

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11742-5 - Jonson, Horace and the Classical Tradition

Victoria Moul

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

JONSON, HORACE AND THE CLASSICAL TRADITION

The influence of the Roman poet Horace on Ben Jonson has often been acknowledged, but never fully explored. Discussing Jonson's Horatianism in detail, this study also places Jonson's densely intertextual relationship with Horace's Latin text within the broader context of his complex negotiations with a range of other 'rivals' to the Horatian model, including Pindar, Seneca, Juvenal and Martial. The new reading of Jonson's classicism that emerges is one founded not upon static imitation, but rather upon a lively dialogue between competing models – an allusive mode that extends into the seventeenth-century reception of Jonson himself as a latter-day 'Horace'. In the course of this analysis, the book provides fresh readings of many of Jonson's best-known poems – including 'Inviting a Friend to Supper' and 'To Penshurst' – as well as a new perspective on many lesser-known pieces, and a range of unpublished manuscript material.

VICTORIA MOUL is Lecturer in Latin literature at the University of Cambridge. She is an active translator of early modern Latin, contributing to several major recent translation projects. In addition, she has published a range of articles on classical material in Jonson, Donne and Milton, and on the reception of Virgil, Horace and Pindar.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-11742-5 - Jonson, Horace and the Classical Tradition
Victoria Moul
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

JONSON, HORACE AND
THE CLASSICAL
TRADITION

VICTORIA MOUL



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-11742-5 - Jonson, Horace and the Classical Tradition
 Victoria Moul
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
 São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521117425

© Victoria Moul 2010

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
 no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
 permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2010

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Moul, Victoria, 1980–
 Jonson, Horace and the classical tradition / Victoria Moul.
 p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-0-521-11742-5 (hardback)

1. Jonson, Ben, 1573?–1637–Criticism and interpretation.
2. Jonson, Ben, 1573?–1637–Knowledge–Rome.
3. Jonson, Ben, 1573?–1637–Knowledge–Latin Literature.
4. Classicism–England–History–17th century.
5. Horace–Influence.
6. English poetry–Roman influences.

I. Title.

PR2642.R65M68 2010

822'.3–dc22

2010001505

ISBN 978-0-521-11742-5 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or
 accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to
 in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such
 websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-11742-5 - Jonson, Horace and the Classical Tradition
Victoria Moul
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

For my parents, with love and gratitude

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	x
Introduction: imitation, allusion, translation: reading Jonson's Horace	I
1 Jonson's <i>Odes</i> : Horatian lyric presence and the dialogue with Pindar	13
2 Horatian <i>libertas</i> in Jonson's epigrams and epistles	54
3 Competing voices in Jonson's verse satire: Horace and Juvenal	94
4 <i>Poetaster</i> : classical translation and cultural authority	135
5 Translating Horace, translating Jonson	173
Conclusion: <i>More remov'd mysteries</i> : Jonson's textual 'occasions'	211
<i>Appendix: manuscript transcriptions</i>	217
<i>Bibliography</i>	226
<i>Index of passages discussed</i>	241
<i>General index</i>	245

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the Arts and Humanities Research Council and to St John's College, Cambridge for support during my doctoral work, and to The Queen's College, Oxford for the pleasure and privilege of a Junior Research Fellowship which has allowed me to prepare this monograph for publication.

I am also grateful to several presses for permission to reproduce material that appeared in earlier forms in their books and journals. A version of Chapter 4 was published as 'Ben Jonson's *Poetaster*: Classical Translation and the Location of Cultural Authority', in *Translation and Literature*, 15 (2006), 21–50. Portions of Chapter 1 are developed from work first published in 'Versions of Victory: Ben Jonson and the Pindaric Ode', *The International Journal of the Classical Tradition*, 14 (2007), 51–73 and 'The Poet's Voice: Allusive Dialogue in Ben Jonson's Horatian Poetry', in Luke Houghton and Maria Wyke (eds.), *Perceptions of Horace: a Roman Poet and His Readers* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), pp. 219–38. Finally, some sections of Chapter 5 are based upon observations I made in 'Translation as Commentary? The Case of Ben Jonson's *Ars Poetica*', *Palimpsestes*, 20 (2007), 59–78.

For encouragement and advice on this material and more widely, thanks are due to Charles Martindale, Philip Hardie, Raphael Lyne and David Norbrook; and above all to Colin Burrow.

Many friends and colleagues have been a reliable source of support, advice and welcome distraction; among these, I would like to thank in particular Myles Lavan, Edward Holberton, Femke Molekamp and John Hyman.

Finally, I would like to name with lasting gratitude Lea Chambers, Jonathan Katz and Denis Feeney, with whom I first read Horace.

Abbreviations

- H&S C. H. Herford, Percy Simpson and Evelyn Simpson (eds.),
Ben Jonson, 11 vols. (Oxford University Press, 1925–52)
- OCT Oxford Classical Text
- OED *Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd edn (Oxford: Clarendon Press,
 1989)
- STC A. W. Pollard and G. R. Redgrave, *A Short-Title Catalogue of
 Books Printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland; And of English
 Books Printed Abroad 1475–1640*, 2nd edn, 3 vols. (1976–91)

Jonson's verse is cited from H&S. Titles of collections are abbreviated as follows:

- Forest* *The Forest* (1616 folio)
 UV Ungathered Verse
 UW *The Underwood* (1640 folio)