

## CONTENTS

I Introduction	1
Historical and Biographical Contexts. Reception	1
II The <i>Eclogues</i>	5
The Limits of Pastoral. Virgil and Theocritus	5
The Latin Poetic Tradition. Lucretius, Philosophy, and Love. The Neoterics and Catullus	10
Poetry on Poetry	13
History and Politics	18
Structure and Unity. Composition and Chronology	22
The Pastoral Experience	25
III The <i>Georgics</i>	28
The Teacher and his Pupils. The Didactic Tradition	28
The Romans and the Natural World. Farming. Ethnography and Cosmology	33
History and Politics. Anthropomorphism. The Bees. Cultural Histories	35
Poetics and Allusion. Etymology and Allusive Play. Genre (Pastoral and Epic)	39
Myth. The Aristaeus Epyllion	44
Structure. 'Digressions'	48
Interpretation and Meaning. Philosophy and Religion. Sacrifice. Allusive Pluralism. A World of Art?	50
IV The <i>Aeneid</i>	53
Epic Genealogies. The Homeric Models	53
Roman Alexandrianism. Generic Polyphony	57
Past to Present. History and Antiquarianism. Aetiology, Genealogy, Etymology. Cities and Sons. Cultural Histories	63
Plot and Narrative. Points of View. Ecphrasis	71
Character. Defining the Hero. The Godlike (Herculean) Hero. Epic Women	80
Structure	86
Imagery, Allegory, Symbolism	90

Meaning. Two (and More) Voices. Sources of Authority: Gods and Fate, Rhetoric and Philosophy	94
V Style, Language, Metre	102
Bibliographical Note	115
Select Bibliography	117
About the Author	123
Index	124
Index of Chief Passages Discussed	126