrative voices – a central feature of their poetic manner – by exploiting and adapting models from a wide range of Archaic poets and genres, including Homer, Hesiod, the Homeric Hymns, Pindar, Sappho, Archaic iambos and early elegy. It goes beyond previous work by bringing together a close study of the Hellenistic remaking of the poetic forms of the past with the first comprehensive examination of the primary narrators of the major poems and fragments of Archaic and Hellenistic poetry. Building on narratological approaches to literary texts, it explores the ways in which Archaic poets create their narrators and develop personas across their different works. The Hellenistic engagement with these Archaic personas, and the techniques for creating them, is in part a way of saving Archaic poetic voices for the very different Hellenistic world. But, as this study shows, poets such as Pindar and Hesiod provided an invaluable narrative ‘pattern book’ for Hellenistic poets to adapt and experiment with.

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THE NARRATOR IN ARCHAIC GREEK AND HELLENISTIC POETRY

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For Gioia
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Preface

I have a number of people to thank for their help in the production of this book. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisors, Herwig Maehler, Richard Janko and Alan Griffiths, for their help, guidance and advice throughout my time at UCL. In particular I would like to thank Alan, who was my principal supervisor for three years, for his patient and helpful criticism of my ideas about Hellenistic poetry, and his sage advice. I would also like to thank Angus Bowie, who first taught me about Greek poetry (and much else besides), and Paul Fentem, who first set me on the happy road which led to Pindar and Callimachus.

I would like to thank the Arts and Humanities Research Board of the British Academy for providing me with a Postgraduate Studentship which enabled me to carry out the thesis which eventually gave rise to this book, and to all my colleagues in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at Manchester for giving me the chance to teach and finish first my thesis and now this book in such a friendly and stimulating environment.

From my time in London there are various people to whom I am very grateful for a variety of things – five (then) fellow UCL Ph.D. students, Andrew Bevan, Leighton Pugh, Marielle Sutherland, Will Broadhead and Yumna Khan, as well as Matthew Entwistle, Anna Pearce and, of course, Eric Blaum. Thanks also to my Ph.D. examiners Richard Hunter and Chris Carey for extremely insightful and perceptive comments on the thesis. Richard Hunter first commended an earlier version of the book to the Press, for which I am also very grateful. The anonymous readers for the Press, who improved this book immeasurably, also deserve my thanks, as do Jo Breeze, Sarah Parker and Michael Sharp at the Press, and my hawk-eyed copy editor, Iveta Adams, who saved me from many errors. Thanks too to BICS and its editors for allowing me to adapt parts of my article ‘Sexual ambiguity and the identity of the narrator in Callimachus’ *Hymn to Athena*’ in this book.
My greatest thanks go to my wife, Gioia, to whom this book is dedicated, and without whom it would not have been possible.

Translations are my own except where indicated (note that those from Philodemus' *On Poems* are taken from Janko's edition). I have tried where possible to reproduce the word order of the Greek (and in some cases Latin) in my translations, which are generally literal (and never of any literary merit). I have also attempted (where possible) to reflect the line divisions of the original in my translations.
Abbreviations

I have used standard abbreviations, but the following list may be helpful.

Works of Reference:


RE  Paulys *Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft* (Stuttgart 1893–).

Editions of ancient texts or collections of fragments:


List of abbreviations

Janko
Fragments of Heracleodorus in Janko 2000 (see bibliography).

K.

M.–W.

Pack²

PEG

Pf.
Pfeiffer 1949–53 (see bibliography).

L.–P.

PMG

PMGF

SH

SLG

S.–M.

V.

Wendel

Fragments of Archaic lyric are cited according to the numbering of Voigt (Sappho and Alcaeus), PMG or SLG, unless otherwise indicated. Fragments of Archaic elegy and iambos are cited according to the numbering of West 1989–92. Fragments of Callimachus are cited according to the numbering of Pfeiffer 1949–53, except for the Hecale (from Hollis 1990). The provenance of all other fragments is indicated.

The abbreviations of ancient authors, texts follow LSJ (Lewis, C. T., Short, C. (eds.) A Latin Dictionary (Oxford 1879) for Latin authors, texts), except for Callimachus, whose Hymns I refer to as H. 1 etc. (hence h.Ap. denotes the Homeric Hymn to Apollo, following LSJ, H. 2 Callimachus’ Hymn to Apollo). The abbreviations of journals follow L’Année Philologique, with the obvious anglicising modifications (e.g. TAPA instead of TAPhA).